



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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Sheep Scab Fiend... Foe... Where arts thou?

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History

- Eradicated from the UK in 1952
- Accidentally reintroduced in 1973
- Compulsory double dipping regime
- 1989 reduced to single dipping - c 40 outbreaks
- 1991 still not eradicated - c 120 outbreaks
 - Perceived lack of cooperation from industry
 - impacts on the environment
- 1992 Sheep Scab Order - Compulsory dipping of national flock stopped but controls for affected flocks

History

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- criminal offence if owners or keepers of sheep:
 - fail to treat sheep **visibly** affected with sheep scab and all other sheep in the flock;





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- criminal offence if owners or keepers of sheep:
 - fail to treat sheep **visibly** affected with sheep scab and all other sheep in the flock;
 - move sheep **visibly** affected with sheep scab (except to enable animals to be treated or for immediate slaughter).
- LAs can require sheep to be treated

Economic cost...

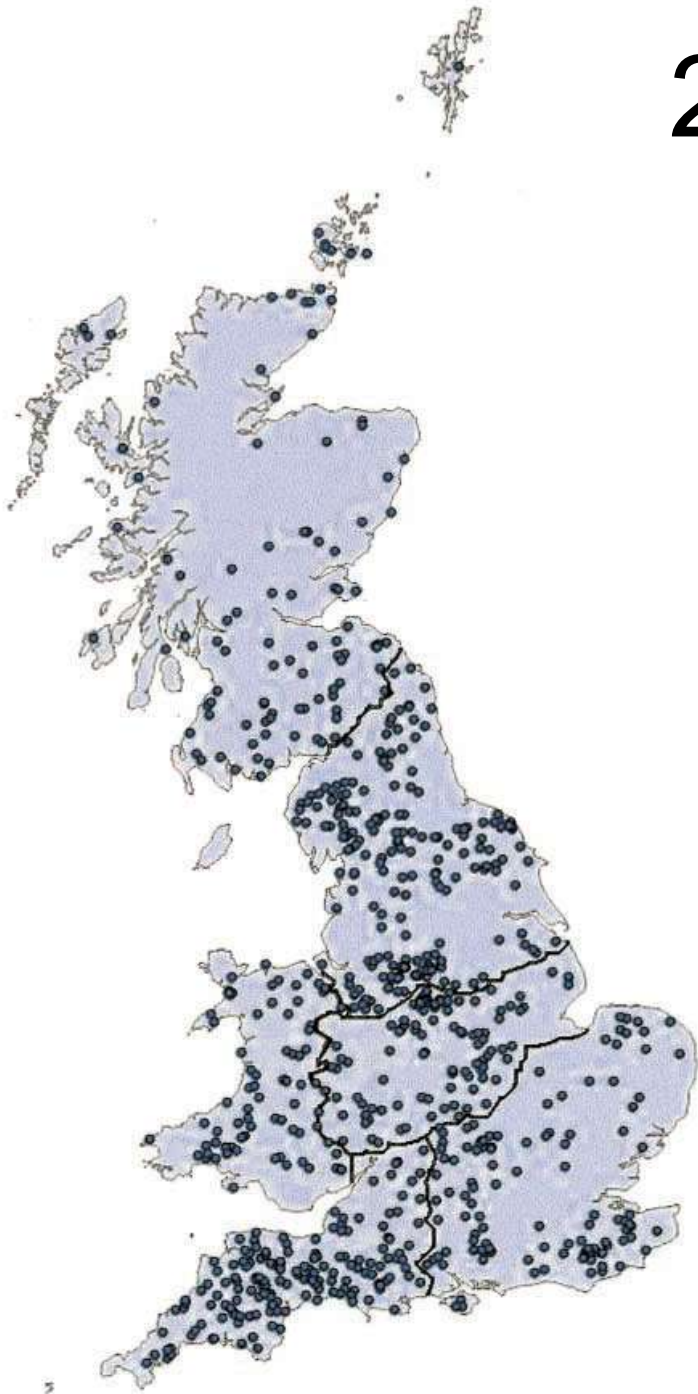
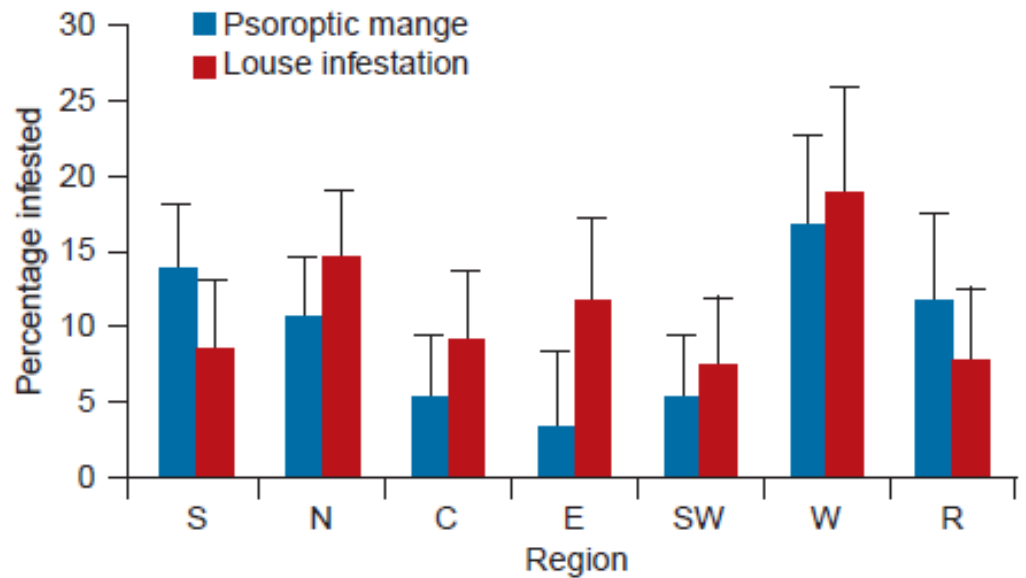
- In 2005, sheep scab was thought to cost the British sheep industry in the **region of £8 million per annum** (Nieuwhof and Bishop, 2005).
- In Wales cost of scab to the Welsh industry estimated at £2.3 million per year (HCC, 2008).
- The cost of the disease to the Welsh sheep industry was estimated at £5.86m per annum Bangor 2010.

Surveys

- NSA members - Bristol 2003/4
- Wales farmers & vets - HCC 2006
- NSA members - Bristol 2009
- Wales farmers at agricultural shows
- Bangor 2010

