

# Appraising the use of footrot vaccination as a tool to control footrot in UK sheep flocks



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## Background

Footrot is a **highly contagious, debilitating** foot disease of sheep

Footrot accounts for between **70 to 80 per cent** of lameness in sheep

Footrot costs the UK sheep industry an estimated **£24 million / year**

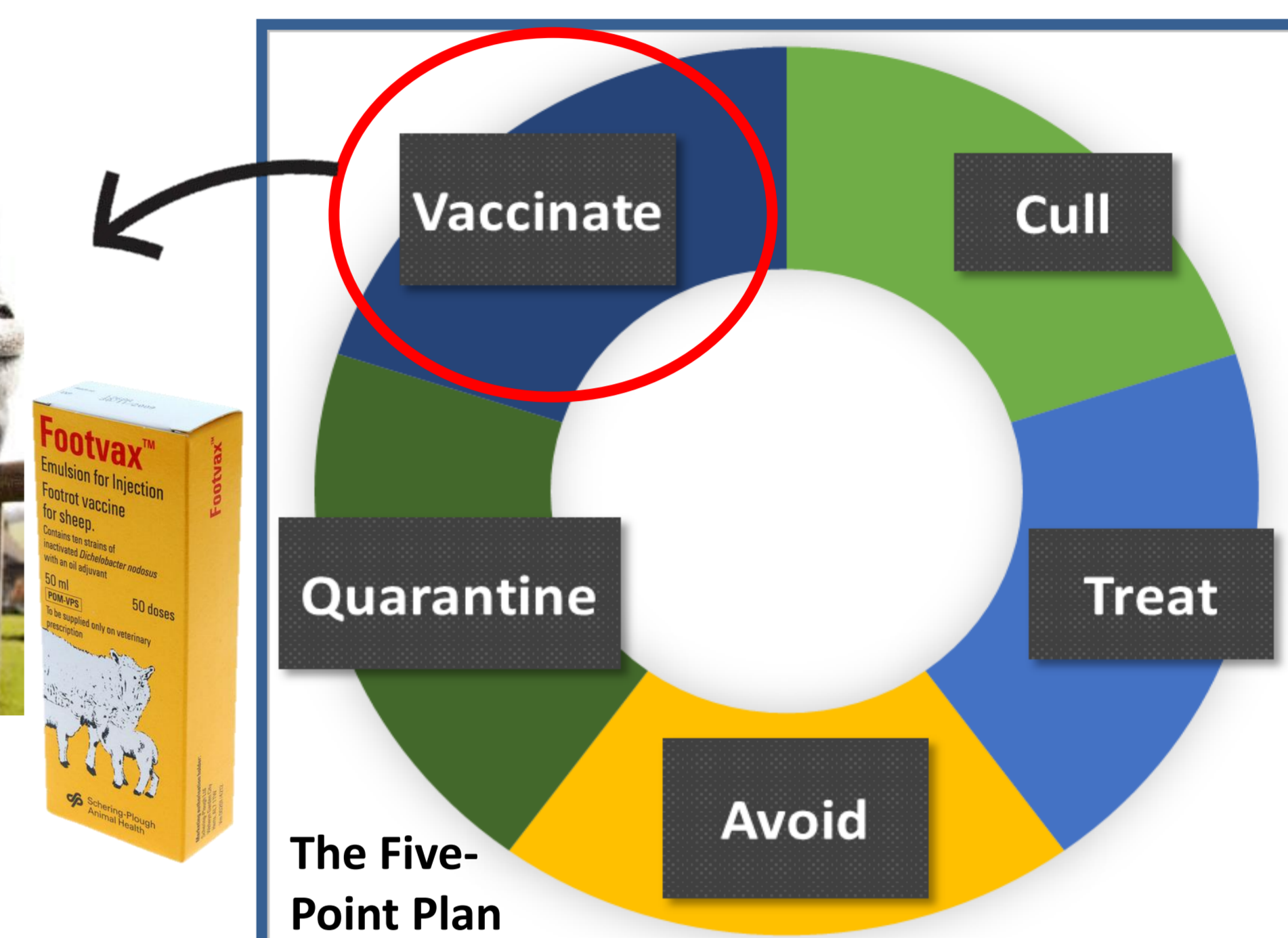
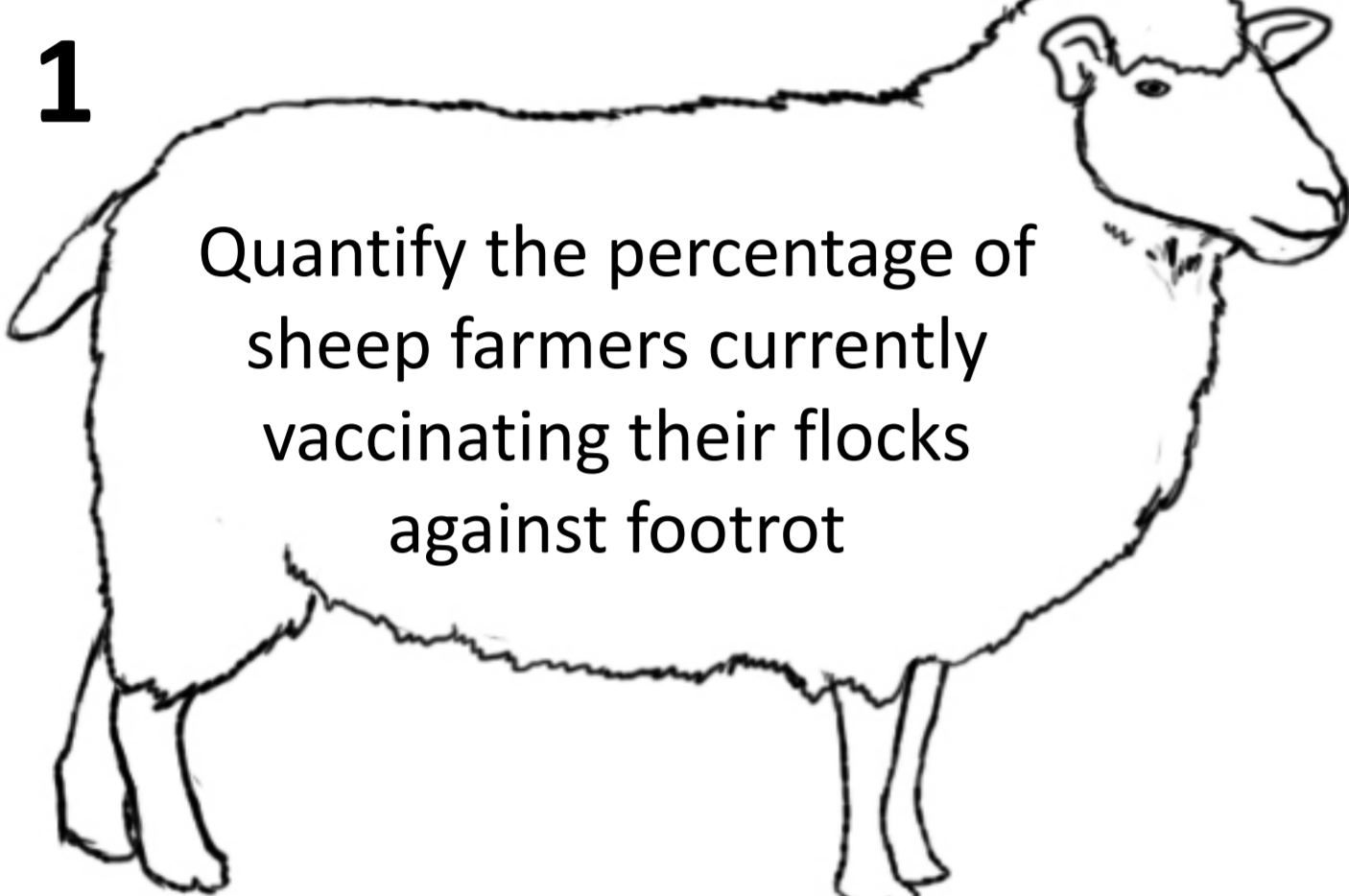
**2021 Industry target:** < 2% sheep / flock lame  
**Current:** ~ 3.5%

Sheep cannot develop immunity: **Footrot vaccine (Footvax®)**

Footvax® plays a role in the **Five-Point Plan** (industry-led plan to control lameness)

