

Parasite Control

There are three main classes of internal parasites that have serious economic and welfare effects on livestock production;

1. Roundworms
2. Lungworm
3. Liver Fluke

In cattle the species that cause disease most severely in young stock during their grazing seasons are;

- *Ostertagia ostertagia* (require two seasons grazing before immunity develops)
- *Cooperia onchophora* (immunity develops after one season)
- *Dictyocaulus viviparus* (Lungworm)

In sheep the following species cause disease and production losses;

- *Teladorsagia circumcincta*
- *Haemonchus contortus*
- *Nematodirus battus*
- *Dictyocaulus filarial* (Lung worm)

To control the above parasites it is essential to have good knowledge of each parasites life cycle which are available on our website.

Round worm infections tend to be seasonal issues in young stock during their first summer grazing. Typically disease occurs in mid to late summer once egg populations build up on pasture. The quantity and speed of larvae development is largely dependent on environmental factors; therefore checking the NADIS parasite forecast is important to assess potential risk to livestock.

In the West of Scotland including Loch Lomondside viable fluke can be on pasture all year round and careful planning rotating classes of flukicides is imperative.

In both cattle and sheep liver **Fluke** infections are a major cause of decreased productivity in particular areas that are wet. This parasite is more problematic as little immunity develops in adult cattle which are therefore susceptible to infection.

To monitor all parasitic infections the most useful tool is FAECAL EGG COUNTS

It should be considered normal practice for routine FEC to be carried out to monitor levels of parasitism within livestock groups even if problems are not apparent at that time.

For any further information please contact the practice to speak to one of our vets.

Useful websites;

<http://www.qmscotland.co.uk>

<http://www.eblex.org.uk>

<http://www.nadis.org.uk> PARASITE AND DISEASE FORECAST

<http://www.dairyco.org.uk>

<http://www.ruma.org.uk>