



PARASITE FORECAST August 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

June was both very warm and wet over most of the country being the equal 5th warmest, and 6th wettest June since 1910. (www.nadis.org.uk).

Sheep

Fluke Forecasts

- Warm, wet summers create suitable conditions for mud snail (*Galba*) populations to rapidly increase, and for motile free-living fluke stages to complete the life cycle; the entire life cycle taking 17-18 weeks under optimal conditions.
- The preliminary fluke forecast is predicting a low-risk of acute fluke this summer, but a potential moderate risk of fluke infection in the autumn in Scotland, Wales, NW and SW England, although the situation may change depending on rainfall during the months July to October.
- NADIS will be producing more localised fluke forecasts for the whole of GB later in the year.

Worm Control in lambs post-weaning

- In wet summers, peak pasture larval infectivity occurs in July and August.
- High larval challenge can be avoided by moving lambs to silage or hay aftermaths not grazed by ewes and lambs this year, and preferably to pasture not grazed by lambs last year.
- If dosing weaned lambs onto safe grazing it is important to delay the move following treatment to further reduce the pressure on selection for resistance.



Lambs grazing silage aftermath after weaning thus avoiding the massive larval challenge that builds up on pasture.

- The control options for PGE in lambs grazing contaminated pasture after weaning, and those on safe grazing after 6-8 weeks, include:
 - a) Targeted selective treatments (TSTs)**
- Worming only those lambs that are failing to meet expected growth rates by weighing lambs every 3-4 weeks. In general, only 40-60 per cent of lambs require worming.
- TST greatly reduces the likelihood of selecting for resistant strains of worms by increasing the pool of unselected parasites (*“in refugia”* population) helping to maintain wormer efficiency in the longer term.
- The bigger the *in refugia* population the slower resistance develops.
- b) Anthelmintic treatment based upon Worm Faecal Egg Counts (FEC).**
- This approach is a compromise between reduced selection pressure for anthelmintic resistance and maintaining lamb growth rates.

- Anthelmintic treatment is generally recommended when the mean worm egg counts of faecal samples collected from 10-12 lambs are > 500-700 epg.

Selecting the most appropriate anthelmintic at weaning

- Testing for the presence of wormer resistance is an increasingly important part of maintaining an effective worm control strategy. Where resistance is an issue, consider use of products containing group 4-AD or group 5-SI wormers.
- There are no proven strategies on how to best use these wormers in weaned lambs, although computer simulation studies have indicated that they may be best used as a “break” treatment in mid-summer.
- Follow SCOPS recommendations by leaving some lambs untreated and monitor treatment efficacy by performing a drench test post-treatment.

Cattle

- Incidents of clinical PGE occur from mid-July onwards peaking during August/September.
- High pasture larval challenge can be avoided by moving calves to safe grazing that includes silage or hay aftermaths not grazed by calves this year, and preferably to pasture not grazed by calves last year.
- For calves grazing permanent pasture, disease can be prevented by TST based upon liveweight gain, or anthelmintic treatment based upon worm FEC.
- If clinical disease does occur, immediate treatment of all cattle in the group is important when first signs of acute profuse diarrhoea appear.



Yearling Holstein heifer during her first summer at pasture with clinical sign of ostertagiosis.

- Lungworm infection often peaks in July and August in first year-grazing and non-immune older cattle.
- Cattle 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 cows may experience a sudden and dramatic drop in milk yield.
- Lungworm infection can be confirmed by detecting the presence of lungworm larvae in faeces but clinical signs may be present before the infection becomes patent.
- Affected animals should be removed from infected pasture and prompt anthelmintic treatment is essential.
- Supportive therapy may be required depending on clinical presentation.

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

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