

Preventing Lungworm in Cattle

Webinar written and presented by

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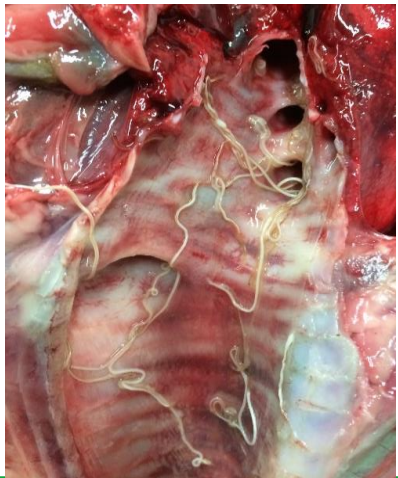
Overview

- What is lungworm / husk?
- How is the parasite transmitted?
- How can we prevent lungworm?
- How do we use the vaccine?
- How else can we control the disease?



What is lungworm / husk?

- Clinical signs: coughing, fast breathing, milk drop, sudden death
- Long term impact
- Expensive: infected cattle produce up to 4kg less milk every day¹
- Lungworm outbreaks cost ~£17,000 (110 cow herd)¹



[Photograph: Ben Strugnell,
Farm Post Mortems Ltd]

¹Holzhauser et al., 2011 *Vet Record*



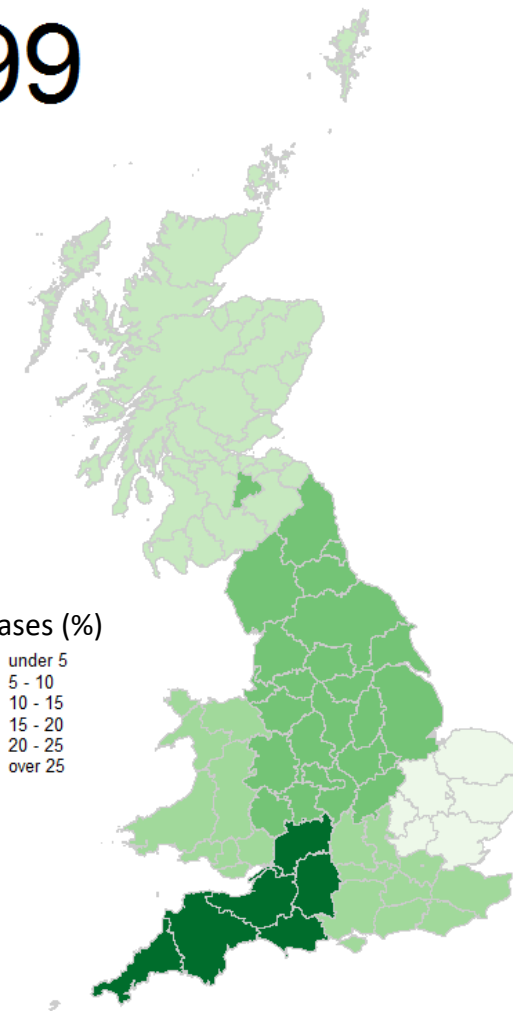
Cases are becoming common in Scotland and Northern England

Also becoming MUCH more common in adult cattle (sudden death also possible)

1999

Percentage Cases (%)

- under 5
- 5 - 10
- 10 - 15
- 15 - 20
- 20 - 25
- over 25

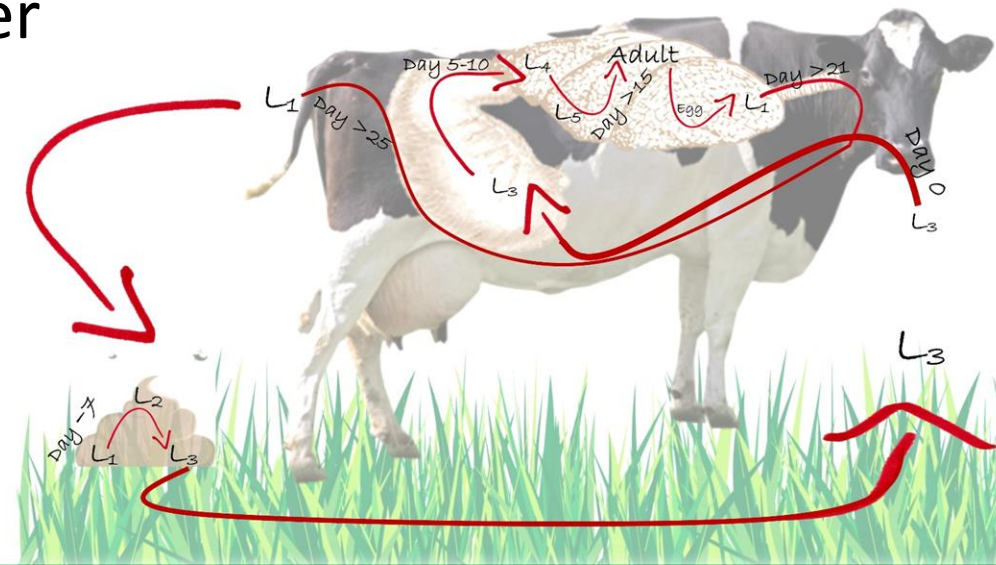


How is the parasite transmitted?

- Cause: *Dictyocaulus viviparus*
- Cattle get infected from larvae which grow within cow dung
- Larvae develop quickly within dung (1 week)
- Larvae die quickly in the cold / dry weather



Explosive and unpredictable



How can we prevent lungworm?

- Vaccination (**huskvac**) is one of the most effective ways of preventing an outbreak
- Disease is shorter and much less serious



How do we use the vaccine?

- Do NOT use the vaccine and a long-acting wormer at the same time (wait ~ 2 months before worming)
- Turn vaccinated cattle out onto **contaminated** pasture

Worming strategy	Vaccination strategy
Calving early enough AND occasional use of short acting (SA) wormers (for example, dose and move)	Full course of vaccine prior to turnout on contaminated pasture
Calving too late to vaccinate / relying on long-acting (LA) wormers in 1 st grazing season	Full course of vaccine before the second grazing season and/or replacement heifers before they enter the adult herd

How else can we control the disease?

- **Careful** use of wormers (with vaccination)
- Knowing when disease risk is highest in your area. Be extra **vigilant** from August - October
- Fence off any stagnant water (**ponds** or ditches)
- **Test** cattle before they enter the farm (or treat with short-acting wormers and then vaccinate)



Summary

- Lungworm is an **expensive** disease (milk drop and growth beef)
- Disease often **explosive** and unexpected
- Use the lungworm **vaccine** to encourage a strong healthy immunity
- Consider using the vaccine in **second season grazers** and replacement **heifers**
- **Test** and treat cattle before they enter the main herd

Further information

In Practice article:

Controlling lungworm disease (husk) in dairy cattle

C. McLeonard and J. van Dijk

COWS website:

<https://www.cattleparasites.org.uk/app/uploads/2018/04/Control-of-lungworm-in-cattle.pdf>

