

# Steps to managing facial eczema using zinc

Prepare early, test your own farm, and work with your vet to get timing and dosing right.



Look for this icon. It means talk to your vet. Every farm is different.

## Step 1 Making the decision to start treatment

### Prepare for the season

Plan ahead with your vet before the risk period.



Regional data is a guide only. Your own farm testing is what counts.

### Monitor farm spore counts

Test paddocks regularly to see if counts are tracking high and when to start treatment.

Your vet can help choose how many paddocks and which ones.



Build testing into your routine through the risk period.

## Step 2 Setting the correct dose rates

### Weigh a selection of cattle

Weigh 20 cows from each mob to work out the average and range of weights. This sets the zinc dose.

Check dose and product with your vet.



Plan ahead for yards, scales and staff.

### Dose stock with zinc at full rates

Follow the product choice and protocols for your treatment option.

Make sure every animal gets its full dose. Missed or refused doses leave stock exposed.

## Step 3 Is my treatment working?

### Check your treatment is working

Work with your vet to test a set number of cows for serum zinc and GGT once dosing is underway.

Your vet will advise on any abnormal results.



Blood zinc levels respond quickly to changes in dosing, so testing can be done relatively soon after starting zinc.

## Step 4 Making the decision to end treatment

### Watch the regional trend

Even when regional counts trend down, keep testing on farm.

### Monitor farm spore counts

When your farm's spore counts have consistently dropped below risk levels and cooler temperatures have set in, talk to your vet about stopping your treatment.

### Safe to stop?

Are your farm spore counts under 30,000 for multiple weeks in a row?

Yes → Talk to your vet.



No → Keep dosing.

Don't stop at the first dip below 30,000. Wait until spore counts have remained below this threshold for several consecutive weeks.

### When to restart

Restart if spore counts exceed 30,000 or risk increases.

Peak risk conditions: Warm, humid weather (above 12°C) and damp pastures increase facial eczema risk.

**Spore count guide** Farm counts, spores/g pasture. A guide only.

### High risk

Over 30,000

You should be dosing with zinc.

### Also a risk

10,000-30,000

Multiple weeks here can still cause damage.

### Lower risk

Under 10,000

Keep testing through the risk period.

### Seasonal risk period

Peak risk is typically January to April, but always watch for clinical signs. Timing varies by location and conditions.