2003/04 - Survey of NSA Members

- GB scab 9%
- GB Lice 10.7%

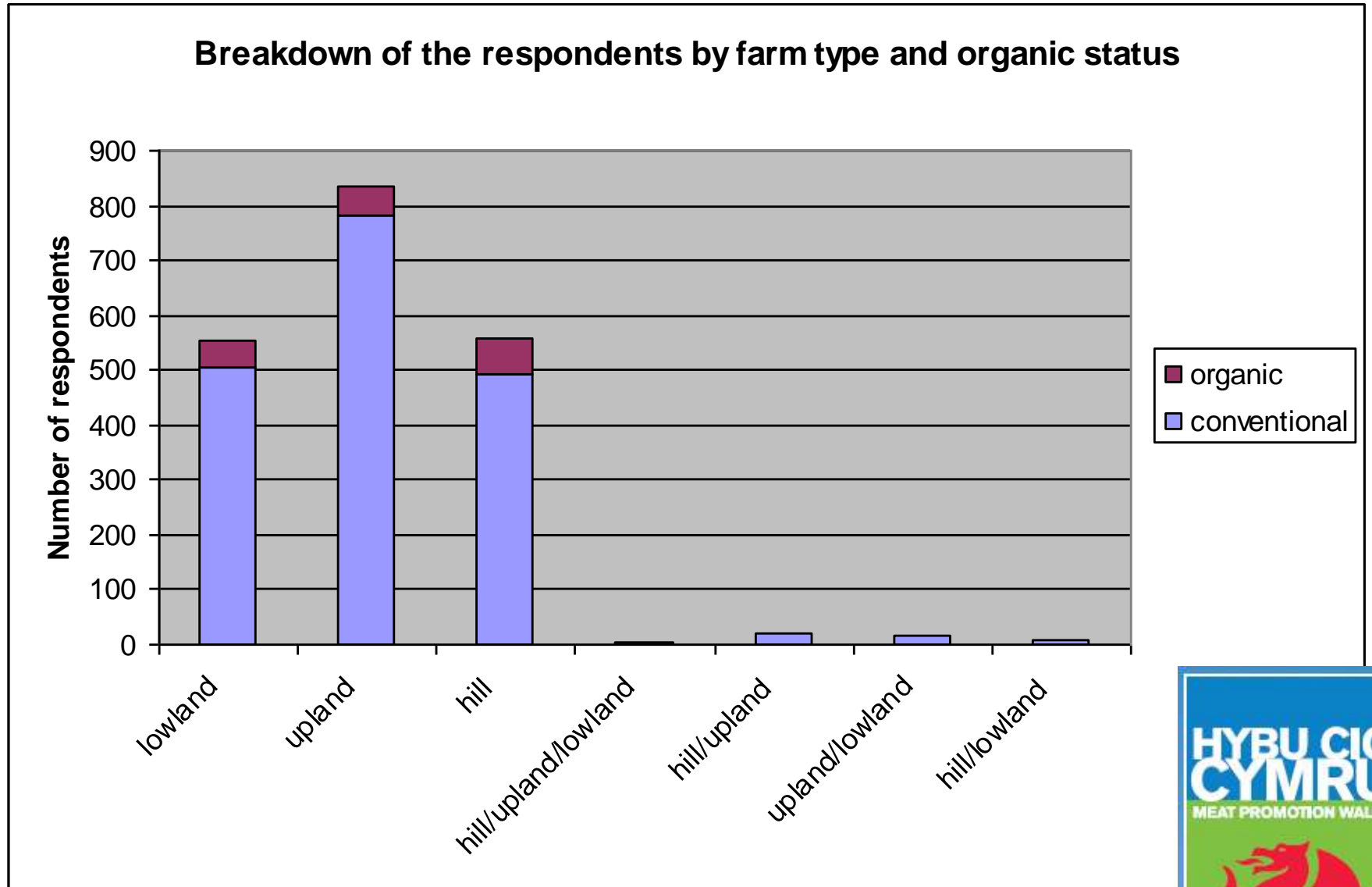


2006 Wales (HCC/MPW)

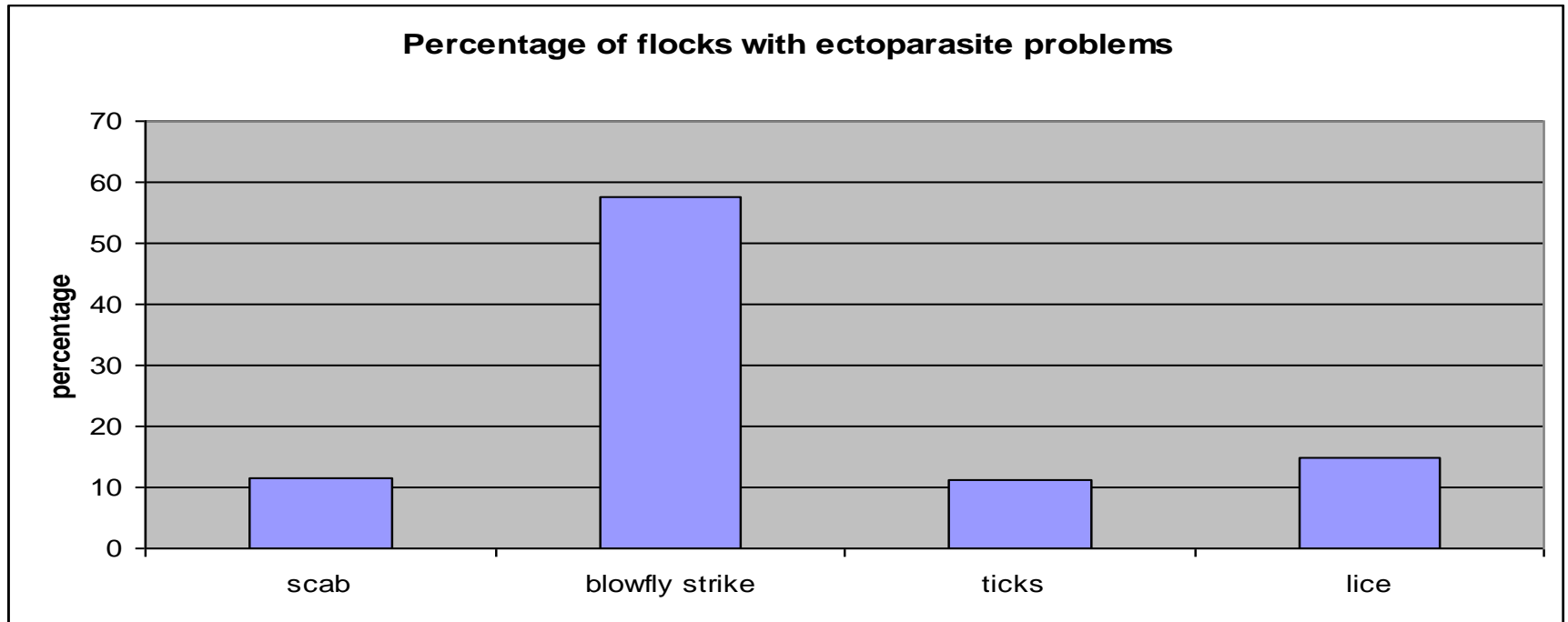


- surveys to Welsh sheep farmers
 - 2070 useable surveys were returned (16.6%)
- Surveys were sent to all Welsh veterinary practices (98)
 - 30 surveys returned representing all large animal practices in Wales

