



PARASITE FORECAST March 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

The start of January, was mostly dry and fairly cold before turning mild, followed by a short cold snap mid month. The rest of the month remained mild in the north, but cold and frosty in the south-east, before turning mild towards the end of the month. It was a dry month except in central southern and south-eastern England, with 62 % of average rainfall overall. (www.nadis.org.uk).

Sheep Worms

- As lambing time approaching, parasite control for this year's grazing season should be planned now.
- Identify both previous and future use of pastures, particularly use of aftermaths, and areas that will be grazed by ewes and lambs, especially those rearing twin lambs.
- Use of 'safe grazing' at turnout (e.g. last year's pastures grazed by cattle or re-seeded pastures) will avoid the risk of disease due to nematodiosis in lambs in spring.
- Reserve safe grazing for ewes with twins, and graze contaminated pastures with ewes rearing single lambs.
- The emergence of anthelmintic resistance (AR) may influence the choice of wormer, and when and how frequently to treat ewes during, or after lambing.
- To delay the emergence of anthelmintic resistance (AR), SCOPS currently recommend that for lambing treatments either:
 - Leave a proportion (approx 10%) of the ewes untreated (ewes with singles; ewes in good body condition) and;
 - When using long-acting formulations, particularly of moxidectin, treat either before or soon after lambing.
- Plan ahead and use safe grazing wherever possible to remove the risk from *Nematodirus* and check for disease forecasts on the NADIS (www.nadis.org.uk) and SCOPS (www.scops.org.uk) websites.
- Outbreaks of nematodiosis may have to be differentiated from coccidiosis, which can occur in lambs of similar age.



Leave a proportion of ewes in good condition and those nursing singles undosed at turnout to avoid high selection pressure for anthelmintic resistance

Liver Fluke

- Chronic liver fluke can be confirmed by checking for the presence of fluke eggs in faeces or by using the coproantigen ELISA test.
- All efforts must be taken to reduce reliance on triclabendazole by use of other flukicides at this time of year.
- Limiting pasture contamination now will reduce subsequent fluke challenge later in the year.

Cattle Worms

- Housed yearling cattle not dosed in the autumn, may be at risk from type II ostertagiosis towards the end of the housing period.
- Establish grazing plans for the year and decide whether the parasite control plan will be strategic (strategic dosing; and/or grazing management) or 'wait-and-see' (monitor and treat).
- Strategic treatments (bolus, long-acting pour-on or injectable MLs) need to be given early in the grazing season to be effective.
- Ensure effective and regular monitoring/diagnostic procedures are in place for "wait-and-see" (monitor/treat) policies.
- See the COWS (www.cattleparasites.org.uk) website for more details.

Lungworm

- Start planning now for lungworm prevention, particularly on farms with a previous history of lungworm.
- On farms where the disease is endemic, vaccination should be considered as an integral part of the overall worm control strategy.
- Vaccination of calves over two months-old requires two doses of lungworm vaccine four weeks apart with a second dose at least two weeks before turnout.
- As the lungworm vaccine is a live attenuated vaccine with a short shelf-life, ordering and administration needs to be planned well in advance of turnout.



Lungworm disease is typically seen in grazing cattle from July onwards

Liver Fluke in Beef cattle

- Undosed beef cattle grazing potentially fluke-infected pastures, should be checked for the presence of fluke eggs in faeces, and if positive, treated and moved to fluke-free pastures.
- Discuss positive slaughterhouse results and treatment options with a vet or advisor.

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

To view a WEBINAR (video) of the full Parasite Forecast please click

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