



# PARASITE FORECAST August 2013 – 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](http://www.nadis.org.uk)

## PGE IN SHEEP

**Lambs should be dosed for the heaviest lambs in the group**



**Watch out for: PGE - expect an increased risk when wet weather returns**

- With a dry June and a dry July forecast may be lower risk than recent years
- However, increased risk is to be expected when wet conditions eventually return
- The risk of autumn/winter PGE may be high this year, and large numbers of worm larvae may survive the winter
- If lambs are weaned and moved to safe pastures such as silage aftermath, some lambs (at least 10 per cent) should be left undosed (see [www.scops.org.uk](http://www.scops.org.uk))
- Faecal egg counts can help to decide when to treat
- It is possible to reduce the risk of PGE in fat lambs by lambing earlier and finishing them before mid-July, perhaps with creep feeding
- Under-dosing lambs will lead to poor drug efficacy and select for resistance. It must be remembered that drug dosages should be calculated for the heaviest in the group, not the average weight
- August or September tends to see the annual peak in the number of diagnosed cases of haemonchosis
- The control of the disease may be complex and should be worked out as part of a veterinary health plan

## CATTLE NEMATODES

**Frequent coughing, even at rest, is the most common sign of lungworm**



**Watch out for: lungworm infection in cattle especially following rain and storms**

- August to October often sees the most cases of clinical lungworm disease
- Dry conditions may reduce incidence, and there can be an increased risk of disease following rain or storms
- For lungworm, safe grazing strategies are rarely successful. Vaccination should provide life-long protection in most herds providing immunity is boosted by natural infection.

- Ostertagiosis occurs most commonly later in the grazing season
- If it is being controlled by a dose and move strategy, the original pastures will be potentially infective if youngstock are moved onto them later in the season, leading to a risk of type 2 disease

## LIVER FLUKE IN CATTLE AND SHEEP

**Watch out for: significant early fluke disease in many areas**

- Winter infection of snails
  - August to October 2012 was very wet across much of the UK, allowing many snails to be infected late last year
  - Above-average rainfall across the UK in May will have allowed release of some of this infection: there have been reports of acute infection in lambs this June/July
  - **This season's Mt forecast for the winter infection of snails** indicates that there is a similar risk to last year for early infections, with **a risk of significant early fluke disease in Scotland, Wales and all of western England (and most likely Northern Ireland)**
- Summer infection of snails
  - June rainfall is often a good guide to the prevalence of fluke disease the following autumn/winter
  - June was drier than average, apart from in Northern Ireland. The expected continuing dry conditions through July would also work to reduce the fluke risk
  - BUT
    - Fluke populations are starting from a very high level
    - Localised areas with wet ground conditions during the summer will carry a risk of fluke disease even in a generally drier year
    - A fluke forecast for 2013/14 will be produced after the end of July (see [www.nadis.org.uk](http://www.nadis.org.uk))

## BLOWFLY STRIKE

**Watch out for: lambs nibbling at the tail head, frequent tail swishing and faecal staining of the perineum.**

- The risk of blowfly strike will continue throughout August in lambs but should be much less likely in adult sheep following shearing.
- Lesions on the sheep's back related to rain scald seen in previous wet summers have not been a problem this year.
- The choice of dip/pour-on preparation in lambs will now largely depend upon meat withhold times.

**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**

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