Producer survey – farm type

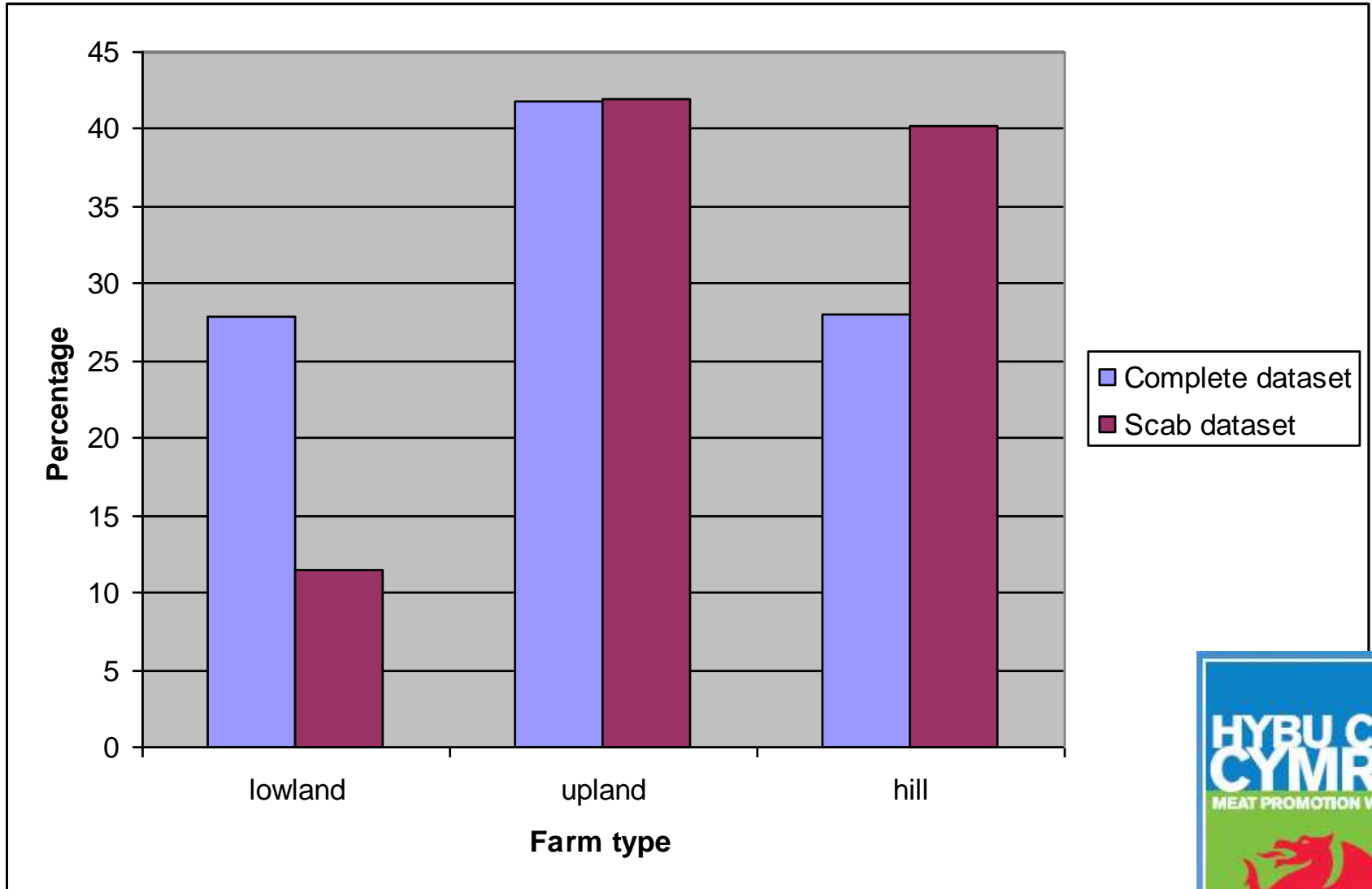


Producer survey - % of flocks reporting ectoparasites



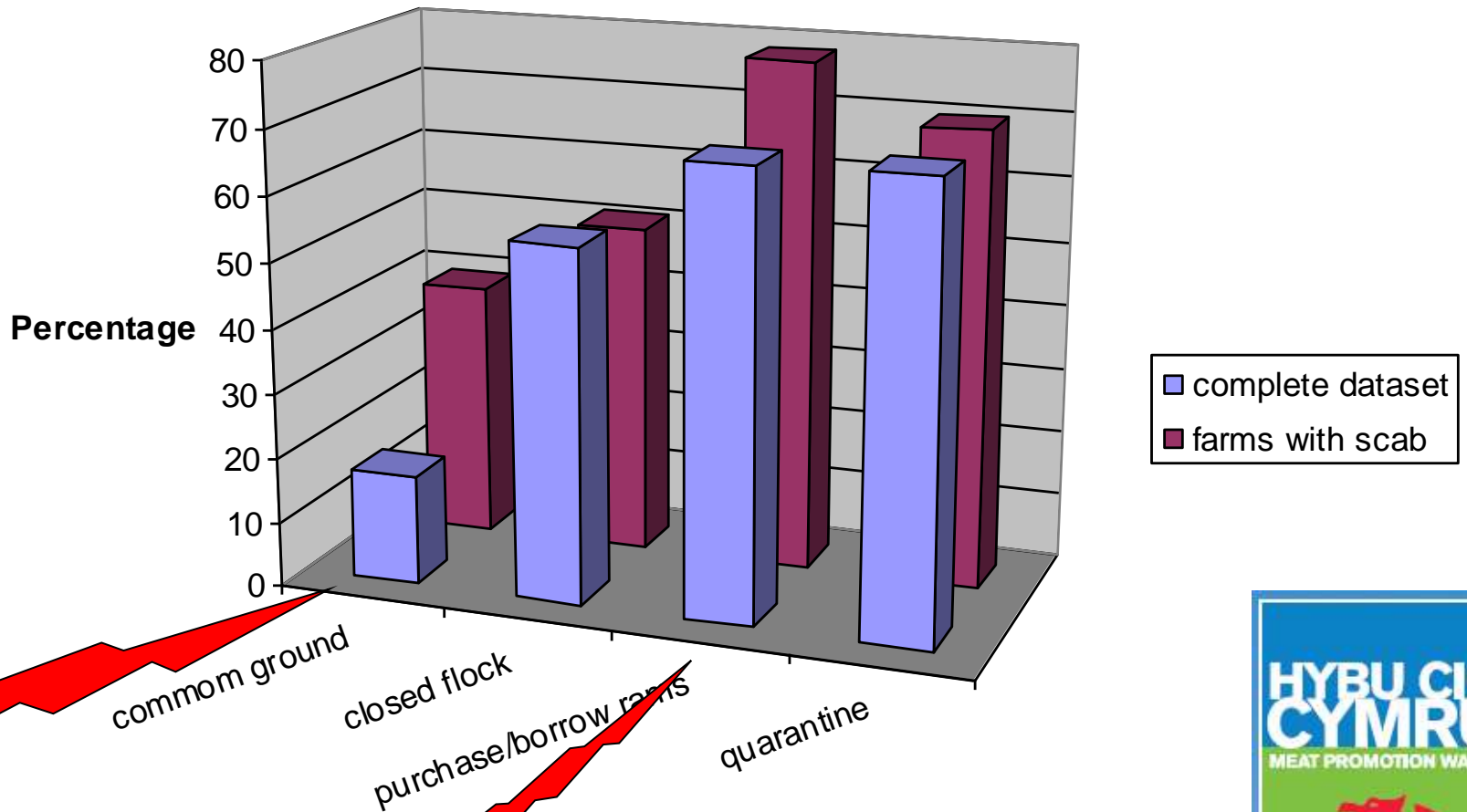
- 11.6% of useable returns (238 respondents) reported sheep scab

Stratification & scab?



What factors make farms more likely to have scab?

Comparison between complete dataset and farms with scab



Vet practice surveys

- 1-10% of clients - scab and ticks
- 11-20% of clients - lice

(These results mirror the results from the producer survey)



