

Provisional Autumn Fluke Alert

The NADIS autumn fluke forecast is currently indicating a risk of disease in your area.

The provisional Autumn fluke forecast for 2022 is based on temperature and rainfall data for the months of October/November/December forecasts. This forecast is designed to indicate level of disease risk resulting from the emergence of the infective stages of liver fluke onto pastures from snails that have become infected over the current grazing season. The autumn risk period is generally considered to be of greater importance than the summer risk period. Both sheep and cattle are susceptible to liver fluke, with acute disease more common in sheep.

Whilst weather plays a very important role in determining overall disease risk, several other on-farm factors are also important and should be considered, specifically the identification of high risk "flukey" pastures and when these have, or are being used for grazing relative to peak risk periods in the autumn. The calculated fluke risk level above should therefore be considered as a guideline to help inform the overall risk likely on your farm for the coming season.

Advised actions include:

- Monitoring for signs of disease.
- Routine diagnostic testing and post-mortems in acute outbreaks.
 - Consider blood testing of first season lambs to monitor for early infection and acute disease
- Where treatment of acute disease is not required, consider alternative products to triclabendazole in combination with pasture management and/or at, or after housing.
- For more information on diagnosis, treatment and control, see the NADIS information pages [<LINK>](#), SCOPS steering group website and speak to your vet and/or RAMA.

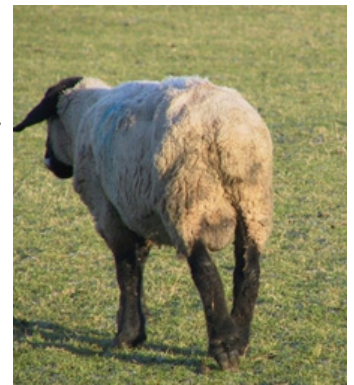
Other Parasites to watch out for this month

Parasitic gastroenteritis (PGE)

Parasite Watch is showing a very mixed range of worm egg counts on farms across the UK in October. Hot dry conditions earlier in the season are likely to have reduced the worm burden on some farms, but localised weather as well as management factors can lead to variation. As always, if in doubt, test your sheep before treatment. Lambs are at most risk of clinical disease, but also be aware of rams, which can get run down during the breeding season leading to reduced immunity and high parasite burdens.

Teladorsagia larvae can encyst in the stomach wall. This enables them to survive the winter within the sheep, before emerging months later. Re-emergence en masse in the spring can cause severe diarrhoea. Usually only a few individuals in a group are affected but the condition can be severe in these cases. Lambs are at most risk as older animals should have immunity. Treatment over the winter with a product effective against encysted larvae will prevent problems occurring. For more on the different wormer groups and when to use, [<click>for a leaflet from AHDB. <Click>for general info on PGE.](#)

[For a detailed weather report click <here>](#)



Rams are generally more susceptible to roundworm infections than ewes

Haemonchus

This parasite can present very similarly to liver fluke, with anaemia and sudden death, although it lives in the stomach. It does not cause diarrhoea. All ages of sheep can be affected. The eggs look the same as those of the other roundworms, but infected animals typically have very high egg counts.

Haemonchosis in a ewe displaying signs of bottle jaw (Photo credit: Emily Gascoigne, Synergy Farm Health; @Em_the_SheepVet).



Nematodirus

Nematodirus can be a problem again at this time of year due to an autumn egg hatch. Parasite watch is showing medium Nematodirus egg counts at some UK farms. Although autumn outbreaks are uncommon, keep this parasite in mind in the event of scouring and deaths in lambs that were not exposed in the spring. [Click](#) for general info on Nematodirus.



Severe watery diarrhoea leading to dehydration and severe thirst are features of Nematodirus in lambs.

Survey on parasite control - ten £25 Amazon vouchers to be won

Researchers are seeking information about the diverse management methods used by UK sheep producers. The questionnaire is anonymous and takes 20-30 minutes to complete. Please [click here](#) to go to the survey. The study is a collaboration between the University of Liverpool, Queens University Belfast, Moredun, SRUC and others.

Farm Risk Factors - *Lice/Anthelmintic resistance/PGE*

Farm risk factors will vary for each farm - is your farm at risk?

Do you regularly body condition score the flock to ensure animals stay in good condition?

YES

NO

Do you get a veterinary diagnosis when you have itchy sheep?

YES

NO

Do you treat every animal when worming a group of lambs?

YES

NO

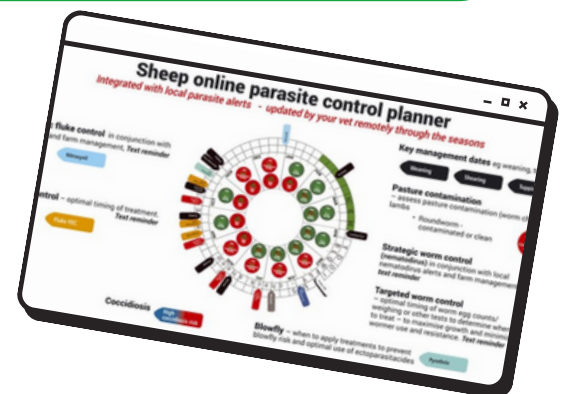
Do you use worming products for treating other diseases or as part of combination treatments?

YES

NO

As local conditions can vary considerably, why not contact us to discuss control measures and treatments relevant to your farm? The most effective way to control all parasites is as part of a comprehensive parasite control plan specifically for your farm

PARASITE CONTROL PLANNERS: NADIS have launched a new online parasite control planner. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information. Parasite control should be considered as part of your overall herd or flock health plan and should be discussed with your animal health advisor



NADIS
ANIMAL HEALTH SKILLS

Parasite Quiz >

www.nadis.org.uk

Plan for health

The NADIS Parasite Forecast is based on detailed monthly Met Office data for each of the 40km² areas across the UK. Weather conditions directly affect the likely levels of parasite activity. Disease incidence will also depend on farm management, grazing and treatment history. Individual farm and field conditions may vary, so consult your animal medicines advisor as part of a parasite control plan