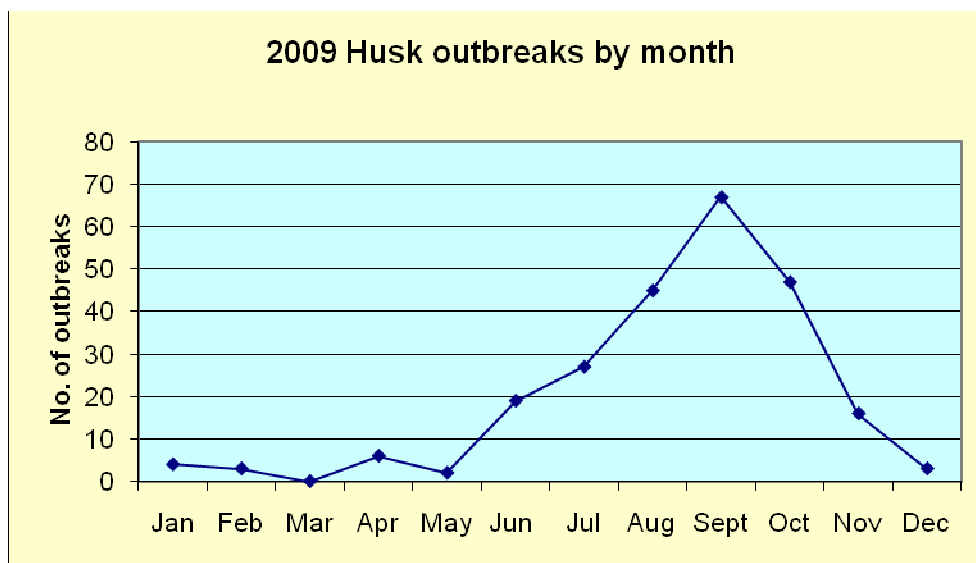
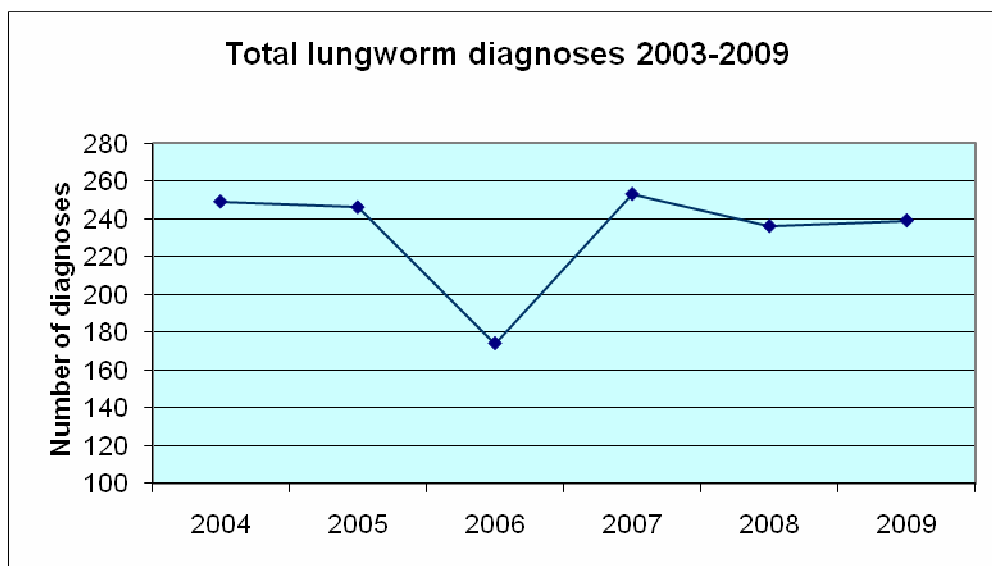


