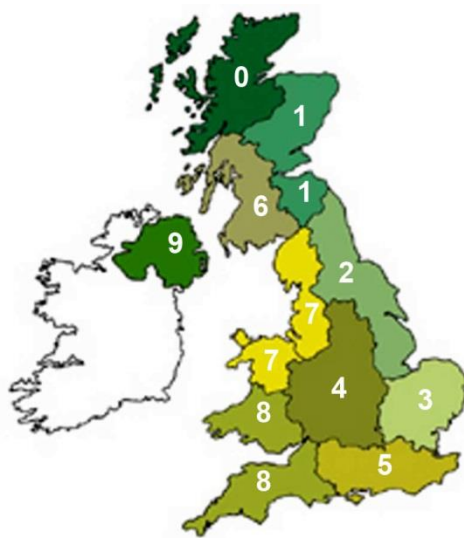


As part of AMTRA’s online CPD Programme for livestock RAMAs (SQPs), each month AMTRA will send you the Parasite Forecast which will highlight the parasitic challenge facing livestock in your area for that month. At the end of the Parasite Forecast you will find a series of multiple choice questions (quiz 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 – October 2020

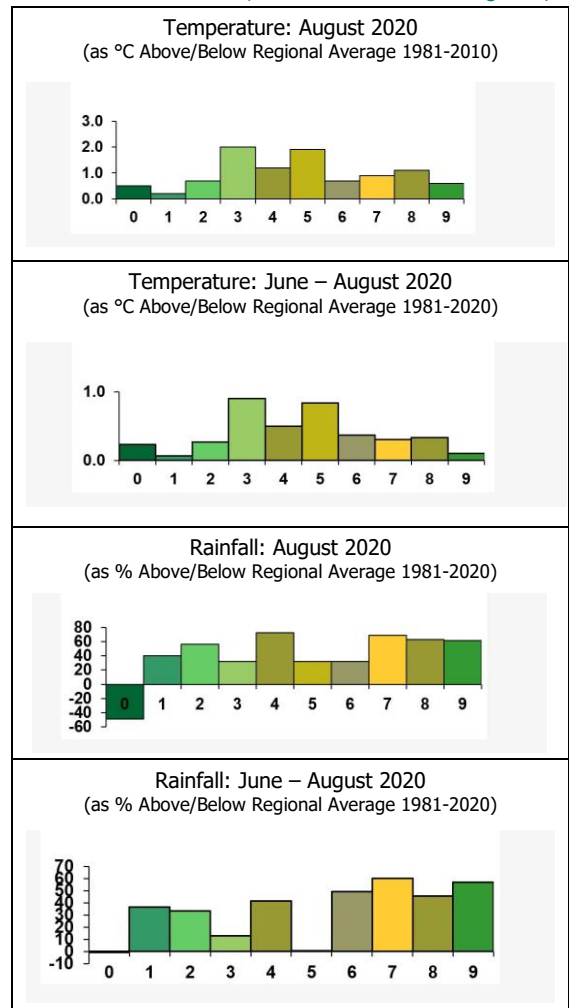
Use of meteorological data to predict the prevalence of parasitic diseases

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

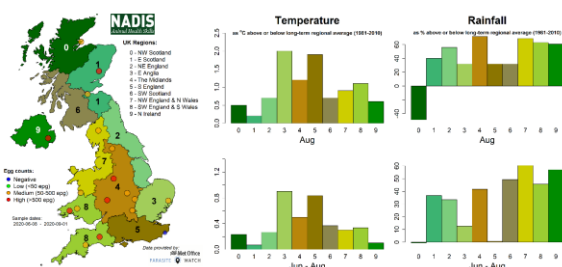


Figure 1: Egg count data shows the most recent counts for roundworms in sheep at each location between the sample dates stated.

