



Autumn is finally here; however the weather is still relatively mild. Please continue to be vigilant regarding **fly strike** – we are still receiving intermittent reports of cases throughout the practice. Any stock suffering from diarrhoea or lame feet are at risk, please be sure to treat these conditions promptly and regularly assess stock. Consider **reapplying PROTECTIVE treatments** and be sure to use a **TREATMENT** fly product e.g. **Crovect or Spot On** to kill any residual maggots as part of your treatment protocols.

Fluke Forecast

Based on the late summer rainfall, NADIS currently predict a '**LOW RISK**' for the South West. Liver fluke is dependent on a minimum temperature of 10°C and moist conditions for its development. While the regional risk is low, a damp start to the autumn may mean your individual farm risk is higher.

Please lookout for:

- Bottle jaw - fluid accumulation under lower jaw
- Lethargy
- Anaemia
- Sudden deaths –due to a high burden of immature fluke

Treatment is recommended if any of the above conditions are noted with a known fluke risk on farm. From **September through to December** **TRICLABENDAZOLE** is an appropriate fluke treatment – this is the **only** product we have that is effective at killing immature fluke. If stock appear healthy, and on farm conditions remain dry, treatment may be delayed until **housing**

or later in January – at this point **CLOSANTEL** can be used to treat mature fluke and clear chronic fluke infections.



If you have a known fluke history on farm, are you doing enough to control your fluke risk? Have you considered fencing off boggy or wet areas? Are you grazing your lowest risk stock on your higher risk areas? Fluke management will be unique to your individual farms. **Please speak to us about managing your specific on farm risk.**

If you are concerned or unsure about your fluke risk on farm, speak to us about your potential risks and various testing options available.

Wormer Analysis

Do you know if your wormers are still working efficiently?

Now is the perfect time of year to assess your wormer efficacy. Carrying out wormer product checks is good practice to ensure specific classes of wormer are still having the desired effect – especially if stock appear ‘unthrifty’ and poor despite treatment! Unfortunately there are already some farms in the practice suffering from specific wormer class resistance.

Wormer analysis involves two Faecal Egg Counts either side of wormer use. To assess your wormer, please collect muck samples from your suspect groups. **Aim to take a teaspoon sized sample from 10 different animals in each group – don't be selective, sampling scouring animals only is not representative of the group's worm status. Do not mix ewe and lamb samples, this does not provide us with useful results!**

Samples must be dropped at the practice as soon as possible. Delaying or allowing samples to warm may cause eggs to hatch and this will skew and make egg count results inaccurate.

We test all samples in our lab and a vet will report back regarding treatment requirements - this will involve a discussion regarding product choice dependent on grazing availability and group performance.



If treatment is needed, a Faecal Egg Count Reduction Test can then be carried out by resampling the group in 7 or 14 days post treatment to assess the effectiveness of the chosen wormer (**see table below**).

If you wormed without getting an initial muck sample, you can still resample and test 14 days later. If the class of wormer used is still effective, we would expect **NO** worms to be present.

Wormer Type	Examples of Trade Names	Time for resampling
Yellow drenches - Levamisole	Levamole, Levacide, Levacur	7 days
Clear drenches – Ivermectin / Moxidectin	Cydectin, Dectomax, Oramec, Noramectin	14 days
Orange drench – Monepantel	Zolvix	

If you are interested in analysing your wormer, please speak to us at the practice or on farm.

Forage and Grazing Considerations

The snow last spring and dry, hot conditions this summer have meant grass and feed availability have been a constant topic of discussion this year and this month is no exception.

While the weather remains mild, it is tempting to leave stock out grazing as long as possible, but careful consideration is needed to protect next year's grass cover and allow sufficient recovery for lambing. This year will be a balancing act to ensure grazing is not affected for the coming spring, whilst ensuring we still have adequate forage stores for the winter – and some spare in case we are snowed under again!



Grazing Restriction

Grass growth rates slow during January and February. To ensure that spring grazing is not adversely impacted and grass swards have time to recover, sheep should ideally be moved off priority grazing by late autumn. To regain sufficient dry matter per hectare, **some fields may need up to 120 days stock free to regenerate**.

Prioritise which pastures you require for ewe and lamb turn out in 2019 and move stock off these in order of most urgent need. By late November/mid December you should **aim to have up to 80% of your required pasture 'closed'** to current grazing stock to ensure enough regrowth for spring use. Electric fencing can be useful to split pasture if full stock removal is not practical.

Forage Analysis

Many of you may already have been forced to cut into winter stores earlier than normal to supplement ewes to achieve adequate body condition pre-tupping.

This year it is therefore crucial to know the quality of your remaining forage – especially if you are in shorter supply. This will allow you to identify issues and budget early for concentrates to feed during pregnancy and winter or to source additional crops (e.g. fodder beet) if needed. Poor quality forage, even in adequate supply, will have negative impacts on ewe health.

METACAM USE – ANTI INFLAMMATORY UPDATE

As you will know, Finadyne has been taken off of the market and is **no longer available for use in food producing animals** due to problems associated with the binding agent.

An alternative pain relief and anti inflammatory product is Metacam. This can be used for mastitis treatment and post lambing pain relief - many of you are already familiar with this product on farm!

Dose:

**1ml/20kg (or 2.5ml/50kg) Single Use Injection
SUBCUTANEOUS ADMINISTRATION**

Please be aware that there are no licensed anti inflammatory/pain relief products for sheep – Metacam use is still off license so meat withdrawal is extended to 28 days

For more details about Metacam please speak to us at the practice.

