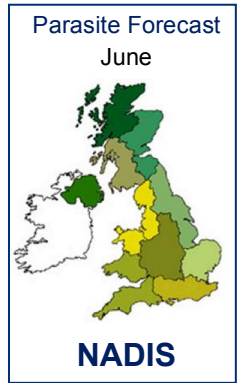


# PARASITE FORECAST June 2017 – Summary

*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](http://www.nadis.org.uk)



The start of April was warm followed by close to average temperatures, but ending with a late cold snap. Mean UK temperature was 8.0°C, which is 0.6°C above the long-term average. Rainfall was below normal except in NW Scotland and parts of SW England. ([www.nadis.org.uk](http://www.nadis.org.uk)).

## Sheep

### Parasitic gastroenteritis (PGE)

- Lambs on “safe grazing” at the start of the grazing season (fields previously arable or grazed by cattle the previous year) should not need worming until after they are weaned.
- Ideally, wean the lambs onto silage or hay aftermaths that have not been grazed by sheep earlier in the year.
- Lambs grazing permanent pastures will usually require worming to limit the build-up of infective larvae later in the season (‘mid-summer rise’).
- The timing and need for worming treatment(s) for lambs will depend on grazing history, levels of contamination by periparturient ewes, stocking density, and prevailing weather conditions.
- Performance monitoring, or worm faecal egg counts (FECs) of lambs based on pooled faecal samples for 10-12 lambs can be used to guide anthelmintic treatments.
- Treatment is generally recommended when FECs exceed 500-700 epg.
- Follow SCOPS recommendations by leaving some lambs untreated, which reduces the likelihood of selecting for resistance, and monitor treatment efficacy by performing a drench test post-treatment.
- Prolonged local dry weather conditions during summer can delay larval challenge to lambs grazing contaminated pastures with a return to infectivity when wet weather arrives.
- Remember to include rams in the farm’s parasite control programme because they are fully susceptible to PGE.



*Planning ahead – aftermaths should be grazed by weaned lambs as part of the sustainable parasite control programme on the farm.*

### Targeted Selective Treatment (TST)

- Some lambs in the flock in good body condition and performing well can be left unwormed. In general, only 40-60% of lambs require worming.
- Target anthelmintic treatments for those lambs that are failing to meet expected growth rates by weighing lambs every 3-4 weeks.
- Regular weighing also identifies poor growth which may be caused by overstocking, trace element deficiencies etc. and prompt management review.



*TST selects only those lambs for treatment that are failing to meet expected growth rates.*

### Fly strike

- Blowfly strike affects around 80% of UK sheep flocks each year.
- Female flies are attracted by the odour of decomposing matter such as wounds or soiled fleece.
- Shearing reduces the risk of blowfly strike in adult sheep but treat all cuts to prevent strike.
- Active maggot infestations can be treated using pour-on products containing (alpha) cypermethrin; spot-on products containing deltamethrin; or by dipping in diazinon dip baths.

### Cattle PGE

- Strategic worm control in cattle is usually applied to autumn/winter-born weaned calves in their first grazing season, and in spring-born beef suckler calves in their second grazing season.
- Calves receiving strategic anthelmintic treatments in the early part of the grazing season should remain on the same pasture during the entire grazing season, or moved to safe pastures (aftermaths) when these become available.
- Strategic regimes based on products with prolonged persistence against the stomach worm, *Ostertagia ostertagi*, may allow the build-up of other worm species later in the year (e.g. *Cooperia*) against which they have less efficacy, or little persistent effect.
- Worm infections can reduce growth rate by around 30% in beef calves and replacement dairy heifers and can cause a drop in milk yield of 1kg per day in dairy cows.
- Severe infections, which peak during August/September, cause ill-thrift, loss of body condition and diarrhoea.

### Lungworm

- Lungworm disease appears from June onwards in unvaccinated calves, those cattle without an effective anthelmintic programme, and naïve adult cattle.
- Early signs include coughing, initially after exercise then at rest, increased respiratory rate and difficulty in breathing.
- Affected cattle rapidly lose weight and body condition and should be removed from infected pasture and treated as quickly as possible.
- Supportive therapy may be required depending on clinical presentation.

**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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