Weather report

The provisional UK mean temperature was 15.9 °C, 1.0 °C above the 1981-2010 long-term average. Regionally, temperatures were at or above average in all regions for August and the preceding 3 months (June-August). Nationally, rainfall was 135% of the long-term average, with above average rainfall for most regions (except northern Scotland).

Rainfall for the preceding 3 months was at or above the long-term average for June-August for all regions.

Liver fluke: provisional Autumn forecast

The provisional Autumn fluke forecast for 2020 is predicting High risk in southern parts of Scotland, north Wales, northeast England and Northern Ireland, medium risk in northern Scotland, south Wales and southeast England and low risk everywhere else (Figure 2). Previous history of fluke infection, “flukey” pastures, co-grazing of sheep and cattle etc. all increase risk from liver fluke on farm. A joint [SCOPS and COWS group joint press](#) highlights current fluke risk and is advising use of monthly blood sampling of lambs to monitor for rising antibodies.

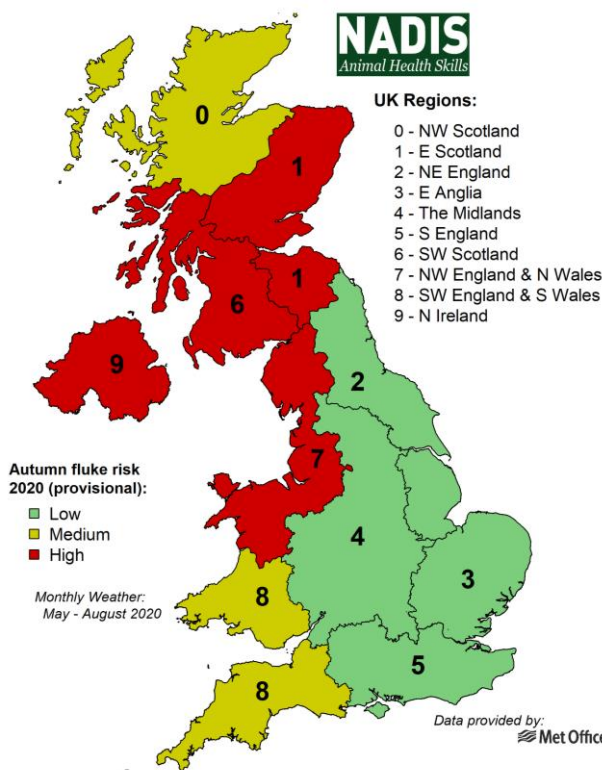


Figure 2: Current regional risk for liver fluke in Autumn 2020. Local conditions should be taken into consideration when evaluating on farm risk

Advised actions include:

- Monitoring for signs of disease (Figure 3).
- Identify “flukey” areas on your farm and, where possible, avoid grazing these during peak risk periods.
- Routine diagnostic testing to give a greater insight into the current infection:

- Antibody ELISAs are useful in detecting infection in the early stages.
- Post-mortem of lost stock.
- Where acute disease occurs, treatment with triclabendazole is recommended.
 - Consider resistance testing by WEC 21 days post-treatment.



Figure 3: Rapid weight loss (left) and bottle jaw (right) are common signs of liver fluke infection.

Quarantine treatments

When buying in new stock, it is important to remember these animals could be a source of new parasites and/or drug resistance (Figure 4).

For sheep, current ‘gold standard’ practice advised by [Sustainable Control of Parasites in Sheep \(SCOPS\)](#) concerning roundworms, sheep scab and liver fluke. For additional details see the [SCOPS quarantine guidelines](#), and seek veterinary advice

For cattle, [Control of Worms Sustainably \(COWS\)](#) guidelines are generally based on the principles of house, treat and test. For additional details see the [COWS group guidelines](#) and [liver fluke-specific guidelines](#) and speak with your vet or SQP/RAMA.



Figure 4: Whilst bought-in stock may appear healthy, these animals can be a source of new parasitic infection and drug resistance on your farm.

