



## PARASITE FORECAST July 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)

Mean maximum temperatures in May were 2.5°C above normal in Scotland and Northern Ireland; 1.5°C above normal in the south, while mean minimum temperatures were between 1-2°C above average in all regions. Rainfall was above normal in parts of eastern and central southern England, but below normal elsewhere with 83% of average overall. ([www.nadis.org.uk](http://www.nadis.org.uk)).

### Sheep Fluke Forecasts

Summer temperature and rainfall between May and October are the major climatic drivers directly affecting the fluke life cycle and subsequent disease risks. More detailed GB fluke risk maps will be issued with the NADIS August parasite forecast with the full fluke forecast appearing later in the year.

### Worm Control

- Sustainable worm control in lambs is about achieving acceptable growth rates while managing the worm burdens.
- For worm control strategies to remain effective, farm-specific advice is essential and can be only be meaningful after assessing anthelmintic efficacy.
- Lambs grazing permanent pastures will become exposed to infective larvae as part of the 'mid-summer rise' resulting from pasture contamination earlier in the grazing season.
- Peak pasture larval infectivity occurs in July and August but this larval challenge can be avoided by moving lambs to silage or hay aftermaths not grazed by lambs this year, and preferably to pasture not grazed by lambs last year.
- It is now recommended that if lambs are wormed, the move to aftermath fields should be delayed slightly to allow some re-infection with unselected parasites.

### Targeted Selective Treatment (TST)

- Some lambs in the flock in good body condition and performing well can be left unwormed. In general, only 40-60 per cent of lambs require worming.
- TSTs are for those lambs that are failing to meet expected growth rates by weighing lambs every 3-4 weeks.
- Alternatively, base performance on FEC, and treat if mean worm egg counts of faecal samples collected from 10-12 lambs are greater than 500-700 epg.
- TST greatly reduces the likelihood of selecting for resistant strains of worms by allowing a pool of unselected parasites to pass out eggs onto the pasture helping to maintain wormer efficiency in the longer term.
- The term "*in refugia*" describes the unselected worm population present in both untreated sheep and the free-living sub-population (i.e. eggs and larval stages) not exposed to wormers.
- The bigger the *in refugia* population the slower resistance develops.
- Follow SCOPS recommendations by leaving some lambs untreated and monitor treatment efficacy by performing a drench test post-treatment.
- There are no proven strategies on how to best use group 4-AD and group 5-SI wormers in weaned lambs grazing contaminated pasture but leaving some stronger lambs untreated is likely to be beneficial in reducing selection pressure and by adding to the "*in refugia*" population in peak summer.
- Computer simulation studies have indicated that new wormers may be best used as a "break" treatment in mid-summer.



**Fattening lambs weaned onto safe grazing. Consult your veterinary adviser about the best worm control strategy which may include group 4-AD and 5-SI wormers.**

- Other parasites to look out for are *Haemonchus*, which causes an acute haemorrhagic anaemia, and may lead to sudden death in all ages of sheep;
- *Moniezia* tapeworm segments commonly seen in lamb faeces during the summer months but which are usually of no clinical significance.
- Blowfly strike is also a major risk during the summer months.
- Preventing diarrhoea caused by worm infections will greatly reduce the risk of blowfly strike on the breech.
- Active maggot infestations can be treated using pour-on products containing (alpha) cypermethrin; spot-on products containing deltamethrin; or by dipping in diazinon dip baths.
- Use of these products also provides protection against re-infection, apart from deltamethrin spot on.

### Cattle Worms

- Cattle that were given prophylactic worming treatments earlier in the season should remain on the same pasture during the entire grazing season, or be moved to aftermaths from July onwards.
- Late spring born calves may benefit from turnout directly onto silage or hay aftermaths thus avoiding the build-up of pasture larvae that may have otherwise occurred from contamination earlier in the season by older calves.
- Incidents of clinical PGE occur from mid-July onwards peaking during August/September.
- Lungworm disease appears from June onwards in unvaccinated calves, those cattle without an effective anthelmintic programme, and non-immune adults (either unvaccinated or lacking previous lungworm exposure).
- In areas of the country where lungworm is endemic, first year grazers should have been vaccinated prior to turnout.
- Unvaccinated calves should be monitored closely for signs of lungworm looking for signs of coughing, increased respiratory rate and difficulty in breathing
- Affected cattle rapidly lose weight and body condition.
- Parasite-naïve milking cattle may experience a sudden and dramatic drop in milk yield.
- Prompt anthelmintic treatment is essential and supportive therapy may be required depending on clinical presentation. Affected animals should be removed from infected pasture.
- Most 3-ML products are not indicated in milking cows; the exception being eprinomectin which has a zero-milk withdrawal period.

**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

**WATCH THE WEBINAR**

Supported by



Improving sheep and cattle health

Copyright © NADIS 2017