



## Coombefield Veterinary Hospital Sheep Newsletter September 2015

What a wet August we've had... let's hope September is a bit dryer!! (A quick look at the long range forecast suggests the first half may be at least?!)

### Liver Fluke

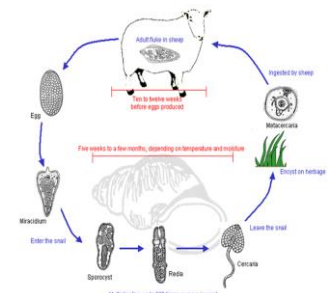
Unfortunately all this wet weather has meant that NADIS has predicted the South West of England to be at 'High Risk' of problems with liver fluke this year. The current forecast states that it is '**highly likely**' that prophylactic treatment with triclabendazole will be necessary during September to prevent acute and subacute liver fluke disease. Therefore, we advise that:

- Farms with a known liver fluke problem should treat sheep with triclabendazole (eg Fasinex) in September. Triclabendazole is the drug of choice because it is effective against very young immature flukes from 2 weeks old. Repeat treatment may be necessary 4-6 weeks later.



It is also worth reviewing current liver fluke control measures on your farm given the high risk conditions this year:

- Where possible, avoid high risk poorly-drained grazing from September onwards
- Migrating flukes predispose to the clostridial disease 'black disease'. This is one of the diseases included in the Heptavac P vaccine, therefore, make sure your stock are up to date with this vaccine (initial dose is twice, 4-6 weeks apart, then annually)
- Acute liver fluke will cause sudden deaths. Post mortem examinations are the best way to tell if fluke has caused these deaths (or if there is another problem)
- Flocks with no previous evidence of fluke disease need to maintain their farm biosecurity especially with regard to purchased sheep. Liver fluke **MUST** be considered in quarantine treatments of bought in stock.



### Haemonchosis

This worm can be a problem at this time of year. It causes anaemia and weight loss, but not scour. If you have any lean sheep that are very pale/white in the skin under the eyelid, or have a swelling under the jaw ('bottle jaw') then *Haemonchus* may be an issue. The symptoms are actually quite similar to chronic fluke infection. There are many wormers that treat *Haemonchus*. Please speak to us for advice if you are worried.

### Parasitic gastroenteritis (gut worms)

This is more common following wet weather. It is also more likely to become a problem on contaminated grazing if lambs are kept in the same area for longer than usual. If you are not selling lambs now due to poor prices remember to keep an eye on worm egg counts in case extra anthelmintic treatments are needed.

If you would like to speak to a Farm vet or arrange a visit  
Please ring 01297 630515  
Medicines can be requested via email or by telephone  
**Email: [farm@axvets.co.uk](mailto:farm@axvets.co.uk)**