

## Unit 17: Scarification Factsheet

### Introduction

Scarification involves the administering of a vaccine into an animal by:

- i) Scratching the surface of the skin to gain an entry wound
- ii) Administering the liquid vaccine onto the scratched site.

### Where is the correct scarification site?

There are three suggested sites:

- The skin between the top of the foreleg and the chest wall
- The inside of the leg
- The skin under the tail.

### What is the correct method?

- ⊗ Restrain the animal e.g. a lamb, with the bare skin exposed
- ⊗ Apply the vaccine using the applicator
- ⊗ Place the prongs onto the skin
- ⊗ Make a 4 to 5 cm scratch
- ⊗ The vaccine dose will be evenly deposited along the scratch
- ⊗ The applicator must be held at an angle to the skin (approximately 45 degrees)
- ⊗ Press firmly to ensure there is sufficient skin damage to enable an effective vaccination “take”
- ⊗ The scratch should be just sufficient to break the top layer of the skin but not deep enough to draw blood.

### Example of a scarification vaccine - ORF vaccine

#### What is ORF?

- Painful skin disease in sheep
- Caused by virus that stays on skin - not killed by antibiotics (virus cannot live in very cold conditions)
- Scabby lesions around the mouth and nostrils of lambs - transfer virus to ewe's teats
- Orf on teats can lead to mastitis
- Seen in young lambs and their ewes and in older lambs in late Summer
- Only enters the body via broken skin
- Can live in wood
- Secondary bacterial infection likely to occur - killed with Terramycin.

#### Important points on vaccinating against ORF

- Do not vaccinate if you have never had orf on the farm - introduces live virus
- Orf is zoonotic - red areas which can be extremely painful
- Protective gloves should be worn when handling infected animals.