

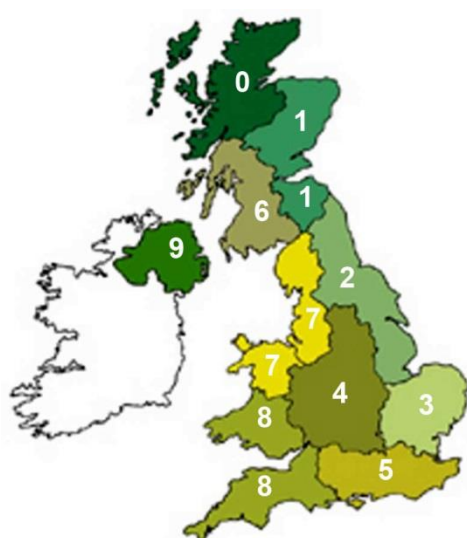
As part of AMTRA's online CPD Programme for livestock RAMAs (SQPs), each month AMTRA will send you the Parasite Forecast which will highlight the parasitic challenge facing livestock in your area for that month. At the end of the Parasite Forecast you will find a series of multiple choice questions (quiz button) based on its contents. Answer the quiz online and you will be emailed a certificate with your score. This will form part of your RAMA (SQP) CPD requirement. The Parasite Forecast has been developed by NADIS (National Animal Disease Information Service) and is written by leading veterinary parasitologists and based on detailed data from the Met Office

NADIS Parasite Forecast – June 2020

Use of meteorological data to predict the prevalence of parasitic diseases

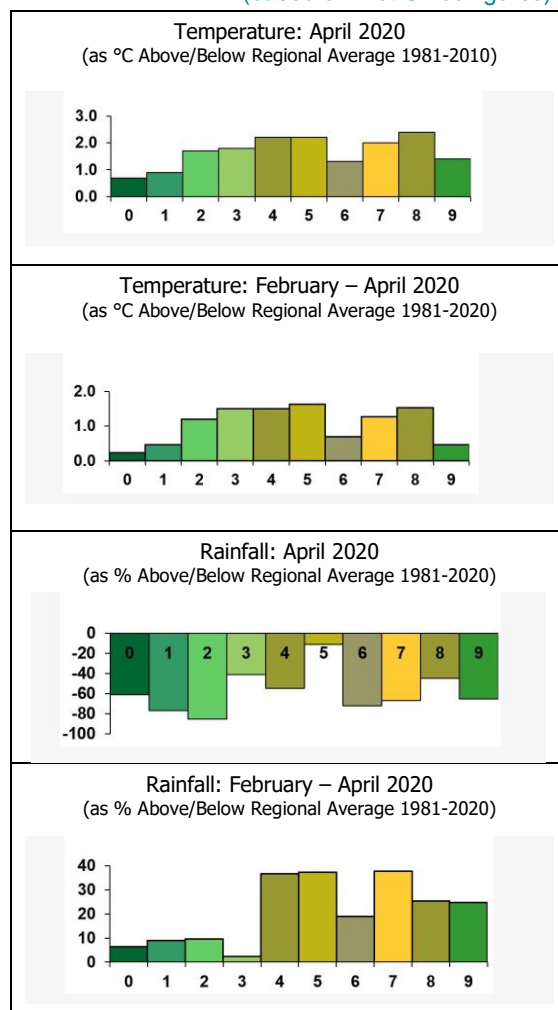
Regional Weather

(based on Met Office figures)



REGIONS

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| 0 N W Scotland | 6 S W Scotland |
| 1 E Scotland | 7 N W England & N Wales |
| 2 N E England | 8 S W England & S Wales |
| 3 E Anglia | 9 N Ireland |
| 4 The Midlands | |
| 5 S England | |



The most recent version of this monthly parasite forecast may be accessed at www.nadis.org.uk

Key points:

1. Monitor for PGE in grazing animals (sheep and cattle)
2. April hatch for *Nematodirus* in England and Wales
3. Check the NADIS blowfly alert
4. Joint SCOPS/COWS press release on liver fluke risk for 2020

Weather report

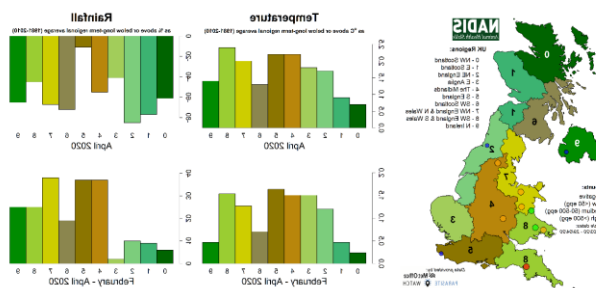


Figure 1: Egg count data shows the most recent counts for roundworms in sheep at each location between the sample dates stated. Temperature and rainfall by region for previous months.

The provisional UK mean temperature for the UK in April was 9.1°C, 1.7°C above the long-term national average (1981-2010). Regionally, temperatures were above average across all regions for April and the preceding 3 months (February – April). Total rainfall across the UK in April was 40% of the long-term average. This was seen across all regions in April, but the for the preceding 3 months rainfall is still above average in some regions (Figure 1).

SHEEP

Parasitic Gastroenteritis (PGE)

The recent warm and dry weather is likely to have reduced the numbers overwintered larvae on pastures. However, build-up of infective stage larvae on pastures will still occur over the current season. Steps should be taken now to reduce future risk. Data from [Parasite Watch](#) up to the end of April show moderate and high counts in the south and west of the UK (Figure 1).

Advised actions include:

- Routine worm egg count testing (Figure 2), ideally every 2-4 weeks.

