

clipfitter

Hi Brian,

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to trial **Clipfitter** on our lambs. My observations from using **Clipfitter** are as follows: **Applicator** – congratulations on this design! It is so easy to use, lightweight, minimal force required. Absolute genius engineering. I loved it. I have very small hands and only half a thumb following an accident, so I struggle with grip and strength in my right hand. This was not a problem.

Castration technique – Initially I struggled to find the best technique. I tail and castrate on my own so getting the lamb in a suitable position whilst applying the clip correctly proved a challenge. **East to West has the best results** and least chance of complications but legs got in the way. North to South increased the risk of pinching skin or nipping the urethra, whereas a cross method of NW to SE nearly always resulted in pinched skin.

The best method without doubt was to hold the back legs up to the front legs allowing the scrotum to hang down freely. This allowed the easy application of the clip East to West.



I did try the NipSafe protector to varying success. Some lambs were fine

whereas those with 'full' scrotums didn't have enough space to put the clip and the protector on.

I did notice that there was a reduction in lambs sucking up a testicle when using the Clipfitter as opposed to the rubber ring.

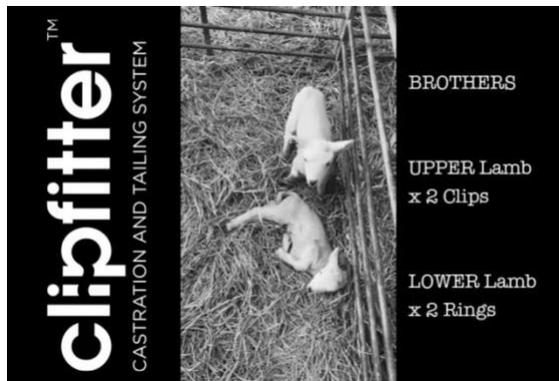


Tailing – I found the tailing the most difficult, not because of application, but more because of the crunch. I found this very unsettling. I did notice that lambs appeared more bothered about their tails than their scrotum. My other concern is that once it is on, there is no going back. We had a student who applied a rubber ring far too high, but because it was noticed quickly, it was removed and placed further down.

The **Clipfitter** is very unforgiving in this instance.

Anna Wilson is Technical Officer at the National Sheep Association and farms with her husband Iain in Yorkshire. They volunteered for a Tesco sponsored evaluation of ClipFitter on young lambs in 2025, in a comparison with rubber rings

Pain – When observing pairs of males. It was clear to see that **Clipfitter** castrated lambs showed less pain than those castrated with rubber rings.



Speed - The **Clipfitter** took the same time to apply as the rubber rings.



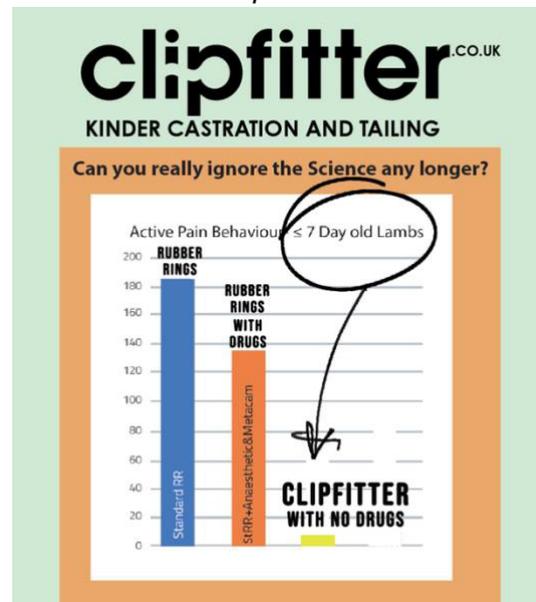
Cost – This shouldn't be a deciding factor, but sadly it is. The welfare of the animals should always come first, but with increasing veterinary and medicine costs across the board, a line needs to be drawn somewhere. Perhaps reducing the number of lambs to tail and castrate may be a compromise.

Environment – I would not consider purchasing the plastic clips. I imagine walking around the fields picking up clips wondering what I could do with them. I like the idea of the degradable ones (which we have) How long do they take to break down? I think it will be interesting to see if there is any difference in growth rates in the lambs.

I only tail and castrate full lambs to minimise the impact of them drinking. Although the Clipfitter lambs didn't show clear pain signs, they didn't appear to drink more than the ringed lambs.

I have not yet had chance to look at any lamb wounds to see if there is a difference between the two methods but as soon as I have anything to report, I will let you know.

In conclusion, I think you have a great product, easy to use and much kinder from a castration point of view.



I'm still undecided on the use for tailing and I would need to seriously weigh up costs.

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