Think now about protecting valuable stock at grass

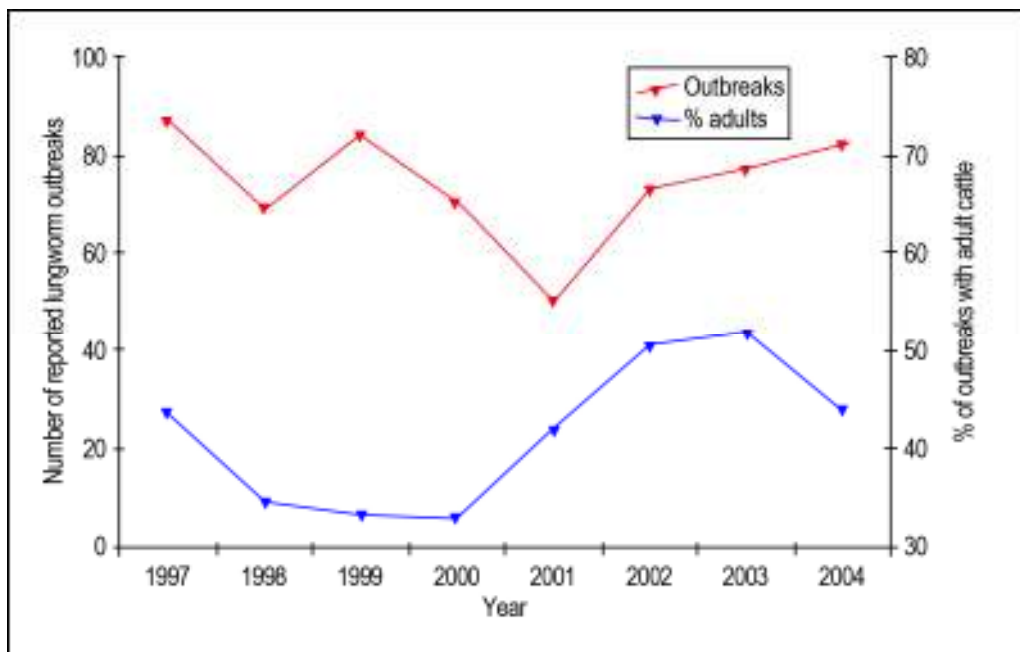
Traditionally, the time to start considering husk prevention is just before turnout. Given that lungworm remains a constant threat year on year, and turnout will be starting in some parts of the country soon, planning how best to protect stock from the threat of lungworm could pay dividends as the season progresses. Although outbreaks are seen mainly in late summer and autumn, early planning is the key to prevention.



Main signs of lungworm infection:

- Ranges from a mild cough and slightly increased breathing rate to severe and persistent coughing and difficulty breathing
- Reduced weight gain (or weight loss)
- Milk yield drop (in adult dairy cows).

Historically, lungworm problems have been most commonly associated with youngstock, but now around 50% of reported cases are in adult animals which could have a very significant impact on the profitability of a herd (see below).



Planning lungworm control strategies prior to a heifer's first grazing season makes sense and can avoid the all-too-common scenario where an infestation does occur and treatment has to be given. As well as being costly, lung damage will often have already occurred, leading to the typical signs seen. Even where prevention is the goal, relying on wormers alone often doesn't allow the animal to develop its own natural immunity. Vaccination with a pre-turnout course of Bovilis Huskvac® is the most reliable way of ensuring the development of immunity to lungworm.

Husk occurs as a result of infection with the worm *Dictyocaulus viviparus*. Cattle develop it after eating grass contaminated with infective larvae. Once in the gut, the larvae migrate through its wall and soon they reach the lungs where they begin laying eggs. A spell of mild, wet weather can create a sudden, dramatic increase in lungworm populations, which can be very harmful, even fatal, to any stock that have little or no immunity.

Bovilis Huskvac is a live vaccine, made from irradiated larvae which are incapable of causing disease. For dairy calves, vaccination should be completed at least two weeks before the calves are turned out to grass, for suckled calves it should finish two weeks before the calves begin to eat significant amounts of grass. Sustained-release wormers such as boluses should not be given until two weeks after the final dose of vaccine.

The vaccine produces a very good immune response against disease but it does not prevent all worms from natural infections completing their life cycle. This allows for the continued development of natural immunity, which often fails to occur where there is an over-reliance on wormers.

Please contact the practice to plan your gutworm and lungworm control strategies for this season and to order Bovilis Huskvac.

ENDS