

Partnership with the vet for profit

Reducing disease and improving flock performance through proactive flock health planning could ultimately increase the number of lambs born a ewe, contributing to better profitability, said XLVets' Andrew Curwen.

Mr Curwen said health priorities for a flock would vary from farm to farm. And while infectious diseases such as toxoplasmosis or coccidiosis were a concern for some, infertility caused by deficient minerals and trace elements may be a problem for others.

"One size does not fit all," he said. "So rather than reactively treating problems or diseases as they arise, a more cost-effective approach is to take proactive actions to prevent them and improve flock health across the board. To do this, farmers need to start seeing their vet as a partner to the business with regular ongoing dialogue."

Mr Curwen suggested a flock health planning meeting at least once a year, to decide where priorities for health improvement lay.