Vet farm visits

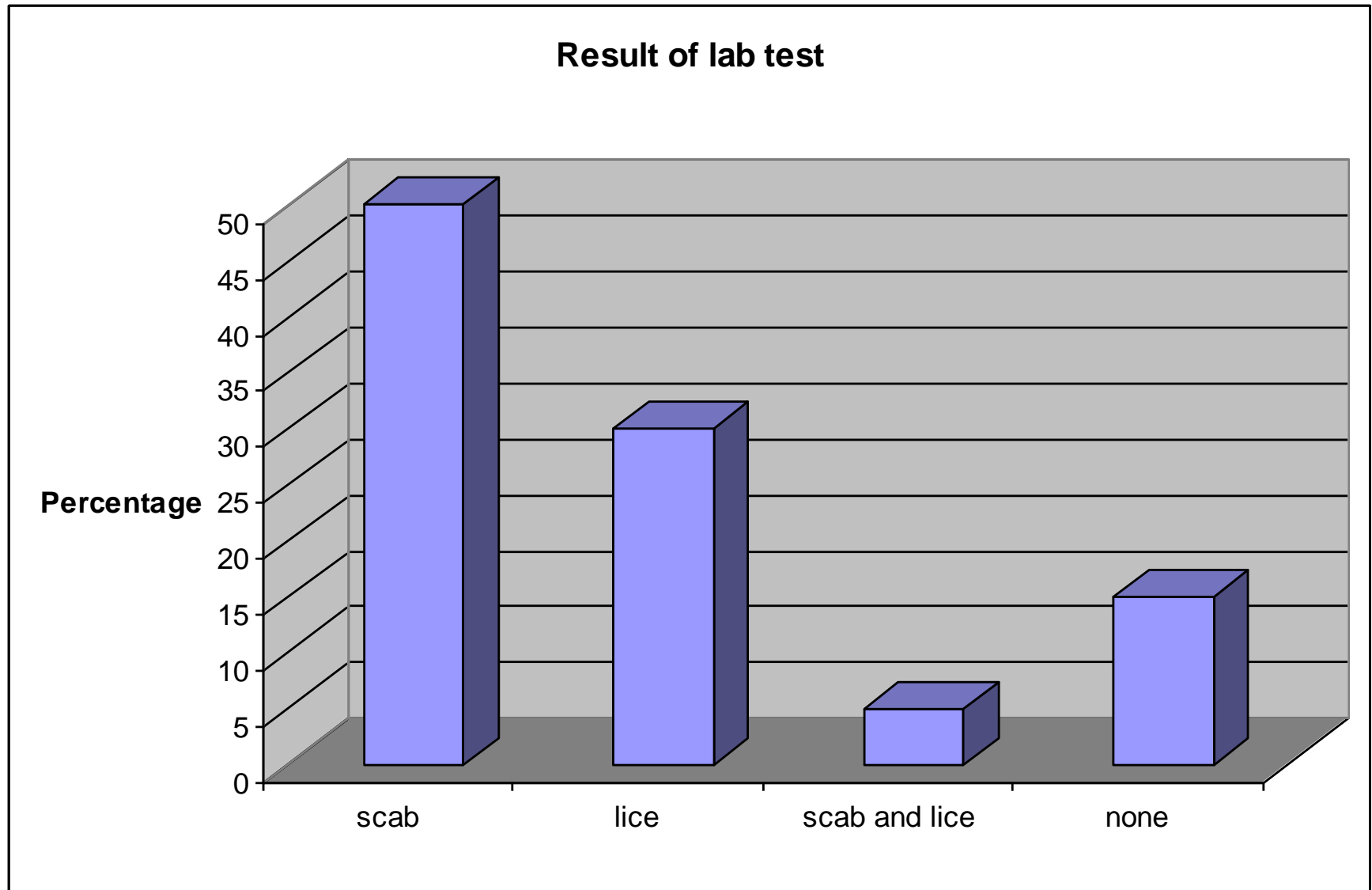
40 visits between Dec 06 and Mar 07
Survey covered 23,900 sheep

Vets were confident that producers

- could identify scab and lice
- knew the routes of infection



Result of lab tests from farm visits



Bio-security

- 68.5% of farmers said they quarantine bought-in or returning sheep
- vets believe that less than 10% of their clients quarantine bought-in or returning sheep...



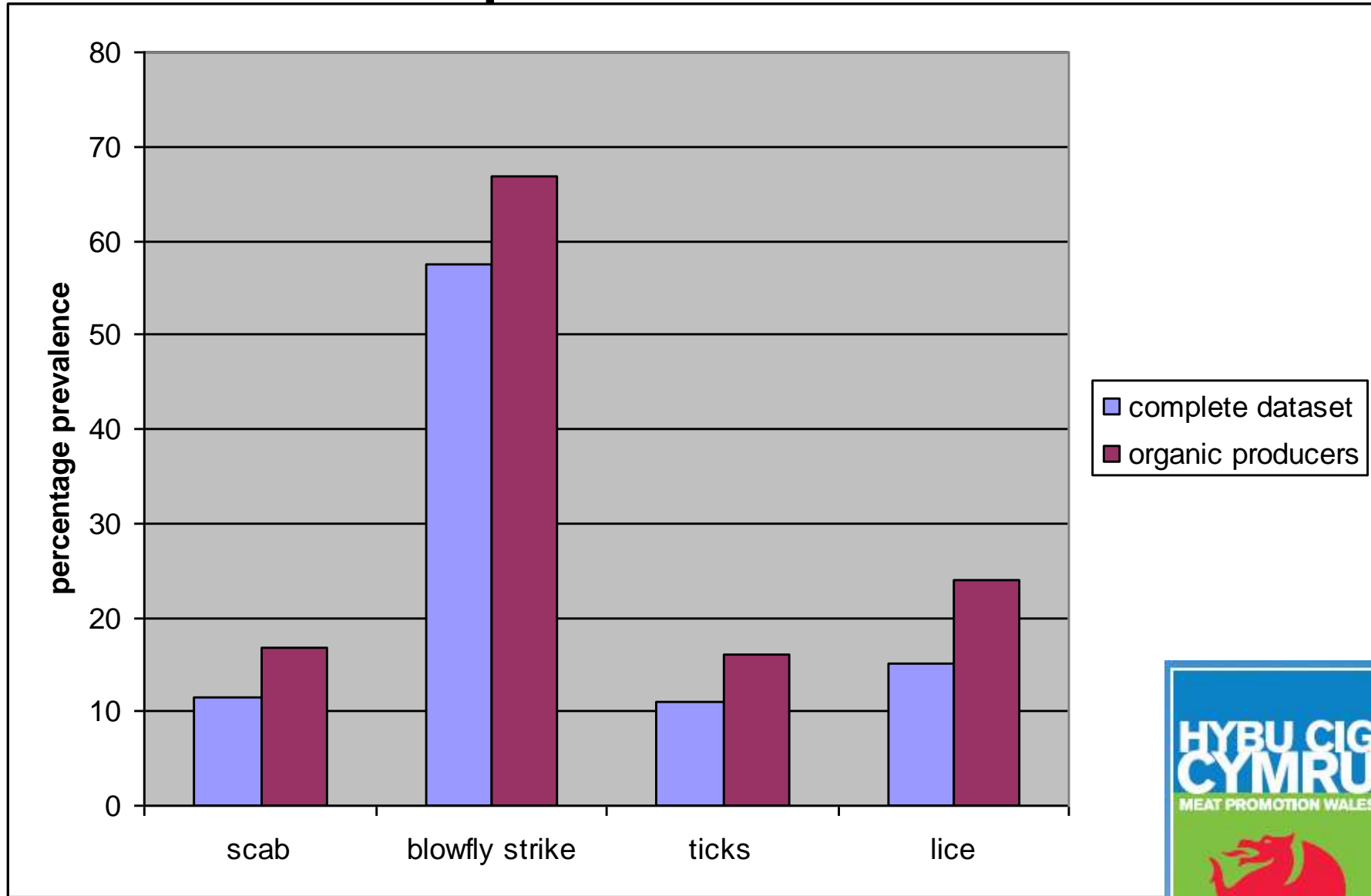
Organic sheep producers

- 8.4% of the respondents classed themselves as organic
- 4% of all Welsh sheep producers were organic

Very good representation.

