

Blowfly Forecast

The NADIS blowfly forecast suggests that weather conditions in your area mean that the risk of blowfly strike to local flocks is now **HIGH RISK**.

Based on weather conditions in your 40 sq km area, the NADIS blowfly forecast suggests that local flocks are now at **HIGH RISK** of blowfly strike. 1 in 100 animals might be struck*. All at-risk animals should have had preventative treatment applied in advance of the medium and high risk periods. Please remain vigilant for signs of strike, as preventative treatments applied early in the season may no longer be working. Depending on the product used, a second application may be required. Check sheep twice daily.

<Click> for more on blowfly.

This risk level relates to the number of affected sheep expected collectively for all flocks in a region, considering that most sheep have received a preventative treatment. The model used to generate these predictions uses local daily temperature and rainfall recording, along with a detailed understanding of fly biology and sheep susceptibility to strike. The model is highly accurate.



Other Parasites to watch out for this month

Parasitic Gastroenteritis (PGE)

Whilst peak hatch risk for Nematodirus has now passed across the UK, risk of other forms of PGE will now be increasing significantly. This is particularly true in light of the warm and wet weather as indicated by the recent SCOPS press release. Lambs, and to a lesser extent rams, may be at risk from scours and poor performance caused by the stomach worm (*Teladorsagia circumcincta*) in combination with other common roundworm species. Such infections can be monitored by routine faecal worm egg counts (FWECS), which should ideally be performed every 3-4 weeks to allow identification of increasing burdens in a timely manner to inform interventions before disease becomes apparent.



Unlike ewes, adult rams can remain at risk from PGE.

Where risk and burdens are increasing, pasture rotation may allow you take advantage of safe grazing while targeted selective treatments based either on FWECS and/or performance (e.g. daily live weight gain) to leave a proportion of the group untreated will reduce selection for resistance significantly. When dosing and moving animals to new pastures, leaving animals on the current pasture for 2-3 days post treatment will further reduce risk by allowing animals to pick up new infections with non-resistant worms and dilute out resistant worms when transferred to clean grazing.

Parasites to watch out for this month

Haemonchosis risk

In addition to common PGE-causing roundworms, the barber's pole worm (*Haemonchus contortus*) is increasingly identified in UK sheep flocks. This blood-feeding parasite can affect all animals including ewes, causing disease typically characterised by weight-loss, ill-thrift and bottle jaw, with affected animals showing characteristic pale gums caused by anaemia. Death can occur in heavy infections. Animals affected by haemonchosis do not typically present with scours. Female *Haemonchus* worms produce huge numbers of eggs, meaning FWECS of infected animals can be 1,000+ eggs per gram. Further specialised testing to differentiate and confirm *Haemonchus* infection is available through the APHA, and offered by some commercial services. It is important to note that *Haemonchus* worms are known to develop resistance to wormers more rapidly than other roundworm species, meaning care and consideration should be taken with decisions around the treatment of this parasite.

In addition to common PGE-causing roundworms, the barber's pole worm. Specifically, use of targeted selective treatments are encouraged over whole flock treatments, with the "FAMACHA" anaemia scorecard now available through the University of Edinburgh with CPD on its correct use in the control of haemonchosis <LINK>. For more information on haemonchosis and PGE more generally, discuss with your vet and/or RAMA and visit the NADIS disease information page for PGE <LINK>.



Bottle jaw caused by anaemia and low blood protein is a key sign of haemonchosis, with FAMACHA scoring a useful measure for identifying animals in need of anthelmintic dosing (photo credit: Emily Gascoigne)

Tapeworms

It is common for tapeworm segments to be seen in lamb faeces, and tapeworm eggs to be seen in FWECS at this time of year. These types of tapeworm (*Moniezia*) are not normally associated with disease. In the absence of other signs their identification do not indicate a need for treatment.



Tapeworm segments (left) and tapeworm eggs (right) from *Moniezia* are commonly observed in lambs. These are not typically associated with disease.

Farm Risk Factors - Blowfly/PGE

Farm risk factors will vary for each farm – are your stock at risk?

Do you inspect your stock daily?

Do you perform routine FWECS on your first season lambs?

YES NO

YES NO

As local conditions can vary considerably, why not call your vet 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.