Between 2013-2014, 28% flocks vaccinated = **Low uptake of Footvax®**

## Research Aims



## Methods

Online survey designed & launched

Promoted towards UK sheep farmers

Paper copies distributed

Section 1  
Farmer & flock

Section 2  
Lameness prevalence & control

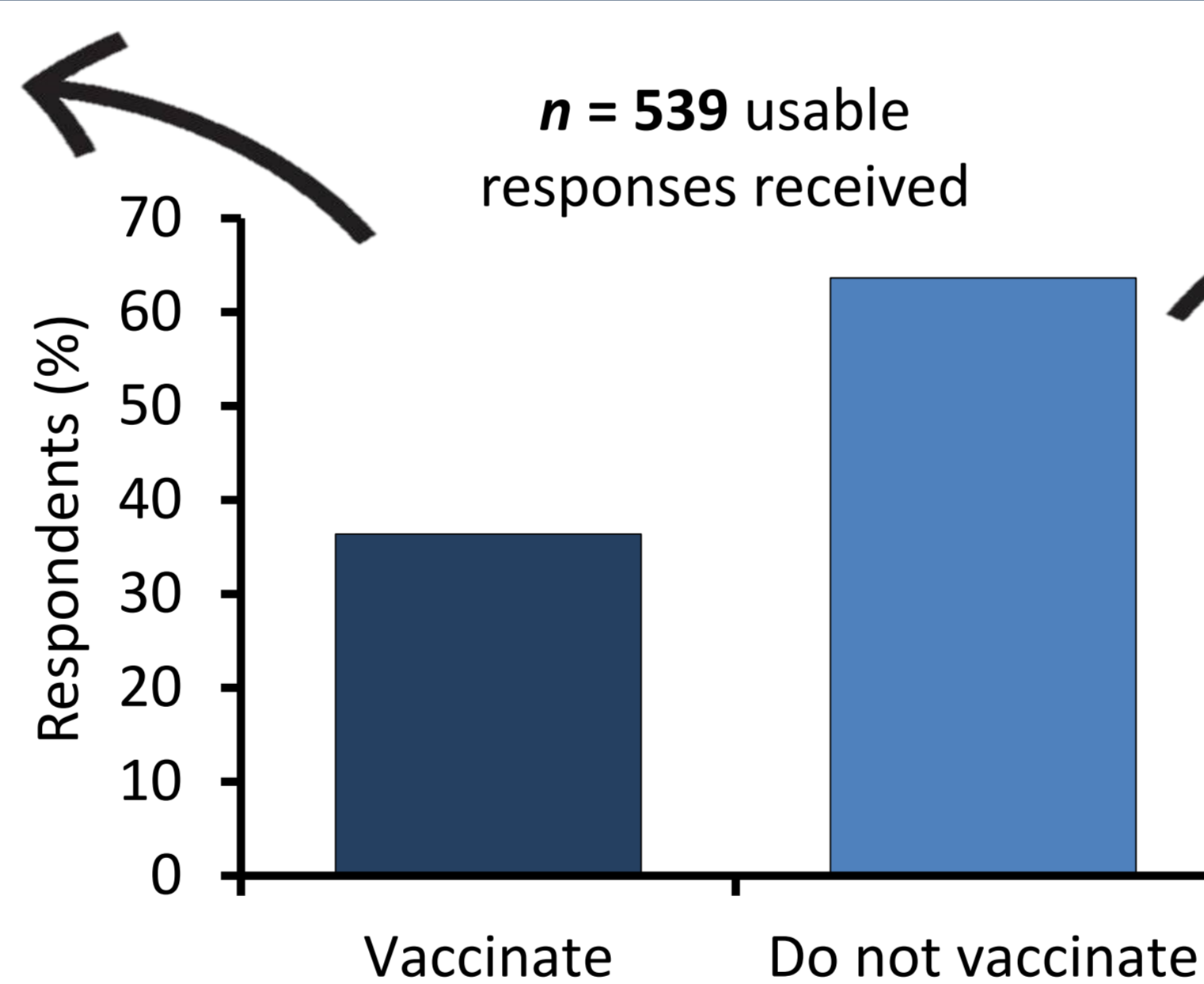
Section 3  
Footvax® barriers & motivators

