



## PARASITE FORECAST February 2017 – Summary

*Local farm conditions may change, consult your vet.  
Effective worm control should be part of your veterinary health plan.*

For the full forecast please go to [www.nadis.org.uk](http://www.nadis.org.uk)

December started off cold and frosty especially in the south, but thereafter, became very mild with some rain at times. There followed a stormy period in central and northern Britain, associated with the passage of Storms Barbara and Connor leading to more settled, cold and frosty by end the month, especially in the south. The month was dry, except in NW Scotland, and the eighth warmest December since 1910. . ([www.nadis.org.uk](http://www.nadis.org.uk)).

### Review of Health Plans

- February is a good time to review parasite control plans for the forthcoming grazing season with clients.
- Identify safe grazing for ewes and lambs available at turnout to avoid the risk of from *Nematodirus battus* infections in young lambs in spring.
- For first-year grazing calves, decide if the parasite control plan will be strategic (e.g. grazing management, vaccination for lungworm) or therapeutic with regular monitoring and plan well ahead prior to turnout.

### Liver Fluke

- Sheep and outwintered beef cattle should be checked for chronic liver fluke/
- This winter has seen a moderate to high risk for liver fluke disease in parts of the UK, with Scotland, North Wales and NW England predicted to have the highest risk.
- All efforts must be taken to reduce reliance on triclabendazole by husbandry measures, and the use of other flukicides as appropriate.
- Sheep should always be moved to clean pastures after treatment; supplementary feeding may be necessary to maintain condition.
- Limiting pasture contamination with fluke eggs now from patent infections will reduce subsequent fluke challenge later in the year.
- Undosed beef cattle should be checked for the presence of fluke eggs in faeces and if positive, treated and moved to fluke-free pastures.
- Farmers should be encouraged to discuss positive slaughterhouse results.



**Chronic fluke disease in a sheep liver. Positive slaughterhouse results should be discussed with clients.**

### Worm Control

- The mild December weather may lead to the continued risk of PGE in store lambs and yearlings.
- Monitoring pooled faecal egg counts to determine the need to dose out-wintered store or replacement lambs.
- The emergence of anthelmintic resistance (AR) may influence recommendations on dosing ewes at lambing time specially when it comes to the use of long acting wormers.
- The current recommended strategy is a compromise between reducing pasture contamination for subsequent grazing lambs, and avoiding high selection pressure for AR.
- SCOPS currently recommend two possible options:
  - Leave a proportion of the ewes (~ 10%) untreated. This can be achieved by leaving single-bearing ewes and/or a proportion of ewes in good body condition untreated, or:
  - Treat early in the post-lambing phase, especially with long-acting formulations of moxidectin, to ensure that ewes become re-infected with unselected parasites before their immunity is fully restored.
- Further details can be found on the SCOPS website at [www.scops.org.uk](http://www.scops.org.uk).

### Ectoparasites



**Heavy louse infestation. Correct diagnosis is important before advising on treatment**

- Symptoms of lice infestations and sheep scab are similar so correct diagnosis is important before advising on treatment.
- Louse infestations can be controlled with topical application of high *cis* cypermethrin, deltamethrin or by plunge dipping in diazinon.
- Because of the growing concern over selection of ML-resistance in roundworms, it is important to ensure scab treatments with injectable MLs are given correctly following current SCOPS guidelines.

**Parasite Control should be part of your veterinary health plan, consult your vet**

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