



It's that time of year again when the tups are going in. How time flies! There are variable amounts of grass around for flushing and mating. Some forecast wet weather will hopefully get things moving for when the ewes are being tupped. If their body condition score is spot on i.e. 3-3.5 (lowland breeds) then flushing is not that important. If they are not at optimum body condition, then flushing will be a saving grace to help keep ovulation and twinning rates higher.

Tupping on good grass with a rising plane of nutrition is always desirable to help with conception and embryo survival. Make sure you avoid any unnecessary handling, moving, transporting in the 6 weeks after mating and this will affect fertility. However, sheep that are lame or sick will need catching and treating asap.

PARASITE ALERT!!

Haemonchosis Contortus – the 'barbers pole worm'.



This is rearing its ugly head in our area. Following reports on the sheep vet network of a sudden outbreak of cases in Dorset and Devon, we had our first case of the year that same week.

Haemonchus Contortus is a stomach dwelling blood sucking worm that affects adult sheep and lambs. Each worm attaches and feeds from the stomach lining taking a significant amount of blood each time and over a very short period large numbers of worms will have devastating effects.

Clinical signs where the challenge is high include:

- Sudden death in ewes and/or lambs.
- Anaemia, collapse and lethargy.



In a lower challenge or where the ewes have developed some immunity, clinical signs include:

- Poor body condition – a large number than normal of thin ewes noticed pre tupping.
- 'Bottle Jaw' swelling under the jaw.
- Very high FECs – 1-2000 epg plus.
- Anaemia – check under the eyelid (in Australia and Africa they use the FAMCHA anaemia test to determine when to treat – a major problem out there).
- NO SCOUR – this worm doesn't cause diarrhoea.

If you suspect this may be a problem on your farm, then speak to us as the practice. As the signs of haemonchus can be similar to fluke, we would at least like to discuss getting some muck samples to check for both and sort the correct treatment. Post morteming any deaths would be essential.

Incoming quarantine worming treatments are essential in preventing bringing haemonchus and fluke onto your farm.

Fluke forecast - current prediction.

FLUKE RISK = medium-low for our region this autumn

This forecast will increase in accuracy when the August meteorological data is in, but the current suggestions are that PROPHYLACTIC treatment to prevent ACUTE fluke infections may be needed in late September – October.

This is relevant to groups of sheep grazing on fluke risk pasture. i.e. boggy, wet, known fluke history pasture.

The plan for controlling fluke is extremely farm specific and those with a flock health plan will be able to develop this in detail with us at the practice.

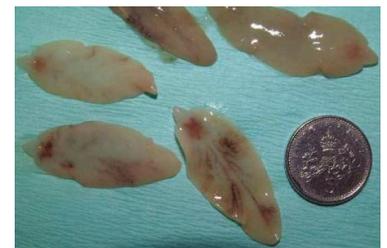
It is not possible to rely solely upon a fluke drench to control and prevent fluke due to potential resistance issue regarding Triclabendazole and its effectiveness when liver damage/infection has already occurred.

Fluke control – points to consider:

- Ensure that ALL sheep are fully vaccinated with either Ovivac P or Heptavac P – FLUKE infection predisposes the sheep to clostridial disease 'BLACK's disease'.
- AVOID grazing poorly drained pasture.
- If you have had fluke on your farm in the past or if you are grazing suspect pasture then you will need to treat all stock later this year based upon the forecast.
- If you are unsure if your farm has fluke infection present – then we can blood test 12 ewes as a representative group to look for exposure to fluke. Speak to us at the practice to discuss this.

Clinical signs of acute fluke: (Similar to Haemonchus)

- Sudden death – post mortem essential to determine if it is due to acute fluke
- Anaemia
- Dullness and/or difficulty breathing



An updated forecast will follow in the October newsletter.

Fat lambs, store lambs and replacement ewe lambs - Parasite Forecast.

This weather is ideal for larval movement on the pasture. We now see emergence of the trichostrongyles or 'black scour worm'. A burden of these worms will have significant impacts on growth. Therefore, treatment should be given based upon:

- Faecal Egg Counts
- Reduction in daily live weight gains (less than 150g/day if on grass alone).

For the best outcome and improvement of growth rates, lambs should be moved to clean pasture to reduce the constant challenge from infective larvae.

Treatment options: Autumn.

- **Monepantel (Zolvix) – orange drench** as an end of summer drench to clear out any resistant worms. This is a good time of year to incorporate Zolvix into your parasite control plan.
- Moxidectin (Cydectin/Zermex) – clear drench. A **persistent** wormer, can be used if lambs are unable to be moved to cleaner areas. **If you use this product throughout the summer then it would be advisable to use one of the other options as a break dose.**
- **Derquantel and Abemectin (Startect) – purple drench**, used in the same way as Zolvix.