## Preliminary Results

**77% (n = 151)** vaccinated their whole flock (including rams)

**36.4% (n = 196)** of respondents vaccinated their flocks against footrot

**96.4% (n = 189)** vaccinated their flocks for prevention compared to **3.6% (n = 7)** who vaccinated for treatment



**63.6% (n = 343)** of respondents did not vaccinate their flock against footrot

### Motivators?

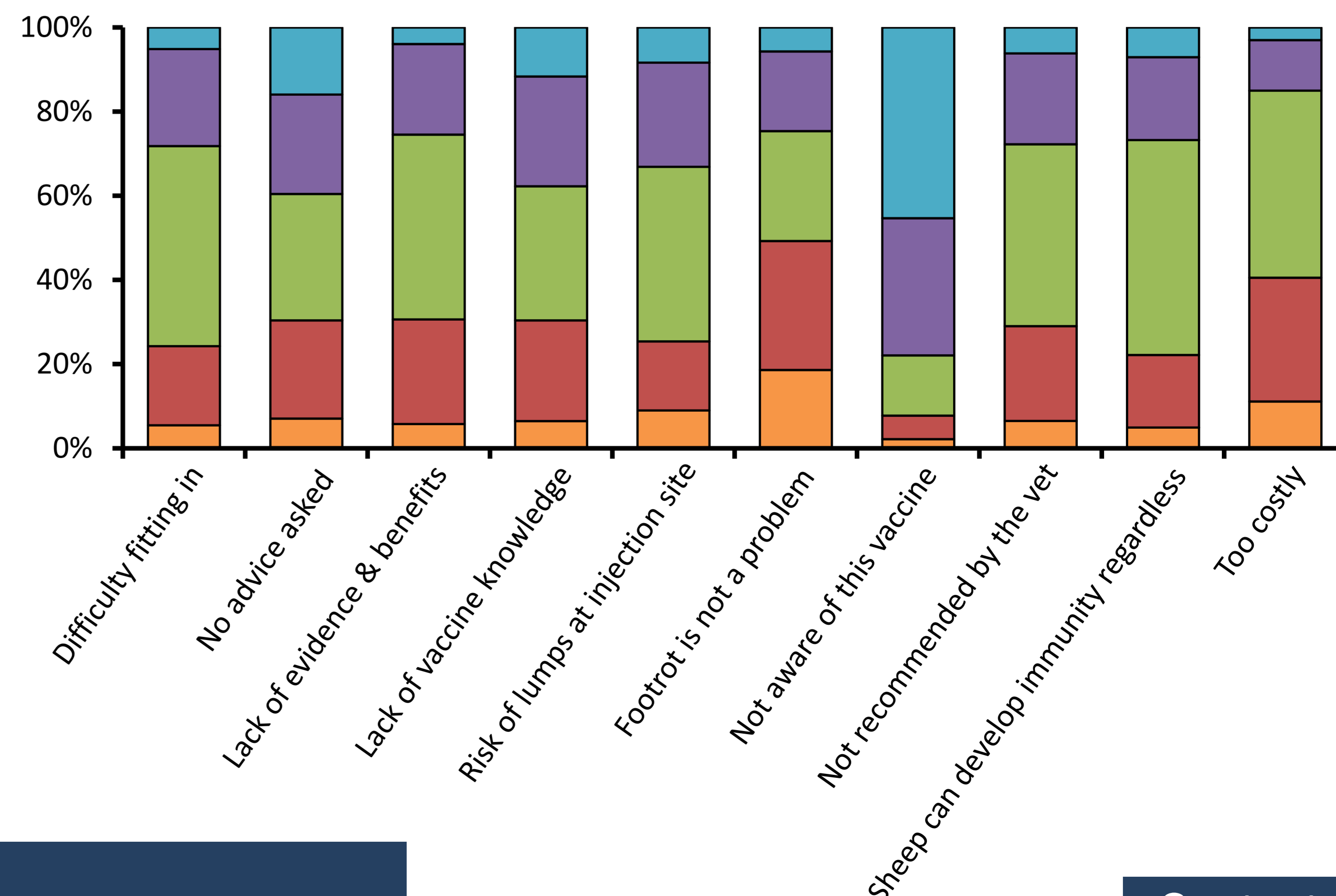
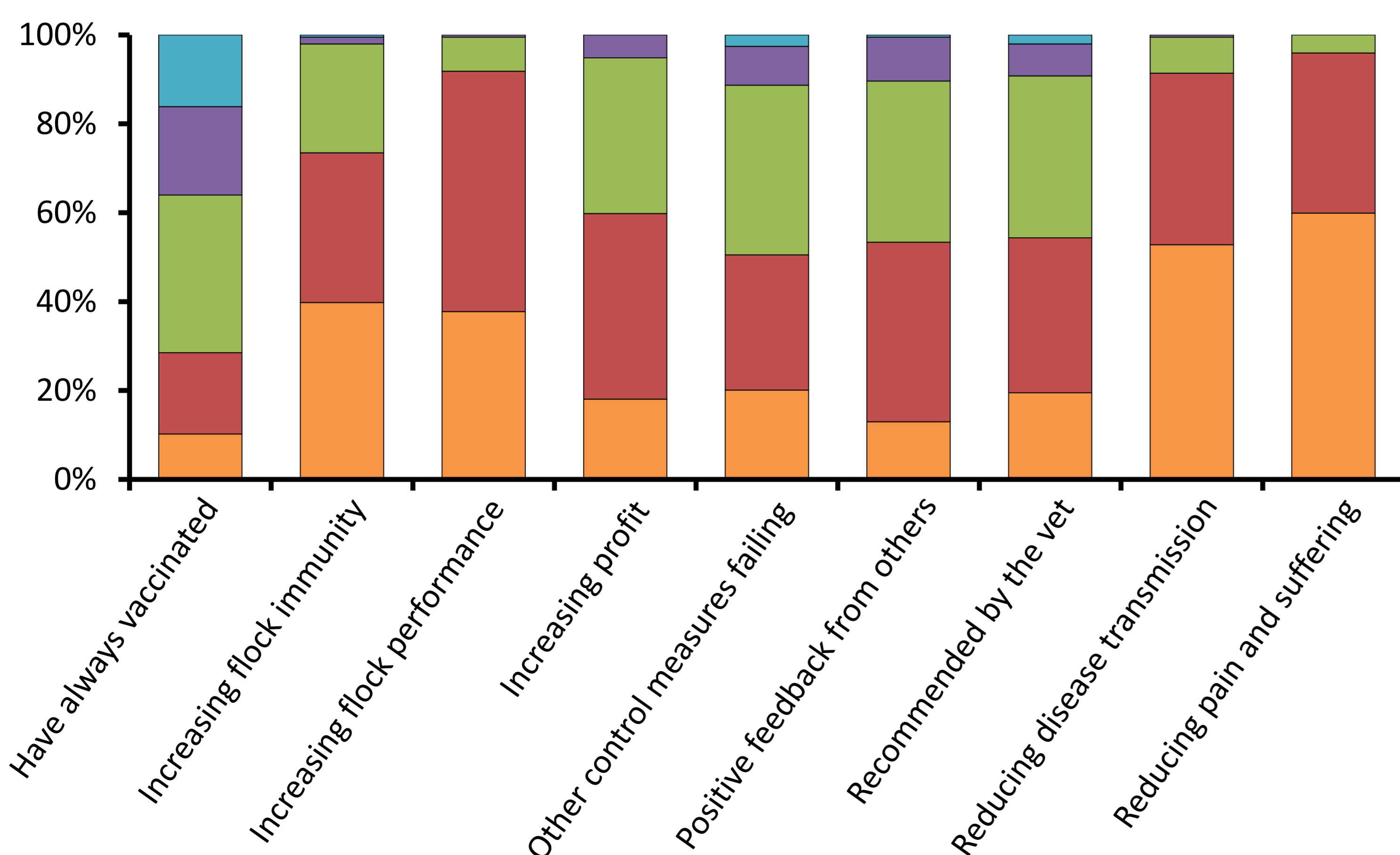
5-point Likert scale

### Barriers?

5-point Likert scale

Strongly agree  
Agree  
Neither agree nor disagree  
Disagree  
Strongly disagree

Strongly agree  
Agree  
Neither agree nor disagree  
Disagree  
Strongly disagree



## Future Work

- Investigate whether those who vaccinate have lower footrot and overall lameness prevalence
- Determine whether Five-Point Plan compliance (cull, avoid, treat & quarantine) has an effect on the efficacy of Footvax®
- Conduct interviews to further investigate the motivators and barriers behind Footvax® use

### Contact

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