

PEAK VETERINARY NEWS

April 2020

COVID-19

We understand that this is causing a lot of disruption around the country currently, and would like to take this opportunity to reassure everyone that we are continuing to function on farm as best we can.

There are a few extra measures we are putting in place:

- If you or anyone within your household is showing symptoms, please notify us immediately if we are booked in to come onto farm. We can make decisions from there as to how to proceed. The last thing we want is to put either you or the vets at risk, but we understand that the work still needs to be done.
- If you are self-isolating but still require a visit, ring us beforehand and we can make arrangements to examine animals without you present etc.
- If you are showing symptoms and require medications, please send someone else down to the practice to limit exposure.
- Please can you ring us with any medication orders before coming down to the practice.
- All medication orders are to be collected from the white box in the car park.
- Please do not enter the waiting room unless asked to by a member of staff. If your order is not in the box, please ring reception and it will be brought out to you.
- When we are on farm, we have to stay 2m away from other people wherever possible. We understand that this is difficult during procedures such as caesareans, but we are trying as best we can to adhere to the governments social distancing procedure.
- TB testing is continuing as usual, we are even trying to fit a few more tests in at the moment whilst we are on small animal restrictions. If you require any pre-movement testing, please let us know and we will try and accommodate where we can.
- As always, our emergency lines are continuing as normal.

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

With turnout just around the corner, we know many of you are anxious to get the dreaded TB test out the way.

Due to various issues, we are running towards the end of testing windows. We would like to thank all of you that have got your tests booked in already.

With the COVID-19 crisis, we are hoping to get a few more tests booked in. If you are contacted and able to book in at short notice, we appreciate it.

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.

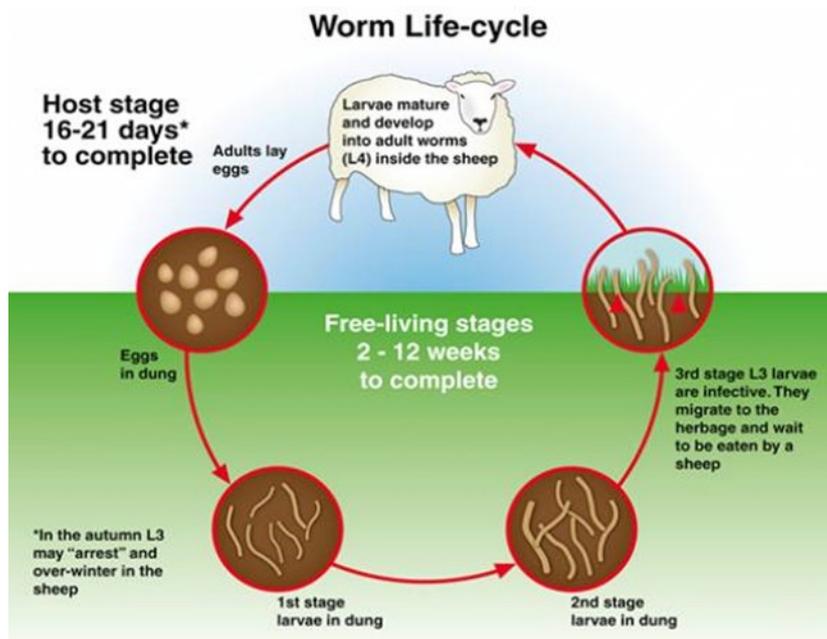
- Are they old enough to be eating significant amounts of grass? (generally 6-12 weeks of age but may be younger if ewes are not milking well)
- Do you have groups where there is also likely to be a challenge from coccidiosis? For example, mixed aged lambs are a higher risk
- Has there been a sudden, 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 mild, wet February, combined with warm March spells, our Nematodirus risk has increased. Predictions are that hatching will be starting in the next 7-14 days. As shown on the forecast, we are currently running on a low to moderate risk (yellow/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 & Emily

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