



PARASITE FORECAST November 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

Whilst starting off dry and sunny, September was mainly unsettled, with an unusually high number of rain days and above average rainfall, except in parts of SE England and NW Scotland. The UK mean temperature was 0.1 °C below the long-term average of 12.6 °C for the month.

Liver Fluke Forecast

- The updated regional fluke forecast, based on rainfall to the end of September, indicates the potential for a “**high-risk**” of fluke infection in North and West Scotland and South Wales this autumn; and “**medium-risk**” in the Scottish borders, North Wales and parts of NW and SW England.
- Central and eastern regions of England are currently forecast to be at “**low-risk**”.
- The situation may change depending on rainfall in October and the final regional fluke-risk forecast will be issued in November.
- An earlier forecast for acute fluke disease predicted that localised areas of Western Scotland, and North Wales were at “**high-risk**”.
- More detailed information on the local fluke forecasts from NADIS will be made available through veterinary practices.



Fluke forecast map

SHEEP Fluke

- Sheep with acute fluke infestation, in which there are large numbers of immature flukes, may simply be found dead without prior signs of illness therefore it is important to have all sudden deaths investigated to allow immediate preventive measures.
- Post-mortem examination is essential to establish a diagnosis of acute fluke.
- Less severe clinical signs include reduced grazing, rapid weight loss, weakness, abdominal pain and anaemia.
- Triclabendazole (TCBZ) is the drug of choice in cases of acute fluke disease because it is effective against very young immature fluke stages.
- A second treatment with TCBZ is likely to be necessary in parts of Scotland and South Wales where there remains a very high liver fluke disease risk.
- Where TCBZ- resistance is suspected, treatments from November onwards could include either closantel or nitroxynil, which are active on later immature (> 6-7week-old) and adult fluke.
- Detection of TCBZ- resistance is based on a faecal antigen ELISA test and farmers should contact their veterinary practitioner for advice on and suspect drug resistance and fluke control generally.

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

Worms

- Outbreaks of trichostrongylosis are often seen from late October onwards in store and replacement lambs causing black scour and rapid weight loss.
- With reports of sporadic cases of haemonchosis this autumn, look out for affected sheep showing clinical signs similar to acute fluke, including sudden death.
- Monitor lamb liveweight gain or worm faecal egg counts (FEC) to determine the need for anthelmintic treatments.
- As the weather becomes colder, most acquired *Haemonchus* larvae will inhibit in the abomasal wall of the host sheep resuming development in the spring if left untreated but note that arrested larvae do not produce eggs so FECs may be negative.
- A faecal worm egg count will decide whether anthelmintic treatment is necessary in rams after mating.
- Marked condition loss may compound parasite problems.

CATTLE Fluke

- Outdoor grazing cattle in “high-risk” areas may need to be dosed for fluke with a product with activity against immature fluke and moved onto fluke-free pastures.
- Whilst TCBZ is the most effective against early immature fluke, because acute fluke is rare in cattle, seek advice on alternatives that could be used.
- Housed cattle exposed to liver fluke infection should be dosed either at housing, or at a delayed interval post-housing as not all products are active against early immature fluke.
- If cattle are treated on housing, then test later in the housing period for the presence of adult fluke, or give a second treatment to ensure all fluke are removed.
- Alternatively, if using products containing closantel or nitroxynil then consider delaying treatment for 6-7 weeks; with oxyclozanide or albendazole delay 10-12 weeks, as the majority of fluke will then be susceptible to treatment.
- Very few products can be used in dairy cattle, and veterinary advice should be sought for treatments at drying off and only considered if there is evidence of fluke infection in the herd.
- Only products containing oxyclozanide or albendazole can be used in lactating cows, providing milk withholding periods are observed, so it is important to check labelling on individual products
- A bulk milk tank ELISA to monitor herd exposure to fluke and efficacy of control programmes is available.

Worms

- Growing cattle housed after their first or second season at pasture should be treated with products containing either a Group 3-ML or Group 1-BZ anthelmintic at housing, which are effective against inhibited worm larvae.
- Group 3-ML pour-on preparations have the added advantage they are also effective against both sucking and chewing lice.