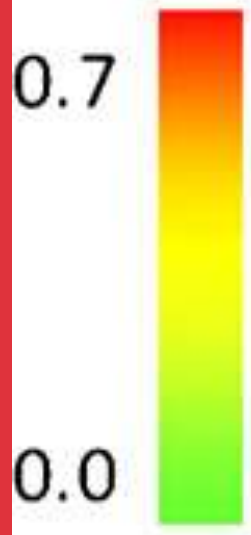


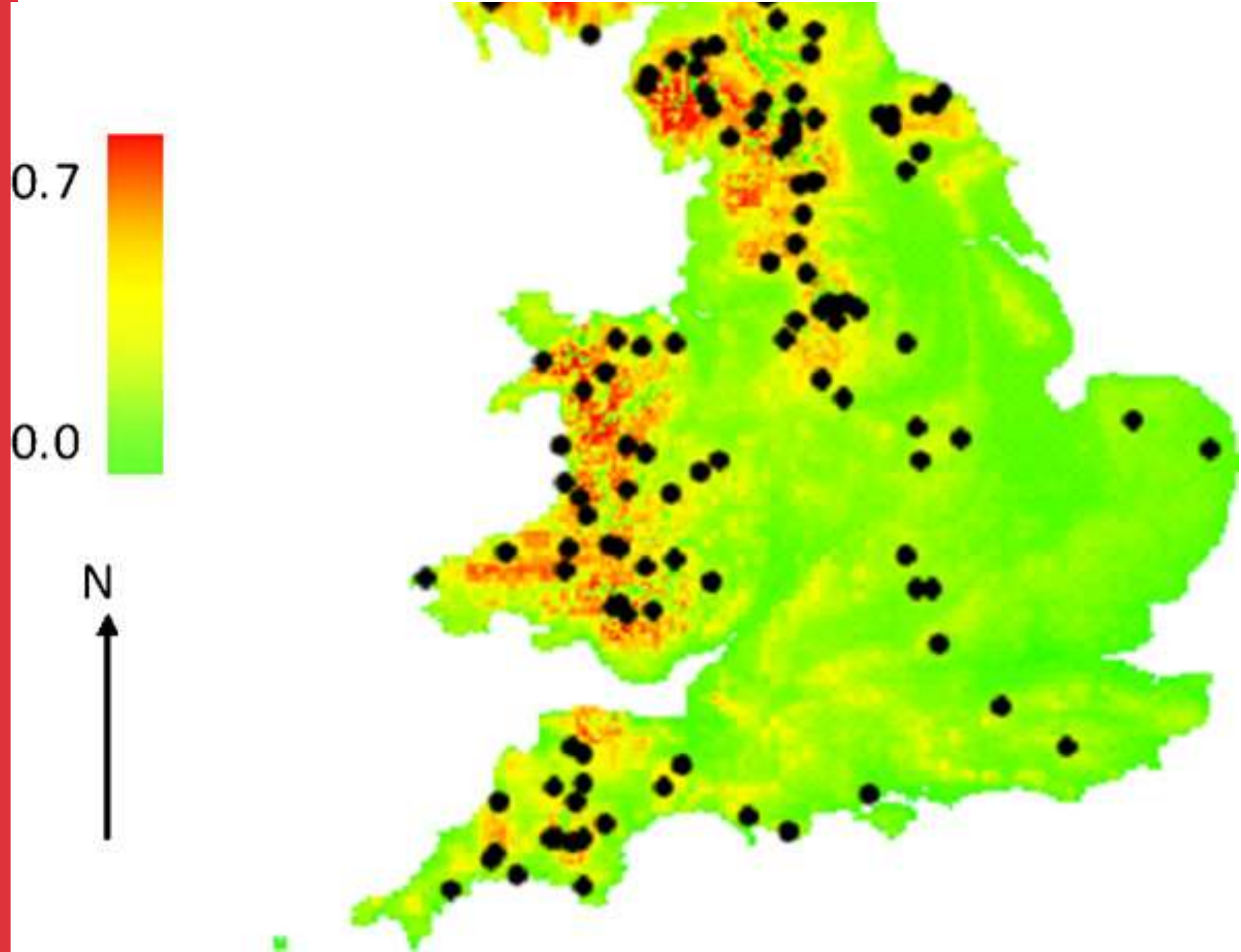
Organic respondents versus complete dataset



2007/08 NSA repeat survey

- 8.6% (+/-1.98)
- Key is a risk map for GB



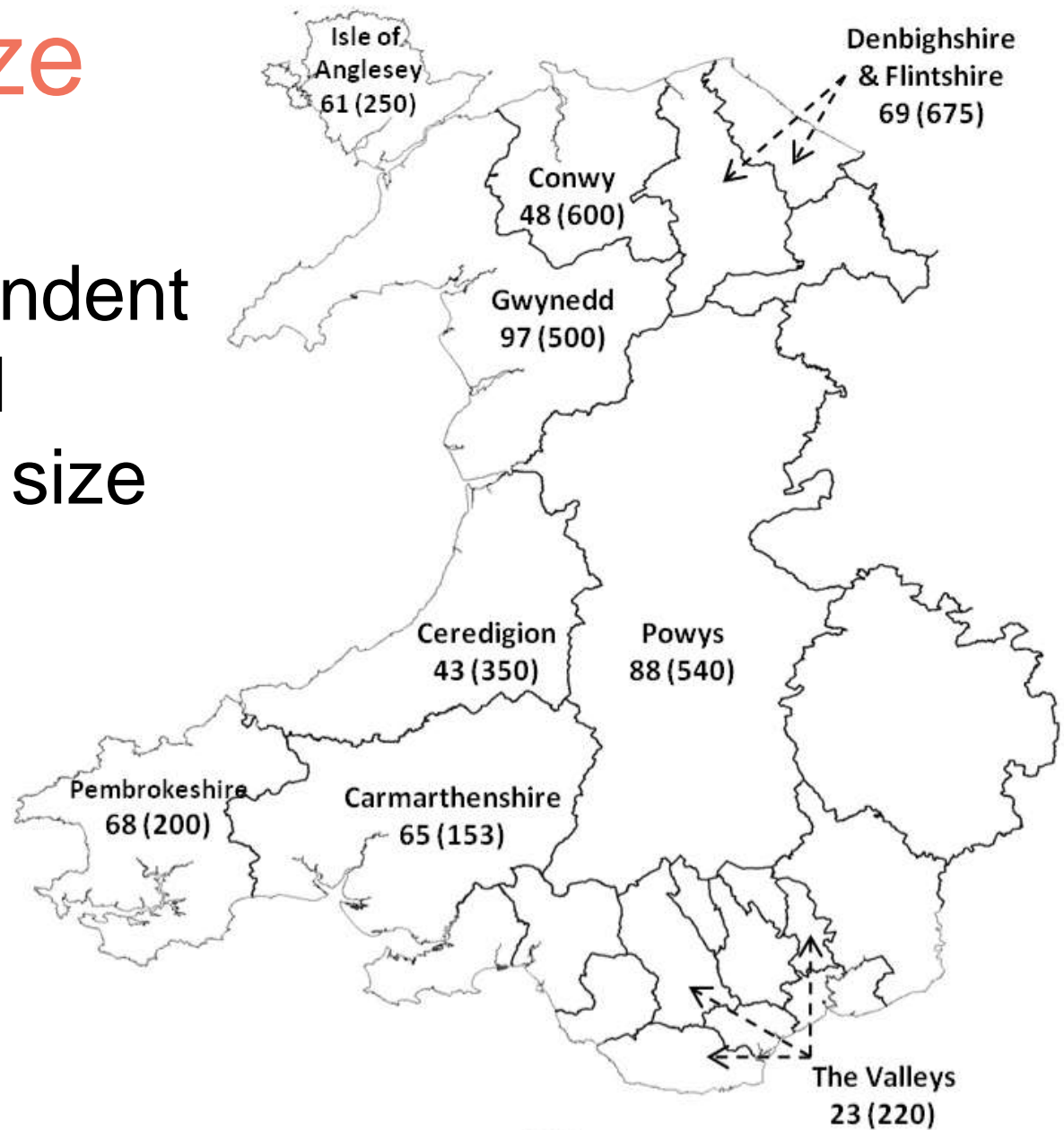


Hotspots

- Open hill – common land
- Organic farms
- Poor veterinary influence
- Lowland farms – store lambs
- Markets??
- Bio security deficient haulier
- Hobby farmers
- Has been farmers!

