

PEAK VETERINARY NEWS

April 2019

Upcoming Farmers Meetings

Responsible Use of Medicines

Wednesday 24th April, 7.30pm

Duke William Pub, Church Street

The meeting will be covering all required elements for the red tractor inspection. There will be a small fee of £10 which will be claimable back on farm expenses.

As there will be a hot meal at this meeting, we will need exact numbers, so please let Hollie know if you would like to attend to avoid disappointment!

Twin Lamb Disease

We have had calls from many of you regarding twin lamb disease. It presents as shaky, weak ewes that are often recumbent.

Unfortunately, prevention is better than cure, so knowing if your ewes are having multiple lambs is gold standard. Treatment will consist of propylene glycol and calcium daily until the lambs are born, but ultimately will only be cured by lambing.

If you are unsure if your ewes are being affected, please give us a ring and we can advise you.

TB Testing

We would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to everyone who has had their test already, or got theirs booked in, for your cooperation in getting them early in the testing window.

We understand that this isn't optimal for many of you, but it ensures we can get everyone done in time!

Respiratory Disease

We are seeing a marked increase in respiratory disease at the moment due to the fluctuating weather.

Zoetis are currently running a scheme to test calves for a causative agent. The bloods are £12 or £14.50 per calf depending on how many agents you test for. Agents tested for are:

- IBR
- BVD
- RSV
- PI3
- Mycoplasma

Several of you have already had some bloods done, if anyone else is interested please get in touch. If we find a causative agent, it will help us manage respiratory disease on farm and can also help to set up a vaccination protocol.

Calves tested should be 5 months + in age, and should not have received any treatment for the disease.

Nematodirus in Lambs

Nematodiosis can cause a high number of mortalities in lambs and slows the growth of many others. Under 'ideal' weather conditions it can strike very quickly with little or no warning.

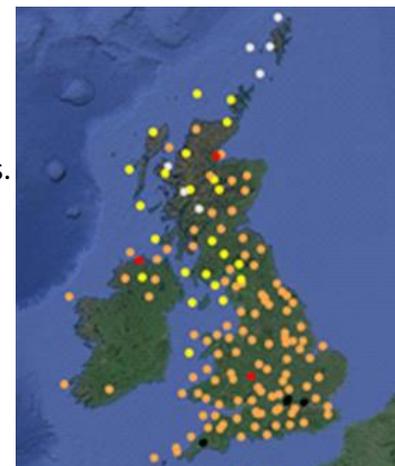
Cold weather delays hatching, but when there is a sudden change in temperature it can trigger a mass hatch. If this coincides with the time when lambs are starting to take in significant amounts of grass (over about 6 weeks old), the outcome can be devastating.

Faecal Egg Counts (FECs) are not a reliable indicator of the risk. Rapid action is often required and this has to be based on a risk assessment and the forecast for your area.

If your lambs are grazing pasture that carried lambs last spring **and** you answer yes to one or more of the following questions, your lambs are at risk.

- Are they old enough to be eating significant amounts of grass? (generally 6-12 weeks of age but may be younger if ewes are not milking well)
- Do you have groups where there is also likely to be a challenge from coccidiosis? For example, mixed aged lambs are a higher risk
- Has there been a sudden, cold snap recently followed by a period of warm weather?
- Have you got lambs that are under other stresses e.g. triplets, fostered, on young or older ewes.

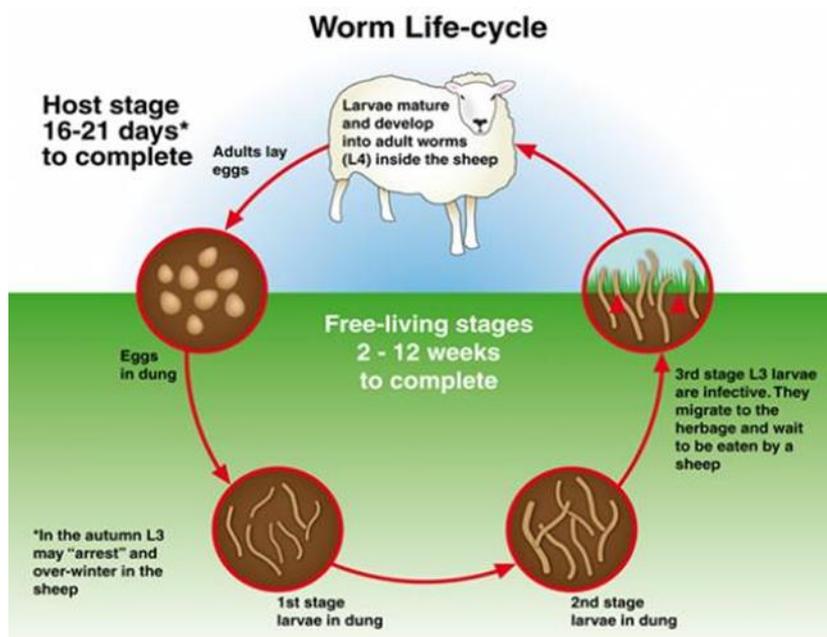
NADIS and SCOPS have a Nematodirus forecast on their websites to predict the risks based on weather forecasts. As we had a very mild February and March, this has increased our Nematodirus risk significantly. Predictions are that hatching, if it hasn't already begun, will be starting in the next 7-14 days. As shown on the forecast, we are currently running on a moderate risk (orange dot).



Prevention and Treatment

If possible, avoid infection. Move at-risk lambs (as determined by the risk assessment) to low risk pastures (i.e. pasture that **was not** grazed by lambs the previous spring).

If you decide you need to treat for Nematodirus, then SCOPS advises farmers to use a white (1-BZ) drench.



As always, any issues you would like to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact us,

Warm Regards:
Andrew, Hollie, Ken, Maddy & Wenna

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