



PARASITE FORECAST May 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

March was mild with mean temperatures 1.5 - 2.5°C above average across most of the UK. Rainfall was below average in the south-east and in parts of Scotland, but above average in Wales, north-west England and the Borders (www.nadis.org.uk).

Sheep Nematodes

- Ewes grazing contaminated pastures may require further worming to control the PPR, unless treated with a persistent wormer around lambing time.
- Lambs on contaminated pastures should be wormed from 6 weeks of age onwards based on clinical monitoring, or FEC.
- Lambs on safe grazing should also be monitored but usually don't require worming until they are weaned.
- Aim to leave a proportion of the sheep (~10%) untreated by targeting treatments based either on body condition, or FEC.

Nematodirosis/Coccidiosis

- A cold late spring followed by a sudden warm spell can trigger a synchronised, mass hatch of *Nematodirus* larvae on heavily contaminated fields.
- If this coincides with the presence of susceptible, 6-12 week-old lambs then scouring, severe production losses, and sudden deaths may follow.
- Because of continuing mild weather, the SCOPS and NADIS *Nematodirus* forecasts were predicting by mid-April an early spring hatch spreading northwards with moderate to high risks for early lambing flocks with susceptible grazing lambs.



Lambs on safe grazing should not require anthelmintic treatment until after weaning. Treatments can be further avoided by moving weaned lambs to aftermaths.

- Continue to monitor the SCOPS (www.scops.org.uk) and NADIS websites for updates on the situation as temperatures rise in the north.
- Use a white drench (1-BZ) wormer to control this parasite but monitor by FEC for the presence of other gutworms in case of BZ-resistance, and treat accordingly.
- Later born lambs, particularly twins grazing contaminated pastures, may be affected by coccidiosis around 4-8 weeks of age.
- Avoid heavily contaminated pastures, particularly those grazed by last year lamb crops, and batch rear lambs of similar age groups.

Liver fluke

- Farms with a history of fluke should be dosing with a flukicide other than triclabendazole to limit pasture contamination with fluke eggs.
- High rainfall in May and June can lead to increased risk of severe fluke infections later in the season - look out for the new NADIS localised fluke forecasts later this year.

Blowfly strike

- Fly strike affects around 80% of UK sheep flocks each year with the season usually extending from May to September, but longer in some regions.
- Topical applications of cyromazine and dicyclanil, which prevent blowfly strike only, should be applied at the start of the season providing protection for 8-19 weeks (depending on product choice).
- Pour-on preparations containing (alpha) cypermethrin and diazinon dips can be used for the treatment of active maggot infestations and provide protection for 6-10 weeks (depending on product choice).
- Deltamethrin spot-on products provide no protection and are used for treatment of maggot infestations only.

Cattle Nematodes

- Weaned dairy or beef calves in their first grazing season that are turned out onto "safe" pasture should not require worming at turnout.
- Calves turned out onto "high-risk" pasture should be wormed strategically to limit acquired worm burdens and further reduce pasture contamination.
- Both groups of calves should remain set-stocked, or moved to safer pastures (aftermaths) later in the year.

Flies

- There are many common species of flies which feed on grazing cattle.
- Biting flies may act as vectors of several bacterial and viral disease e.g. midges which transmit bluetongue virus (BTV) and Schmallenberg virus (SBV).
- Face flies are often the most numerous nuisance flies causing serious annoyance to grazing cattle and are linked to the transmission of diseases such as summer mastitis, New Forest Disease ("pinkeye"), and possibly BVD virus.
- Insecticide impregnated ear tags should be applied at the start of the grazing season to the whole herd to provide season long protection.

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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