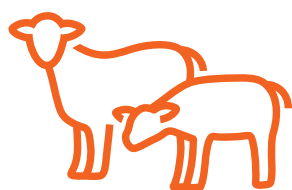


# SCABBY MOUTH: FARMER INFORMATION



Scabby mouth, also called orf, contagious ecthyma or contagious

pustular dermatitis, is a viral disease (poxvirus) affecting sheep and goats.

Scabby mouth infection occurs by direct contact with the virus which is highly resistant and can survive in the environment for more than one year. It occurs most commonly in young lambs, but occasionally in older sheep. Grazing coarse pastures or pastures with lots of thistles may predispose to infection with scabby mouth as oral abrasions increase the potential for the virus to gain entry.

Scabby mouth commonly affects the lips, mouth and surrounding skin, but can also affect the face, feet and the udder of nursing ewes. The virus causes sores to form, which then encrust before scabbing over and then falling off. The underlying skin heals without scarring. This cycle takes approximately 4-5 weeks. Lambs lose condition as they are reluctant to eat and it is too painful for ewes to feed suckling lambs. Those with feet lesions will be lame. These sores may become infected by opportunistic bacteria, causing further infection.

The primary mode of transmission is thought to be through contact with a virus that survives in scabs that have fallen off previously infected sheep. Some researchers have also suggested that individual sheep may be capable of being carriers of the virus. There is no treatment for scabby mouth and the disease is generally left to run its course. However, significant losses in production through decreased growth rates occur during this time. In severe cases, additional supportive treatment, such as antibiotic therapy, may be required.

The disease is best managed by immunising sheep and lambs against the virus with Scabigard® vaccine. When starting a vaccination program, it is advisable to vaccinate all sheep and lambs. It is recommended that all lambs be vaccinated every year.

All new sheep introduced to a property with scabby mouth should be vaccinated prior to being put on pasture. Vaccination should be completed at least 6-8 weeks prior to shearing so as not to place shearers at risk of the disease.

Scabigard is administered by “scratching” the vaccine with the applicator on to the bare skin inside the front leg or the groin, forming a line (approximately 5cm). This produces a mild, controlled form of scabby mouth at the site of vaccination. This will then stimulate the sheep’s immune system, without interfering with feeding or walking. A small line of pustules forms, which then encrusts, scabs and falls off. A sample of vaccinated sheep should be checked for “takes” 10-14 days after vaccination. After vaccination, the scabs will fall off, and small amounts of virus will remain in the environment.

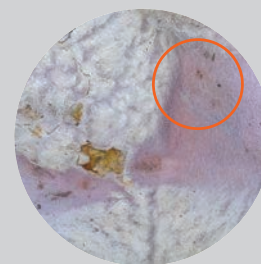
Sheep that have been previously infected with scabby mouth, through natural infection or vaccination, do not maintain lifelong immunity and are susceptible to reinfection. However, this is generally of shorter duration and lower severity. Natural exposure to small amounts of the virus within the environment can “boost” immunity and help prevent reinfection, however this may not be fully effective in a high challenge situation.

**It is important to note that scabby mouth is zoonotic, meaning the virus is transmissible to humans, causing skin lesions. It is therefore recommended that people handling infected sheep should wear appropriate protection.**



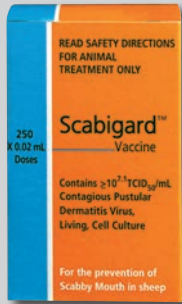
Scabby mouth.

SCRATCH SITE ON DAY OF VACCINATION,  
NO “TAKES” FORMED



SCRATCH SITE DAY 11 POST VACCINATION, “TAKES” HAVE  
FORMED INDICATING SUCCESSFUL VACCINATION





### Lock and load, pump and scratch.

The Scabigard applicator is supplied sterilised and ready to use. The applicator can be resterilised and used for an entire season. Keep the vaccine refrigerated (between 2°C and 8°C).



#### Step 1:

Remove the plastic needle cover.  
Push the bottle firmly onto the draw off needle.



#### Step 2:

Close applicator and ensure bottle fits into handle attachment.



#### Step 3:

Prime the applicator.  
Hold the unit with the tips facing downwards & pump the applicator approximately 10 times until a drop of vaccine appears on the tips.  
The applicator is now ready to use.



#### Step 4:

Hold the applicator at a 45° angle to the skin with both prongs touching the skin & make a single scratch approximately 4-5 cm in length. Pump the applicator once to release a drop of vaccine onto the tips prior to each scratch.  
Press firmly enough to scratch the skin to ensure vaccine “take” but not firmly enough to draw blood.

Avoid application of dips, disinfectants or other chemicals in the scratched area.  
Applicator tips may become blunt over time due to high use.

**Discard used applicators at the end of each season.**

**Caution:** Scabigard is a live vaccine, capable of causing skin infections in humans. Every precaution must be taken to avoid skin contact. Cover cuts and abrasions, as possible inoculation may occur. Remove safety cover before priming and refit once finished.