Sample size

- Bangor 2010 survey respondent numbers and median flock size (in brackets)

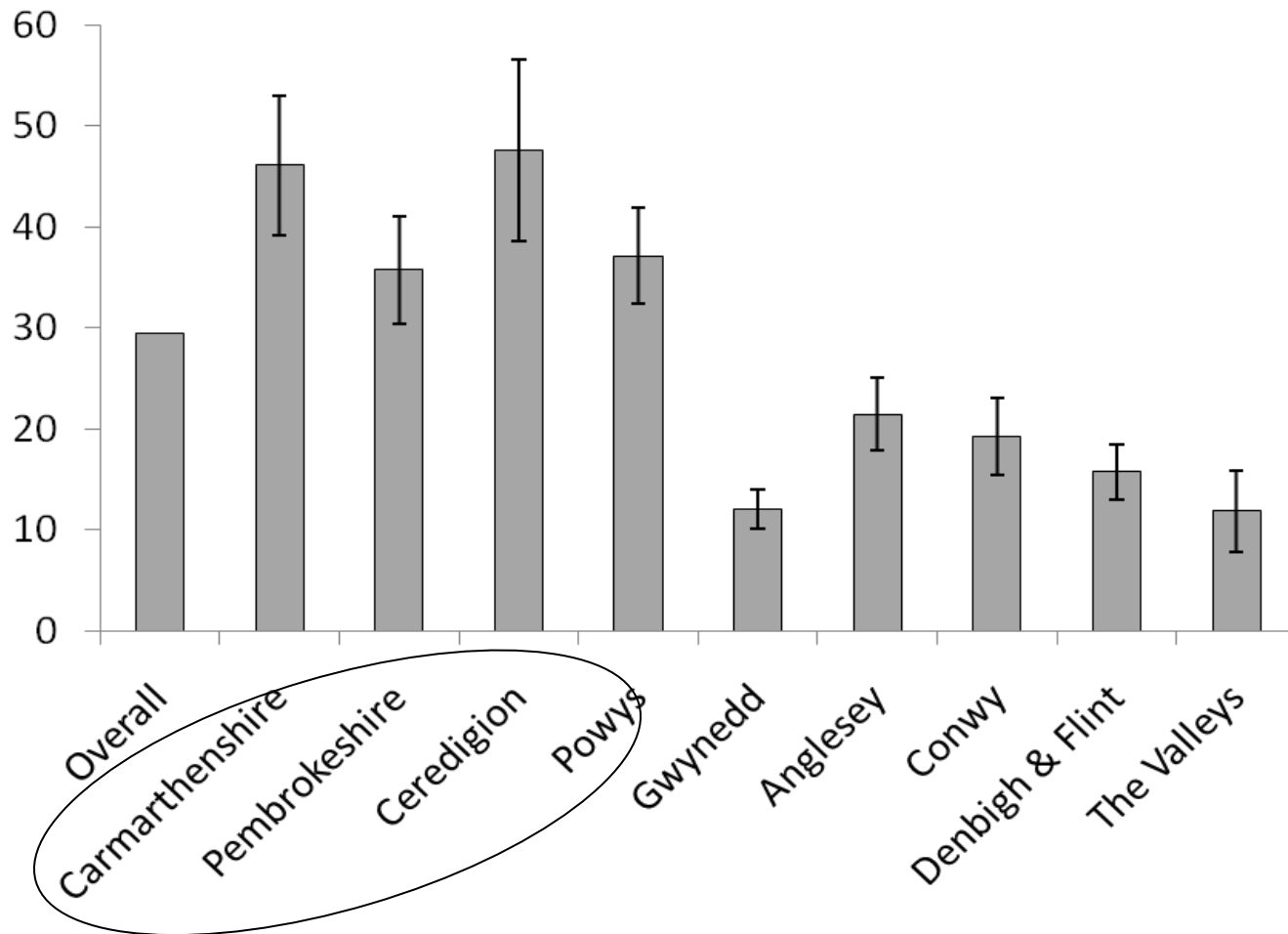


Demographics

- 588 questionnaires
- Organic farm owners accounted for approximately 10% of the sample (organic farm=56; conventional=532).
- Flocks ranged in size from 1 to 5500 breeding ewes and the median flock size for the survey was 350.
- Approximately 19% of farmers graze their sheep on common land at some point during the year.

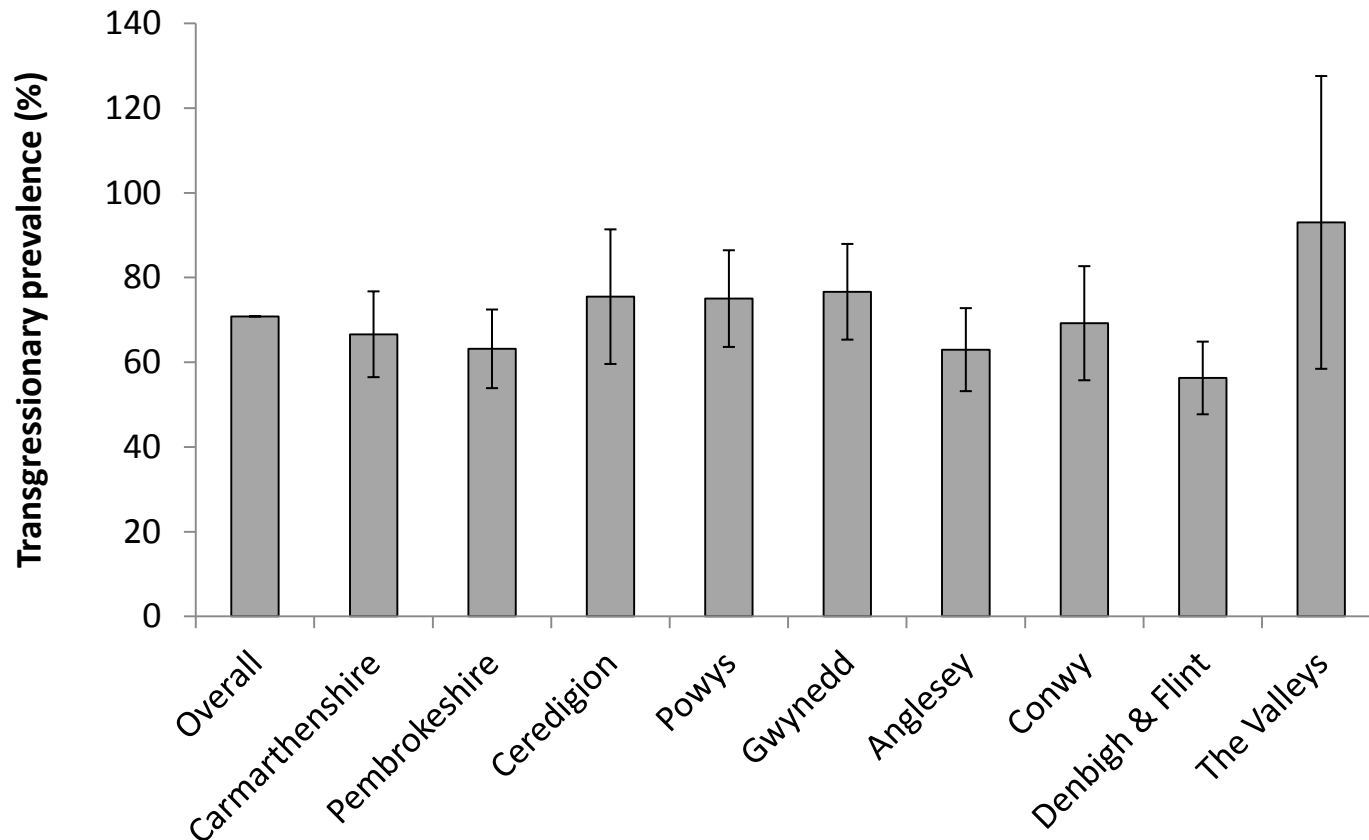
Treatment

‘Do you routinely treat your sheep to prevent scab?’ (Negative responses reported)