SHEEP

Parasitic Gastroenteritis (PGE)

Worm egg counts from the [Parasite Watch](#) shows moderate to high worm egg counts on farms across the UK between June and September (Figure 1). PGE risk in the autumn will continue for grazing animals. It is therefore important to stay alert for signs of PGE, particularly in at-risk animals grazing “dirty” pastures (Figure 5).



Figure 5: In the Autumn and winter months PGE can continue to be a problem in animals at pasture.

Advised actions include:

- Monitoring for signs of disease.
- Consider worm egg counts if infection status is unknown.
- Where anthelmintic treatments are required
 - Move to safe pasture (eg. silage aftermath) if available.
 - Avoid long-acting group 3-ML products and leave animals on dirty pasture for 2-3 days prior to moving.
 - Aim to leave at least 10% of the flock untreated.
 - Check efficacy through worm egg counts at 7-14 days post treatment depending upon the product used.

CATTLE

PGE

Young stock still at pasture may continue to be at risk from PGE. Infections acquired at this time may cause either type-1 ostertagiosis, or type-2 ostertagiosis over the winter period (see advice below on housing).

Advised actions include:

- Monitoring for signs of disease.
- Consider faecal egg counts if infection status is in doubt
- Consider moving animals from contaminated pastures on to safe grazing (e.g. silage aftermath), or winter housing.
- Where dosing with anthelmintics is indicated:
 - Considering the [COWS group's "5 Rs"](#)
 - Use worm egg counts to check for effective dosing.
- For more information, discuss this with your vet or SQP/RAMA, and see the [COWS group guidelines](#).

Lungworm

Lungworm infection may continue to be a risk for grazing animals into November. Disease onset can be rapid and severe, with early signs including widespread coughing in the group, initially after exercise then at rest, increased respiratory rate and difficulty breathing, rapid loss of weight and body condition, milk drop in lactating cattle and death in heavy infections (Figure 6).

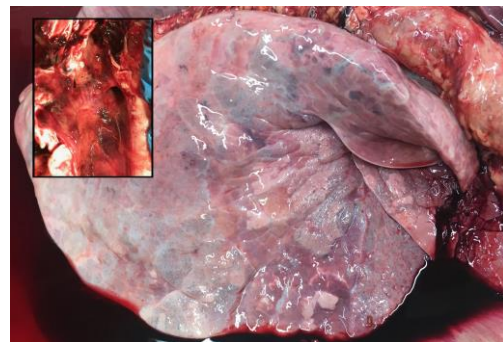


Figure 5: Heavy lungworm infections can be fatal, as in this case identified by post-mortem in September 2020 (photo credit: Ben Strugnell @farmpostmortems)

Advised actions include:

- Monitor for signs for disease.
- Where infection is suspected:
 - Treat all animals within the affected group
 - Affected cattle should be removed from contaminated to “safe” pasture (e.g. aftermath) or housed in a well-ventilated building.
 - Confirm through diagnostic testing

Dosing at housing

Worm burdens acquired over the grazing season may be targeted at housing.

- For young growing cattle, treatment with products containing either a Group 3-ML or Group 1-BZ anthelmintic is advised. These products are effective against encysted stage larvae acquired in the latter stages of the grazing season which can cause type-2 ostertagiosis later into the housing period. Encysted worm burdens cannot be assessed by worm egg count.
- Risk of louse and mite infestations may increase at housing (Figure 6). This is worth bearing in mind when selecting worming treatments, as selected worming products are also effective

against these parasites. For more information, please speak to your vet or SQP/RAMA.

- Provided animals are not suffering any obvious effects, cattle exposed to liver fluke infection can be dosed with a product other than triclobandazole. Due to lower activity against juvenile stages of liver fluke, these alternatives may require repeat or delayed treatment.
- In all cases, post-treatment efficacy testing should be considered.



Figure 6: Some injectable and pour-on worming preparations are also effective against louse and mite infestations, which can occur with winter housing.

[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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