

## Nematodirus

<https://www.scops.org.uk/forecasts/nematodirus-forecast/>

Nematodirus caused by the Nematodirus battus worm strikes very quickly with little or no warning. Each year we diagnose it as the cause of high mortality rates as well as stunting the growth of other susceptible lambs. Faecal egg counts (in this instance!) are not reliable as the damage is done by large numbers of immature larvae that are not producing eggs.

We are entering a risk period for Nematodirus in this area. If the current good weather continues hatching is expected to begin in the next 7-14 days.

- Lambs grazing pasture that carried lambs last spring
- Generally happens in lambs aged 6-12 weeks old - old enough to be eating significant amounts of grass but might be younger if ewes are not milking well
- Concurrent challenges with coccidiosis
- Lambs under stress - triplets, fostered, older or younger ewes
- A sudden cold snap followed by a period of warm weather!!

If at all possible: avoid infection. Move your at risk lambs to a low risk pastures: pastures not grazed by lambs last spring.

If this is not possible the recommendation is to use a white wormer. Please check if worming has been effective by taking a FEC 7-10 days post treatment because although white wormer are usually highly effective against Nematodirus cases of resistance have still been reported. It is also important to remember that you might need to treat lambs more than once depending on the spread of ages in a group and weather conditions.

It is important to bear in mind that before they can hatch, eggs need to undergo a period of cold weather followed by warmer temperatures of 10 degrees or more. If these conditions happen over a short period of time like the weather we've been recently happening this triggers a mass hatch. Couple this with lambs that are in the susceptible age bracket and huge problems will happen.

Give us a call if you have any questions/ need advice on how best to prevent this being an issue this springtime.

## Turnout Preparation!

Many of you are starting to think of turning out this week with the long awaited nice weather! As always please have a think of any jobs that need doing e.g. dehorning, missed castrations, feet before they become an issue at grazing!

## Nobacz Navel

We have had many of you try our new navel product Nobacz navel with good success so far.

It forms a long-lasting waterproof seal at the site to keep bacteria out and has a bright blue dye, making it easy to identify the animals who have been dipped in addition to a lick resistant bitter agent, to deter dam interference. NoBACZ Navel can be used for both calves and lambs and has been widely tested in field trial work with a 21% reduction in mortality compared to lambs dipped with iodine only and superior lamb weights at 8 weeks old.

A 500ml bottle has approximately 100 doses and costs £25 ex VAT.

Please let us know your feedback!



## Sheep Meeting in February

Thank you to everyone who attended our sheep meeting in conjunction with Mole Valley discussing the Pitfalls of Lambing and Nutrition. We had a great turnout and enjoyed the evening!

## Bluetongue Update

Unfortunately, we are still in a Restriction Zone for Bluetongue. As the temperatures increase during spring the risk of transmission will increase.

You must still have a license and arrange for pre-movement test for all animals moving out of the restricted zone unless they are moving direct to slaughter or via a dedicated slaughter market. If you are moving a pregnant female that was inseminated 6 months or more before the move, you will need a negative serology test as well as a negative PCR test.

To get free pre-movement testing:

- apply for any movement licences you need before you request testing
- you should apply for testing at least 10 working days before the planned move date
- a vet should sample your animals no more than 21 days before the move – this allows time to get your results

The movement must take place within 21 days of the sample being taken during the seasonally vector low period. As we get nearer to the time when midges become active with increasing temperatures we expect the time allowed between sampling and movement to be reduced. You must move animals within the time period specified in the conditions of your licence.

Please give any of the vets a call to discuss if needed.

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