



Sheep News

Spring / Summer 2017
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Worming event

Improving your flock's productivity through effective worm control



Thursday 25 May - 12-2pm
The Wilsey Down, Hallworthy
To book please call 01288 353766

Thursday 1 June - 12-2pm
The CowShed Café, Holsworthy
To book please call 01409 253418

Studies have shown that 95% of UK farms have resistance to white drenches (benzimidazols), nearly 70% have resistance to yellow drenches (levamasols) and over half have resistance to clear drenches (macrocyclic lactones). This means that the wormer that you're using might not be as effective as you think it is. **Without effective worm control it can take up to three times as long for a sheep to gain weight.**

The Penbode sheep team are hosting interactive sessions on how to:

- Maximise growth rates by targeting worm treatment
- Prevent wormer resistance
- Work with wormer resistance on your farm

Attendees will receive **complimentary food and drink, one free worm egg count*** to be run on the day and **30% off a follow up faecal egg reduction test** to help identify resistance on farm.

*To obtain your free sheep faecal egg count, please bring a fresh sample in an airtight container either to the venue on the day or to a Penbode practice the day before the event and exchange for a ticket. We will endeavour to test your sample that day for discussion at the end of the meeting.

Jo Hagyard, shepherd for Penbode client, Mr Olde of Blegberry Farm, writes:

Three years ago we noticed that our regular, routine worm treatments just did not seem to work.

We got in touch with Penbode's sheep team who suggested **Faecal Egg Count Resistance Testing (FECRT)** and with their help we discovered that we had 'triple resistance'.

It was difficult to get our head around at first but we have now completely changed how we use drenches.

Our new system following SCOPS principles is far more effective and actually saves us money.

Special offers

Don't forget When you buy your meds from Penbode you can rely on veterinary back up if there's no improvement.



Endospec 10% 5l - £65 and 2.5l - £45

Exclusive to Penbode!

Sheep vitamin drench 2.5l - £49.95

Supports growth rates when drenching for parasites or after veterinary treatment

Worm Egg count offer 10 worm eggs counts - **£70**

Faecal egg reduction testing - £150.

Find out what the wormer resistance is on your farm

All special offer prices are for cash or DD payment and exclude VAT.

#valid 22/5/2017 to 31/8/2017

Dedicated Sheep Veterinary Team

Matt Evans | Kate Forgan | Steph Prior | Sarah Phillipot | Vicky Westwood

**Holsworthy
Bradworthy**

**01409 253418
01409 241241**

**Stratton
Camelford**

**01288 353766
01840 212229**



Barren rate >2%? Abortions during lambing? Lots of weak lambs?

Check for the most common causes of abortion and be prepared for next year.

6-8 blood samples for £25 + P&P with a free visit.

Abortion check

Nematodirus

Nematodirus battus is a particularly pathogenic gut worm for lambs, causing production losses, stunted growth and deaths within a lamb crop. Unlike other gut worms (passed from ewes to lambs), N. battus left on pasture by the previous year's lamb crop infects this year's young lambs.



Photograph of worm eggs from a dung sample.
Arrow indicates a Nematodirus battus egg.

A year in the life of Nematodirus battus

These gut worms have a simple lifecycle; lambs pass out N. battus eggs in spring and early summer. The eggs contain developing larvae and are especially hardy, surviving summer and winter on pasture, waiting for the following spring.

To hatch, eggs require a cold snap then a few spring-like days (above 10°C for 10 days in a row).

Larvae are ingested by lambs, burrow into the small intestine, develop into adults in 2-3 weeks, mate and shed eggs which pass out in dung to complete the life cycle and contaminate the pasture for next year.

Where's the harm?

A well-timed hatching of N. battus larvae infects young grazing lambs, causing yellow/green scour and dehydrated lambs. The larvae burrow into the small intestine, damaging the gut wall and causing severe inflammation. The level of infection varies; most recover within a month, however, deaths from N. battus infection can be up to 10-30% of the lamb crop after severe scours and dehydration.

The good news is that lambs that recover develop immunity to N. battus by 6 months old, causing retardation of adult worms and lower infection rates. Infection is usually mild in adult animals with low numbers of eggs shed in dung. Older lambs and ewes can help to 'mop-up' on paddocks contaminated by young lambs the previous year.

What are the odds?

Main risk factors for Nematodirus infection of lambs include:

- Lambs grazing pasture that was used for lambs the previous year
- A sudden cold snap followed by a period of warm weather (around 10 days)
- Young lambs eating a lot of grass (6-12 weeks old)
- Groups challenged by coccidiosis (typically 4-8 weeks old lambs) - a severe co-infection can occur
- Lambs under other stresses, such as triplets or those fostered on

Spring is in the air...

Nematodirus infection is highly seasonal. Timing varies around the UK; in south-west England, it is more likely in April/May. Last year, the first recorded Nematodirus outbreak was in mid-March (as reported on SCOPS) in Hereford.

All mapped out...

A forecast map for N. battus, using climate data from UK weather stations, is available at SCOPS online. The map provides a local, real time early-warning for Nematodirus larval mass hatchings and can help you decide when to treat young lambs to reduce symptoms and prevent checks in liveweight gain.

A 'white drench' (1-BZ) is the preferred anthelmintic for Nematodirus in lambs.

A Faecal Worm Egg Count can be carried out 7-10 days later by your Penbode Vet to check that treatment has succeeded.