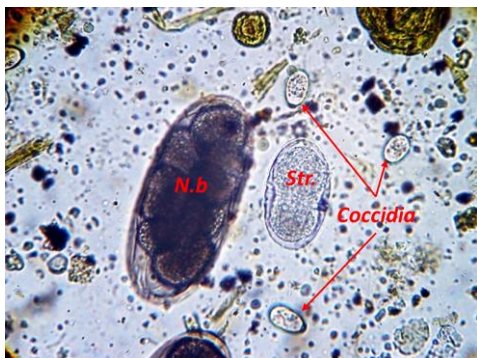


Figure 2: Faecal egg counts are a useful way of evaluating PGE-causing roundworm (Str.) and Nematodirus (N.b).

- Monitor for signs of disease (Figure 3).
- Reduce pasture build-up and exposure through strategic use of safe grazing.



Figure 3: PGE commonly occurs in growing lambs and is associated with build up of infective larvae on pastures over the grazing season.

- Consider using “Targeted Selected Treatments” (TSTs) to reduce selection for anthelmintic resistance based on weight gain, body condition or worm egg counts, leaving at least of 10% of the group untreated.
- If dosing lambs ahead of moving them to safe grazing, avoid use of long-acting products, leave animals on contaminated pastures for 2-3 days after treatment and leave some animals untreated.
- Consider post-treatment egg counts.

Nematodiosis

The warm start to the year has seen early forecast predictions for peak hatch of *Nematodirus* across much of the UK. Up-to-date risk in your area can be viewed on the [SCOPS forecast](#). Infective larvae can remain infective on the pasture for several weeks afterwards under optimal conditions, so it is important to continue monitoring at risk animals.

Advised actions include:

- Monitor for signs of disease.
- Where an outbreak of nematodiosis is identified, treat with group 1-BZ.
 - Worm egg counts cannot be used reliably for acute disease, but can check treatment efficacy.

Blowfly strike and ticks

The [NADIS blowfly alert](#) was predicting medium risk in south and central England by

the 14th of May. Soiled back ends resulting from PGE and foot rot lesions are common sites for blowfly strike (Figure 4). Failure to treat promptly is a welfare issue and can lead to disrupted grazing, loss of condition, secondary infections and death.



Figure 4: Wounds and footrot lesions are a common site for blowfly strike.

Advised actions include:

- Consult the [NADIS blowfly alert](#) for up-to-date risk.
- Inspect stock daily.
- Control of fly populations from early in the season.
- Dagging, crutching, shearing, prompt treatment of lame sheep and good parasite control will reduce risk.
- A number of [chemical formulations](#) can be used to aid in the prevention and treatment of blowfly strike.
 - Some synthetic pyrethroid products carry a licence for use against sheep ticks.

CATTLE

Parasitic Gastroenteritis (PGE)

Calves and youngstock in their first or second grazing season are at risk from PGE (Figure 5). The relatively warm and dry weather experienced in April is likely to have reduced numbers of overwintered larvae on pasture at this time. However, appropriate measures should be taken to avoid disease risk later in the season.



Figure 5: Animals commonly affected by PGE include growing dairy heifers in their first grazing season (left) and weaned autumn-born suckler calves in their second grazing season (right).

Set stocking with strategic anthelmintic dosing:

- Animals grazing “high-risk” pasture should be wormed within 3 weeks of turnout with treatments continuing until mid- to late summer.
- Animals turned out and set stocked on “safe” pastures are unlikely to require worming until later into the grazing season.
- This approach has a relatively high selection pressure for anthelmintic resistance. Regular performance testing through weight gain and worm egg counts are therefore advised.
- On farms which have vaccinated for lungworm, it is important to dose at intervals which allow animals some exposure to this parasite (Figure 6).

If practicing therapeutic treatments:

- Continue to monitor faecal egg counts, growth rates and/or body condition.
- Be alert for signs of disease (Figure 5).
- Consider the risk of lungworm in unvaccinated animals (Figure 6).
- This approach does not prevent sub-clinical production losses and build-up of larvae on pasture. Where available, pasture rotation can help reduce exposure.
- A one-off mid-season tactical treatment may be advisable where high pasture burdens are anticipated.



Figure 6: Vaccination is a hugely valuable for lungworm control, but planning of anthelmintic use over the course of the grazing season is equally important to allow immunity to develop. Without appropriate control, unvaccinated animals may still be at risk of sudden and severe disease.

Ectoparasites: Fly and tick control

Flies and ticks can cause a range of issues for cattle in the summer months. For example, nuisance flies transmit summer mastitis and New Forest Eye (“pinkeye”; Figure 7), whilst

ticks can transmit both babesiosis (“redwater fever”) and tick-borne fever in cattle.



Figure 7: New Forest Eye (“pink eye” or infectious bovine keratoconjunctivitis) is a potentially serious bacterial infection of cattle which can be spread by nuisance flies.

Control of ectoparasites can be problematic. However, options are available:

- Insecticide-impregnated ear tags and tail bands can provide season-long

protection against biting and nuisance flies.

- Pour-on, spot-on and spray-on synthetic pyrethroids are also available for flies.
- Some synthetic pyrethroid and group 3-ML products may provide protection against ticks, although these products do not carry a licence for this purpose.
- Additional environmental practices may be helpful, but require sustained effort.

Joint SCOPS/COWS press release

A recent press release by SCOPS and COWS has warned farmers not to be complacent when it comes to fluke infection this year. In particular, farmers should consider testing for chronic infections and treating infected animals appropriately to reduce levels egg contamination on pastures later in the year when conditions may be more favourable for fluke development. You can read the full press release [here](#).

[Don't forget to try the interactive quiz](#)

Local farm conditions may vary so consult your veterinary surgeon. Parasite control should be part of your veterinary health plan.

*To watch a webinar (video) based on this article and take an electronic quiz worth 3 CPD points, click **WEBINAR***

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