



## PARASITE FORECAST October 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)

August was mostly cooler than average apart from a few warmer days in the middle of the month, particularly in SE England. Rainfall was generally above normal, with more than 150% of average in places, apart from South Wales and parts of eastern England, which were a little drier than average. [www.nadis.org.uk](http://www.nadis.org.uk).

### Liver Fluke Forecast

- The provisional regional fluke forecast, based on weather data for this summer, is indicating the potential for a “**high-risk**” of fluke infection in Western Scotland and South Wales this autumn; and “**medium-risk**” in Eastern Scotland, NW England, and SW England, and North Wales.
- Central and eastern regions of England are currently forecast to be at “**low-risk**”.
- The situation may change depending on rainfall during September and October and an updated regional fluke-risk will be provided later in the autumn when full weather data are available.



*Fluke forecast map*

- The forecast for acute fluke is predicting that localised areas of Western Scotland, and North Wales are at “**high-risk**”.
- A new NADIS fluke-risk forecast, which produces detailed and more local fluke-risk information using data from the Met Office MORECS system, will be available in the autumn.
- As local conditions and individual farm circumstances can vary, farmers are advised to contact their vet for further information and advice on fluke-risk and fluke control.

### SHEEP Fluke

- The risk of acute fluke is forecast to be high in some parts of Scotland and North Wales and it is therefore likely that treatment for acute fluke will be necessary during October on farms in these regions, especially where there is a history of liver fluke disease.
- Sheep with acute fluke infestation may simply be found dead without prior signs of illness therefore it is important to have all sudden deaths investigated by post mortem.
- Less severe clinical signs include reduced grazing, rapid weight loss, weakness, abdominal pain, anaemia, and slow to gather.



**Signs of subacute liver fluke diseases include rapid weight loss, poor fleece and weakness**

- Wherever possible, reduce the risk of fluke infection by keeping sheep away from potentially contaminated, poorly-drained areas of the farm.
- Triclabendazole (TCBZ) is the drug of choice in cases of acute fluke disease, however, advice will also be needed where TCBZ-resistance has been previously suspected on farms.
- Later fluke treatments could use closantel or nitroxylnil especially if TCBZ- resistance is suspected or proven on the farm.

### Parasitic Gastroenteritis

- Outbreaks of trichostrongylosis are often seen from late October onwards in store and replacement lambs, with heavy infestations causing black foetid diarrhoea (black scour) and rapid weight loss.
- Monitor lamb LWG or worm FEC to determine the need for anthelmintic treatments.
- Most ewes rarely need worming pre-tupping and only leaner ewes, gimmers, or those sheep with “dags” should be treated. The number treated should form no more than 5% of the group.
- Rams are often neglected at this time and a worm FEC will decide whether a pre-tupping wormer is necessary.

### CATTLE

#### Fluke

- Grazing cattle in high “fluke-risk” areas, may need to be dosed for fluke with a product with activity against immature stages.
- Whilst TCBZ is the most effective against early immature fluke, because acute fluke is rare in cattle, there are several alternatives available, so seek advice and base treatments on local farm conditions and the NADIS fluke forecast.

#### Dosing on Housing

- Growing cattle after their first or second season at pasture should be treated on housing with a wormer that is 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.
- There are benefits from treating cattle for fluke during housing. 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 nitroxylnil then consider delaying treatment for 6-7 weeks; with oxcyclozanide or albendazole delay 10-12 weeks, as the majority of fluke will then be susceptible to treatment.
- Veterinary advice should be sort on the use of flucicides in dairy cattle, even at drying off, with use only if there is evidence of fluke infection in the herd.
- A bulk milk tank ELISA to monitor herd exposure to fluke and efficacy of control programmes is available.
- Observe meat and milk withholding periods, so it is important to check labelling on individual products.
- For more information consult the COWS website ([www.cattleparasites.org.uk](http://www.cattleparasites.org.uk)).

**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

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