

Peatland restoration and the Bog Asphodel (*Narthecium ossifragum*) problem

Laura Carrick and Charles Cowap

Bog Asphodel is entirely benign in some locations, but toxic to cattle and sheep in others causing photosensitivity and sudden death. Farmers' awareness of the problems associated with Bog Asphodel may therefore be discounted by environmentalists, particularly given the likely under-reporting of problems to the veterinary profession by farmers.



Association with sheep and cattle diseases:

- Saut (Cumbria)
- Yellowses (Northumberland)
- Plochteach/Head Greet (Scotland)
- Hard Lug (N Ireland)
- Alveld (Norway)
- Photosensitivity in Lambs
- Nephrotoxicity and subclinical hepatotoxicity in cattle



Key references

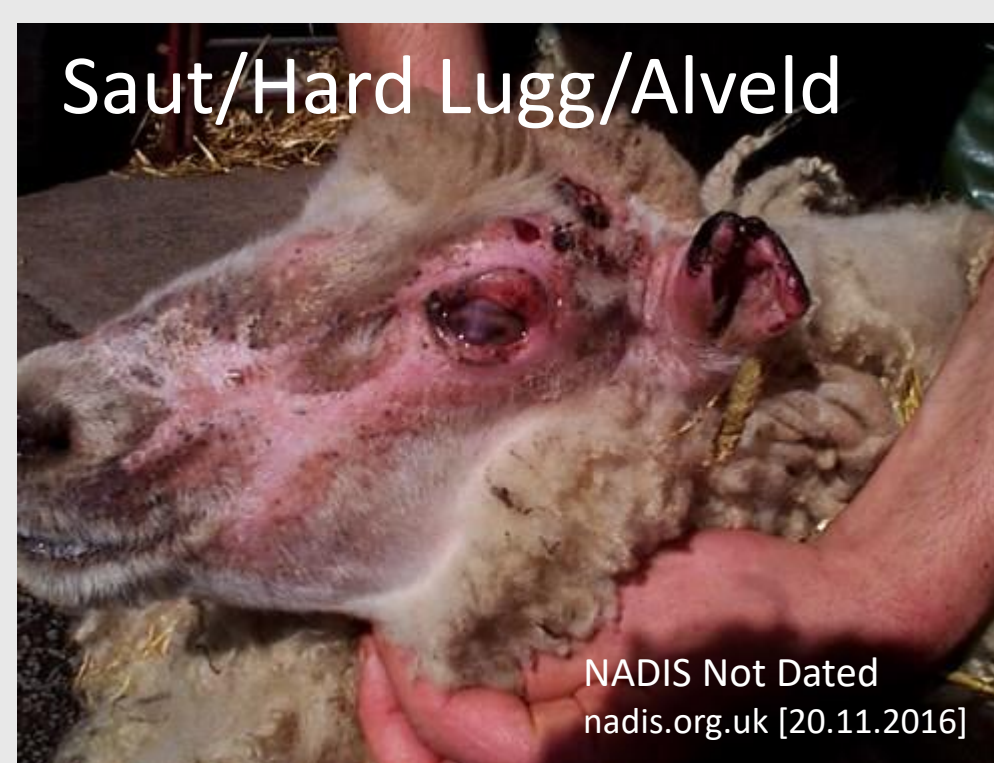
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Saut/Hard Lugg/Alveld



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Key points:

- Problems are not universal or predictable
- Animal response is variable
- According to species and within species
- And also according to microbial interactions of BA itself
- Land useability issues therefore of variable economic effect
- Problems exacerbated on rented land