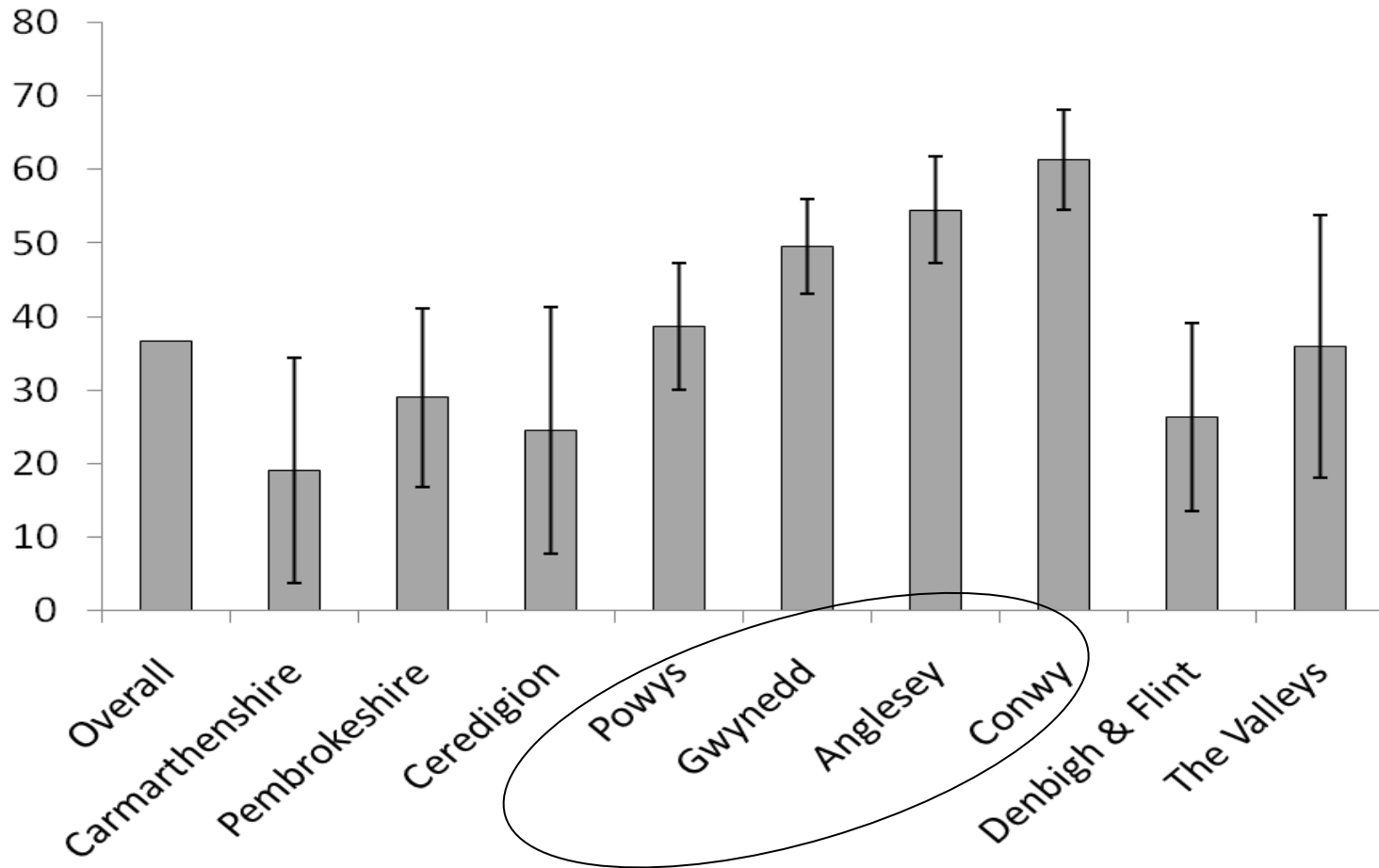
Treatment

‘Do all of your neighbours routinely treat against scab?’ (Negative responses reported)



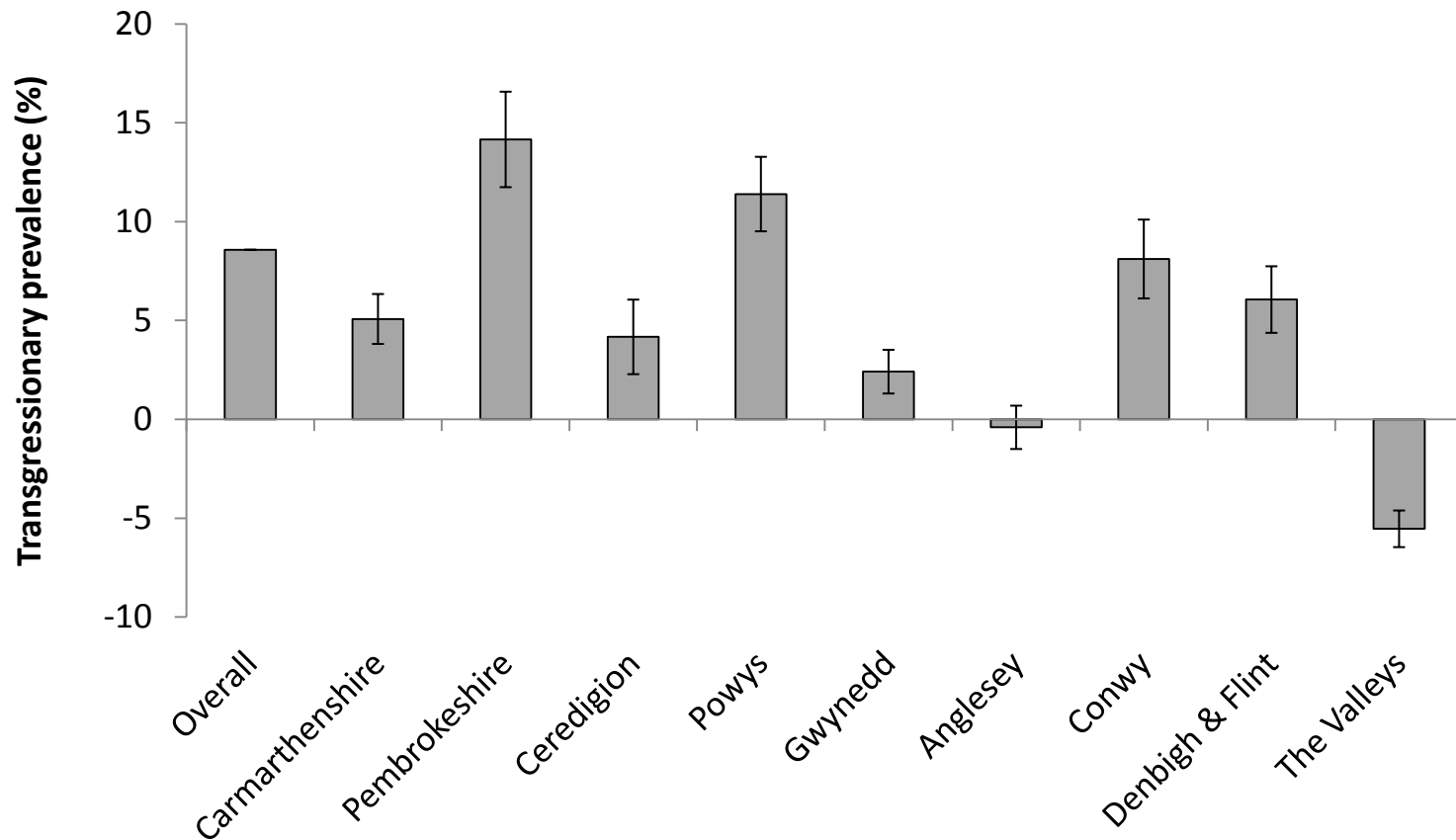
Prevalence

Have you had scab in your flock in the last five years?' (Positive responses reported)



