

Cattle threat varies according to age

The worm threat to cattle will vary, according to the age of the animals in question

The mild winter weather means that, as with lambs, cattle producers could see problems with worm parasites earlier than they would in a typical year.

SQPs could remind producers to keep an eye out for signs of scouring and coughing much earlier than they would after a more typical cold winter.

Solihull-based vet Steve Borsberry, from the 608 XLVet Group, is among those saying producers should be on the lookout for any early signs of worms – particularly lungworm – in cattle this year.

"Parasitic gastroenteritis is caused by a worm that has a 'direct' life cycle – eggs hatch to produce larvae that then mature into adults. The egg hatching at grass is controlled partially by temperature and moisture and the past winter's weather has been conducive to their survival," he says.

"The intestinal metabolism is affected"

"Once the eggs hatch the larvae are able to live without a host for a while. They just need a film of water for movement so they can 'swim' up blades of grass and wait to be ingested by cattle."

CREATING A BUILD-UP

Mr Borsberry adds that some will overwinter at pasture, or older cattle will excrete them and, if young stock are added, these will

act as 'factories' to contaminate the pasture and create a large build-up.

"For disease to manifest, there needs to be a large build-up of infective larvae and animals need to be susceptible – it's mainly seen in animals that are under 18 months old."

The intestinal metabolism is affected, so signs to look out for at grass include: acute diarrhoea, loss of appetite and reduced dry matter intake, and weight loss. Cattle will fail to achieve their daily liveweight gain targets.

WORMING PROGRAMME

"It's important that producers plan a worming programme that takes into account the life cycle of the worm and then length of activity of the wormer," says Mr Borsberry. "There are appropriate and inappropriate times to worm."

A 'housing' dose will be required to prevent Ostertagia type II in winter and worming dairy heifers at calving can increase dry matter intakes and therefore milk yield.

"Producers should also remember that, if they've vaccinated cattle with Huskvac, they should not worm these animals for at least three weeks after the second dose of vaccine has been administered."

LUNGWORM THREAT

Lungworm could also rear its head in beef and dairy herds earlier than usual this year, rather than at the traditional end-of-grazing time, again due to the mild and wet

winter weather. "This parasite is predictable by its unpredictability," says Mr Borsberry. "Grazing older cattle on wet pasture, which then becomes poached, creates problems because the cattle are then moved to

fresh pasture and young stock take their place on what is then 'contaminated' pasture.

YEAR-ROUND CALVING

"Many dairy herds calve all year round, with only low

yielding and dry cows grazing during the summer. So not all will develop resistance to lungworm.

"Cattle, of any age, that start coughing at grass will require urgent treatment with a wormer," he stresses.

LONG-PROTECTING
DECTOMAX
Pour-On

Cooperia Costs
Doramectin Pour On Protects for 28 days
No other Pour-On lasts longer against worms at grass

Licensed duration of activity at least twice as long as any other pour on against Cooperia - the common intestinal worm at grass¹

Dectomax Pour On Offer
Farmer offer while stocks last.
Purchase 2x3 litre packs, get 1 litre free.

Dectomax®
Take Pride in your Cattle
Persistence against lungworms and intestinal worms.¹
Used at turnout and eight weeks later in set-stocked cattle, Dectomax gives you many reasons to be confident:

- Long-protecting action for the grazing season¹
- Rainfast formulation²
- May allow the development of naturally acquired immunity¹

Advice on the use of this or alternative medicines must be sought from the medicine prescriber.

Elanco

¹ Data sheet for Dectomax, Ivermectin and Moxidectin, 2012 (excluding long acting formulations).
² Data on file, Rainfast study 27398-03-97-002

For further information please contact:
Elanco Animal Health, Lilly House, Priestley Road,
Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG24 9NL. Telephone 01256 353131
Dectomax Pour-On for cattle contains 0.5% w/v doramectin (2mg/ml).
Use medicines responsibly www.nahk.co.uk/responsible
Advice should be sought from a suitably qualified person prior to use.
[POM-VPS] Vm000064122