

TAKE the LEAD

MESSAGE FOR FARMERS

Educational support materials devised by



Farming & Countryside Education

In partnership with

**Farmers
Guardian**



National Sheep Association

Message for farmers

You will be familiar with the problem of sheep worrying but the general population is not aware of the scale of the situation nor of its devastating effects not only on your livestock but also on you and your family.

"Take the Lead" provides a package of educational information and activities so that pupils can learn more about sheep and their important role and use some of the fun resources before being introduced to the topic of sheep worrying. We hope that in this way children will become ambassadors for Take the Lead, spreading the message to friends and family of the importance of keeping dogs on the lead when out walking near sheep in the countryside.

If you have children or grandchildren, you will know that most youngsters love learning things and enjoy sharing their newfound knowledge. The package of resources we have produced places a focus on "all things sheep" so that in the first instance pupils become familiar with information about sheep and can engage in some fun activities to enhance their learning.

After this, we can introduce the more emotive subject of sheep worrying. We need to be sensitive and avoid using shock tactics whilst helping children understand the importance of keeping a dog on a lead when near sheep.

Their learning is rewarded by the acquisition of a sticker - something all young children love - and this will be an incentive for them to pass on the message to friends and family.

(Stickers are available from the National Sheep Association during 2017)

What is your role?

You can contribute to "Take the Lead" in a variety of ways.

1. Pass on the materials to a teacher you know or introduce your local school to the resources
2. Offer to go in to a school to help deliver the message. Your knowledge and experience as a farmer will be invaluable. Make sure you chat to the teacher beforehand about the best way to get involved.

If you are unfamiliar with going into schools or talking to pupils, you might find this resource useful: Toolkit for Farmers Leading Educational Visits

<http://www.visitmyfarm.org/farmers-resources/336-a-toolkit-for-farmers-leading-educational-visits>

3. Maybe you have links with other groups such as Beavers or Youth Clubs. The materials can easily be adapted for use with these groups. Again, talk to the group leaders to see if you can help to introduce the topic.

Let's all work together to "Take the Lead."