



PARASITE FORECAST April 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

February was generally mild with mean maximum temperatures 1.0-1.5°C above average, and mean minimum temperatures > 2°C and 1°C, above average over much of England & Wales, and Scotland respectively. Rainfall was mostly near, or above average, except in northern Scotland, and parts of SW England (www.nadis.org.uk).

Sheep

- Worm ewes to reduce pasture contamination during the ‘peri-parturient rise’ (PPR).
- Contamination is much reduced in well fed ewes or by the provision of ‘safe grazing’ at turnout.
 - If safe grazing is limited, use for ewes with twin lambs whilst those rearing singles can graze more contaminated pastures.
- Due to wormer resistance, advice on worming ewes is changing, influencing both the choice and frequency of treatment post-lambing.
- Current advice recommends leaving a proportion of the ewes untreated by targeting treatments to include; gimmers and young ewes; ewes with twins and triplets; and ewes in low body condition
- Ewes with single lambs or those in good body condition can be left undosed unless there is a risk from fluke or haemonchosis.
- With long-acting formulations of moxidectin, use these products prior to lambing, or at turnout.



Control of the PPR should aim to reduce worm faecal egg output and subsequent larval challenge to lambs, but also not select for anthelmintic-resistance.

Nematodirosis/Coccidiosis

- Severe outbreaks of nematodirosis can occur in 6 to 12-week-old lambs grazing contaminated pastures from April to June, particularly following sudden changes in temperature.
- The best control method is to graze lambs on safe pasture not grazed by lambs the previous year.
- Whilst incidents of wormer resistance have been reported, white drench (1-BZ) wormers are usually recommended.
- Monitor the NADIS (www.nadis.org.uk) and SCOPS websites (www.scops.org.uk) for regular updates on risk in your area.



Nematodirus infection in lambs can be serious and costly. Monitor the NADIS and SCOPS websites for regular updates on Nematodirus risk in your area.

- Outbreaks of coccidiosis may be encountered during April in particularly in twin lambs, between 4-8 weeks of age, grazing contaminated pastures.
- Coccidiosis is a disease of intensive husbandry with stress a major factor in triggering outbreaks of disease.
- Risk of disease outbreaks can be reduced by batch rearing of lambs; creep feeding; and avoidance of heavily contaminated pastures
- Disease prevention can also include strategic dosing with diclazuril or toltrazuril at around 3-4 weeks of age, or administration of medicated creep feed containing decoquinate for 28 days.

Liver fluke

- Chronic liver fluke may still be encountered in sheep flocks and can be confirmed by checking for the presence of fluke eggs in faeces.
- Flukicides containing closantel, nitroxylin, oxyclozanide or albendazole (at the fluke dose rate), are all effective against adult flukes present during the spring and should be used to reduce reliance on triclabendazole.
- Sheep should always be moved to clean pastures after treatment; and supplementary feeding may be necessary to maintain condition.

Cattle Worms

- Watch out for type II ostertagiosis in housed yearling cattle. Only a proportion of animals in a group may be affected with signs of intermittent diarrhoea and rapid loss of body weight.
- Mortality can be high unless early treatment with a wormer effective against both arrested and developing larval stages is given.
- Strategic worm dosing with a bolus or administration of long-acting macrocyclic lactones (MLs) needs to be started at, or around turnout, with animals remaining set-stocked, or moved to aftermaths when these become available.
- For “wait and see” strategies ensure that regular monitoring procedures are in place to act quickly if required.
- Where lungworm is a problem, there is still time to discuss control, including vaccination, with your veterinary surgeon before turnout.
- 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.
- For more information see the COWS (www.cattleparasites.org.uk) website.

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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