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April 2018 Parasite Forecast



APRIL ALERTS!

Predicted peak hatch for nematodirus will be available soon, giving you a predicted peak hatch date to the nearest week for your area.

A Blowfly Alert will be provided throughout April and May, showing predicted emergence, and on farm surveillance.

Sheep

- The main rationale for worming ewes at lambing time is to reduce pasture contamination during the 'peri-parturient rise' (PPR)
- Contamination is much reduced in well fed ewes and risk to lambs reduced 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 worming treatments pre- and 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

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- Monitor the NADIS and SCOPS (www.scops.org.uk) websites for regular updates on risk in your area



Nematodirus infection in lambs. These lambs suffered a serious and costly check in growth rate



- Outbreaks of coccidiosis may be encountered during April 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
- To find out more about nematodiosis watch the webinar by Mike Taylor – [watch now](#)

Liver fluke:

- Cases of chronic liver fluke are being reported this winter from the predicted high-risk areas of the country and may still be encountered in sheep flocks this spring. Disease can be confirmed by checking for the presence of fluke eggs in faeces
- Flukicide products 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
- The resumption in development of large numbers of immature larvae acquired the previous autumn and which entered a state of arrested development (hypobiosis) over the winter months can lead to disease
- 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 prompt treatment with a wormer effective against both arrested and developing larval stages is given

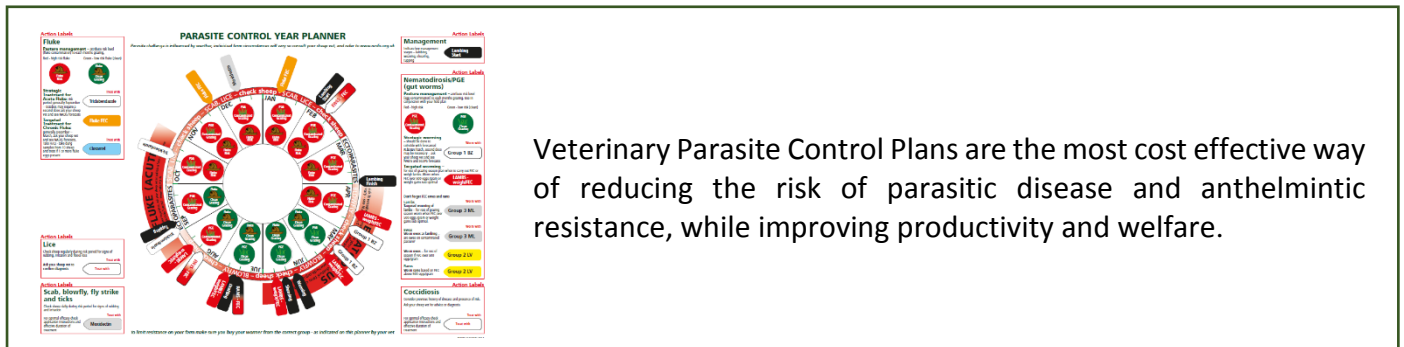
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- Strategic worm dosing with a bolus or administration of long-acting macrocyclic lactones (MLs) needs to be started at, or around turnout, with animals remaining set-stocked, or moved to aftermaths when these become available
- For “wait and see” 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



Unless safe grazing is available, dairy calves and weaned beef calves born during the previous autumn require preventive treatment in their first full grazing season to control PGE



Veterinary Parasite Control Plans are the most cost effective way of reducing the risk of parasitic disease and anthelmintic resistance, while improving productivity and welfare.

For more information, or to find out more about a parasite control plan for your farm please contact the practice on:

Tel:

Email:

The NADIS Parasite Forecast is based on detailed monthly Met Office data for each of the 40km² areas across the UK. Weather conditions directly affect the likely levels of parasite activity. Disease incidence will also depend on farm management, grazing and treatment history. Individual farm and field conditions may vary, so consult your vet as part of a veterinary parasite control plan.