

Effective bluetongue protection even in wet conditions

A NEW STUDY has demonstrated that the veterinary antiparasitic product Butox® 7.5 pour on (deltamethrin) also protects cattle and sheep during wet conditions against biting midges (Culicoides), insects that are proven to be responsible for the transmission of the bluetongue virus. The new findings extend existing knowledge and demonstrate that Butox® is not only effective in dry weather conditions, but also effectively kills midges in wet conditions. Previously, efficacy of Butox® had only been proven in dry weather and in animals provided with shelter.

The study, which was supported by Intervet/Schering-Plough Animal Health, was performed at the Department of Parasitology of the Heinrich-Heine University in Düsseldorf (Germany) and was published in the November 2009 issue of Parasitology Research. Cattle and sheep were treated with a single application of Butox® and subsequently thoroughly wetted twice a week with water. Over a period of four weeks hair was clipped off the legs, near the claws. Midges were then exposed to the clipped hair and the time for taken for the midges to die after exposure

to deltamethrin was recorded.

It was reported that Butox® remained effective (killing all exposed insects) during wet conditions for at least four weeks, although in sheep the average time to midge death was longer in animals exposed to wet conditions as compared to animals in dry conditions.

"This finding is highly encouraging as it

shows that deltamethrin protects cattle and sheep in rainy weather conditions as well, which is particularly relevant in situations when vaccination against bluetongue virus is not feasible such as with emergence of new serotypes of the virus," said Dr. Heinz Mehlhorn, study director at the Heinrich-Heine University.

Butox® remained effective during wet conditions for at least four weeks

