



PARASITE FORECAST September 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

July was an unsettled month with slightly above average temperatures in the south, but slightly cooler than average in Scotland. Rainfall was generally above normal, particularly in the south, and many parts of central southern and SE England had over twice the normal amount. (www.nadis.org.uk).

Liver Fluke Forecasts

- Warm, wet summers can lead to an increased risk of liver fluke disease in the autumn.
- A new NADIS fluke-risk forecast that calculates monthly and cumulative wetness scores for the summer months (May to October) at a more local level is being launched this year.
- The fluke forecast uses data from *Met Office* MORECS system with output to a 40 x 40 km grid covering mainland Britain and Northern Ireland.
- Based on the scores for each grid, a fluke risk map is produced with high-risk areas appearing **red**; medium-risk **amber**; and low-risk **green**.
- Even within these grid areas, local conditions and individual farm circumstances can vary so contact your vet for further information and advice.



Fluke Risk Map

- The preliminary acute fluke forecast based on regional rainfall in August to October last year, and May and June this year was predicting a low-risk of acute fluke this summer. More detailed analyses of all grid squares now predict that some parts of Scotland, and North Wales are at higher risk (see map).
- Based on available rainfall data to the end of July, there is predicted “**moderate risk**” of fluke infection this autumn in parts of Scotland, Wales, NW and SW England, although the situation may change depending on rainfall during August, September and October.
- A more accurate prediction of fluke risk will be provided in November when full weather data are available.

SHEEP Fluke Control

- Acute fluke disease associated with migrating immature flukes can cause sudden death and predispose to Black disease.
- Farms with a known liver fluke problem, in high-risk areas, should consult their veterinary surgeons about treating sheep against immature flukes in September.
- Triclabendazole is the drug of choice however, advice will also be needed where triclabendazole resistance has been previously suspected on farms.
- Evasion strategies should also be adopted wherever possible by not grazing potentially contaminated, poorly-drained areas from late August onwards.
- Flocks with no previous evidence of fluke disease must maintain their farm’s biosecurity especially with respect to purchased sheep.

Parasitic Gastroenteritis (PGE)

- PGE is likely to become a problem on contaminated grazing in many areas as larval challenge continues.
- Monitor lamb liveweight gain or worm faecal egg counts (FEC) to determine the need for anthelmintic treatments.
- September is the month of most sheep breeding stock sales and quarantine treatments are essential to reduce the risk of introducing anthelmintic-resistant worms with purchased sheep.
- Current best practice involves sequential full dose treatments with either a 4-AD product (monepantel) or 5-SI (derquantel in combination with abamectin), and injectable moxidectin upon arrival on farm.
- Treat all sheep on arrival and confine for 24-48 hours; then turnout onto pasture recently grazed by sheep.
- Maintain purchased stock in separate groups and monitor closely for disease for at least 30 days before mixing with the home flock.

CATTLE Fluke Control

- Fluke control in cattle requires both management and flukicide treatment options.
- Evasion strategies should also be adapted wherever possible, by not grazing overwintered cattle on potentially contaminated, poorly-drained areas.
- Where flukicide treatment is necessary, cattle should be treated and moved from these pastures onto fluke-free pastures as soon as possible.
- Several methods of detecting fluke-infected herds exist.
- A bulk milk tank ELISA test is an effective way to monitor herd exposure to fluke and efficacy of control programmes.
- In fluke-risk areas, grazing cattle may need to be dosed for fluke with a product with activity against immature fluke. Ask your vet for advice based on local farm conditions and the NADIS fluke forecast.

Nematodes

- Type 1 ostertagiosis presents in growing cattle with profuse diarrhoea suddenly affecting a large percentage of the group.
- Outbreaks of ostertagiosis can be prevented by targeted anthelmintic treatments based upon LWG, or anthelmintic treatment based upon worm FEC.
- Unlike the situation with sheep, there are no specific recommendations for quarantine treatments for PGE as resistance is still relatively uncommon.
- If poor 3-ML efficacy against *Cooperia* spp. is observed, then treatment with either levamisole (2-LV) or a benzimidazole (1-BZ) may be considered.
- August and September are also peak months for lungworm disease.
- Any animal showing coughing at rest and an increased breathing rate should be investigated for the presence of lungworm.
- Faecal examination for the presence of lungworm larvae can be readily undertaken by your veterinary practice with results available within 24 hours but note that clinical signs of lungworm may be present before the infection becomes patent.
- Prompt anthelmintic treatment is essential. All available wormers are highly effective against adult lungworms and parasitic larval stages.

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