



PARASITE FORECAST September 2012 – 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

LIVER FLUKE IN SHEEP



Watch out for: High levels of liver fluke disease across the country

- Conditions over the first half of the summer have been very wet, and this has contributed to the potential for high levels of liver fluke disease across the country. If favourable wet conditions continue throughout the rest of late summer and into autumn, there is the risk of a high prevalence of liver fluke disease **particularly in western England, Wales, the Midlands and most of Scotland, where a very high prevalence is forecast.**
- Sheep with acute/subacute fluke may simply be found dead. Most severely affected sheep (photo above) die despite treatment.
- Farms with a known liver fluke problem should treat sheep with flukicide in late August or September if conditions remain wet for the rest of the summer. A second dose around 4-6 weeks later may well be advisable. Triclabendazole is the drug of choice under these circumstances because it is effective against very young immature fluke.
- The effectiveness of fluke treatments should be monitored by your veterinary surgeon and strategies using alternative flukicide products should be included later in the year.

PGE in SHEEP

Watch out for: PGE which tends to be a much bigger problem in wet summers. Monitor with FECs

- Wet summers are generally associated with a high prevalence of parasitic gastro-enteritis in fattening lambs as moisture allows worm larvae to develop and migrate onto herbage.
- Regular monitoring of faecal egg counts is strongly advised to guide treatment

PURCHASED SHEEP

Prevention: Quarantine dose purchased sheep to reduce risk of introducing anthelmintic resistance

- Quarantine arrangements are essential to reduce the risk of introducing anthelmintic-resistant worms or species such as *Haemonchus contortus*.
- Current best practice (as recommended by SCOPS) involves sequential full dose treatments with monepantel (Zolvix) and moxidectin, followed by confinement for 24-48 hours, then turn out onto pasture recently grazed by sheep.

OSTERTAGIOSIS IN CATTLE



Watch out for: A higher than usual incidence of Ostertagiosis (PGE) this year

- A wet summer will also increase the risk of type 1 ostertagiosis in growing cattle with profuse diarrhoea suddenly affecting a large percentage of the group.

LUNGWORM IN CATTLE

Watch out for: Lungworm which normally peaks in August and September

- August and September are the peak months for lungworm disease (husk; hoose).
- Grazing cattle will be at risk of disease if they are unvaccinated and naïve i.e. dairy calves in their first grazing season, and beef cattle in their second grazing season.
- Remember that even vaccinated cattle can become susceptible again if immunity is not boosted by natural infection in subsequent years.

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

Copyright © NADIS 2012

To see the full range of NADIS animal health conditions please visit www.nadis.org.uk