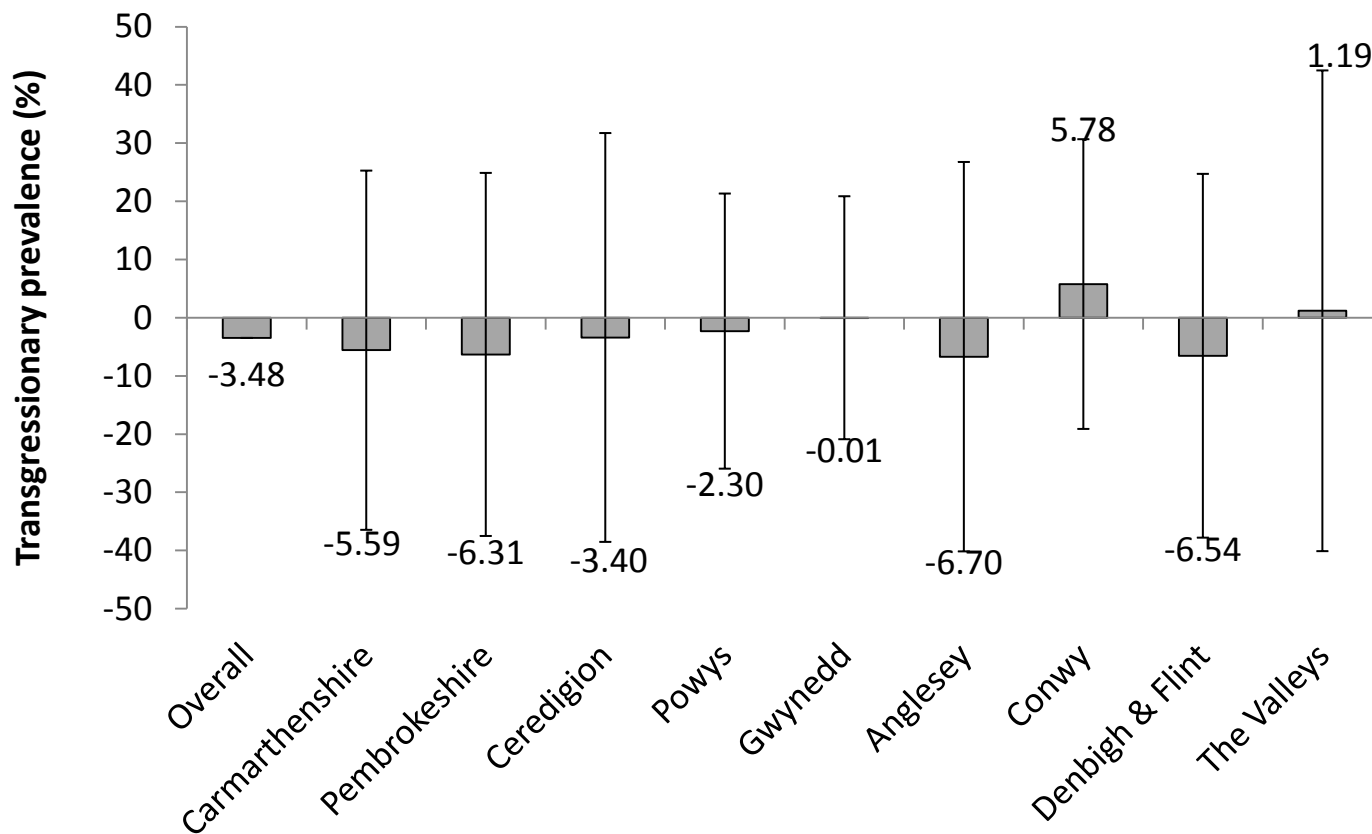
Treatment

‘If you detect scab in your flock do you always treat for it? (Negative responses reported)’



Scab and markets

‘Would you ever send your sheep to market knowing they have scab?’ (Positive responses reported)



Implications

- marked and significant difference in the levels of scab in flocks in counties in the North and East of the country
- increased likelihood of scab in flocks grazing on the Commons

Figure 6.4 Percentage of respondents who treat to prevent/control for specific ectoparasites

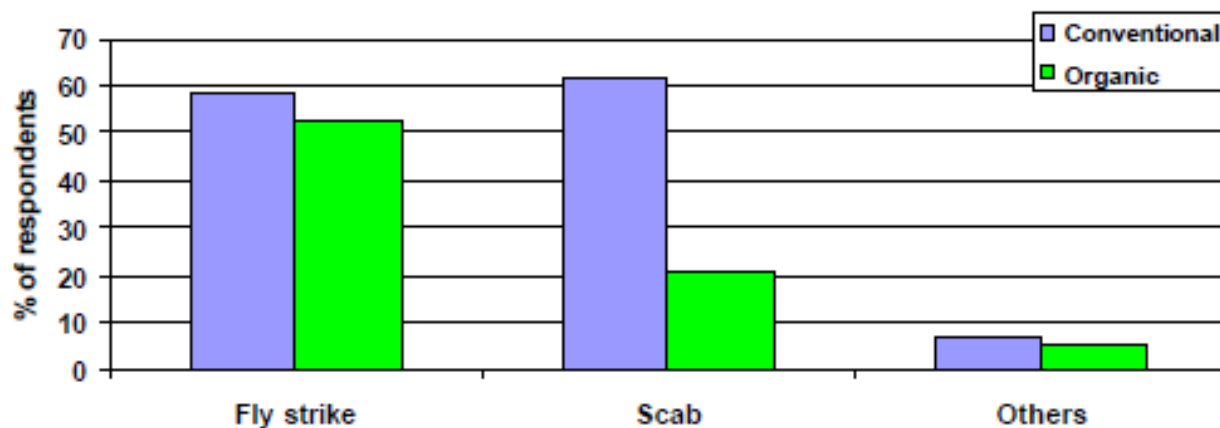
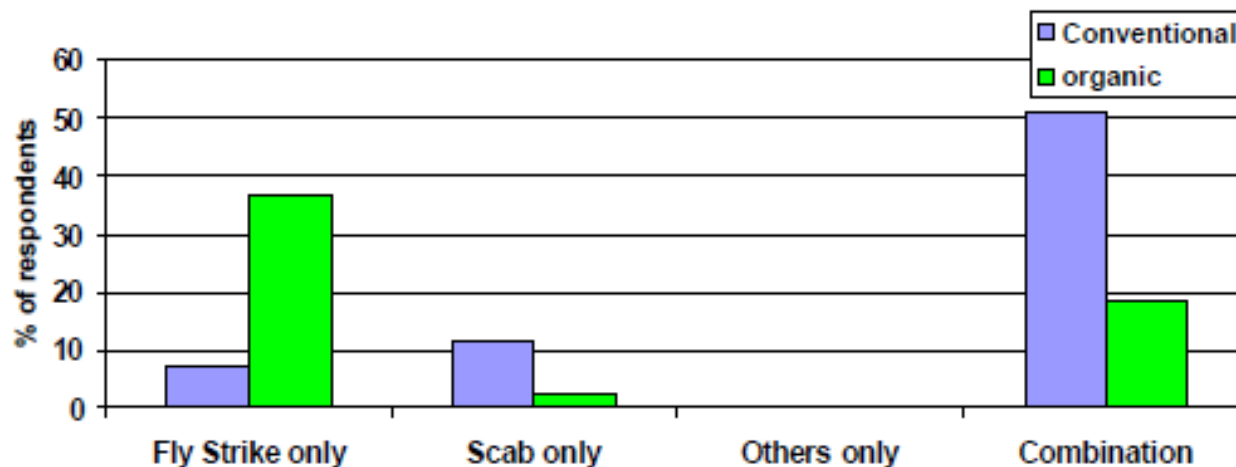


Figure 6.5 Percentage of respondents who treated to prevent/control ectoparasites either singly or in combination



Summary

2002	Scrapie survey	GB	8.7% over 12 months
2003/2004	NSA Members (Bristol)	GB	GB - 9% Scab; 10.7% lice over 12 months
2006	HCC	Wales	11.6% Scab over 12 months
2006	SEERAD (ADAS)	Scotland	14.7% over 5 years something odd here...
2007/2008	NSA Members (Bristol)		8.6% for GB but regional variation N England 36.4% Wales 24.2% SW England 15.2% Scotland 12.1%
2010	Bangor	Wales	36.5% BUT over 5 Years!!!