

## What problems are we seeing at the moment? In the sheep!

The main issues we are seeing are caused by parasites.

1. **Sheep scab.** Keep a close eye on the sheep for signs of itchiness. Talk to your neighbours. Bring the sheep to us for diagnosis.
2. **Blow fly strike.** Make sure the sheep are sufficiently protected. Try to keep on top of worms and lameness.
3. **High worm egg counts in lambs.** This is the time of year to use a totally different group of wormer such as Zolvix or Startect.
  - They do not have any extra persistency nor are they stronger. In other words if you drench with them now the worms may still re occur in 3 weeks' time.
  - What is unique about them is that there is no resistance to them. At the moment there is about 80% resistance to white drench, a lower amount to levamisole and around 30% to the clear drench. This resistance may not be obvious, in that the worms will be checked but not reduced to zero. The sheep will be still losing food conversion efficiency. By using these new wormers you are prolonging the development of resistance on your farm and keeping the growth rates of the lambs up.

### In the cattle:

**Lung worm outbreaks.** Over the last month we have seen an **increase in adult cows coughing** as well as **first year grazing young stock**. This is due to **lung worm**. Have a **listen** to your cows when they are gathered or when they are out grazing.

- There are a **number of factors** which influence outbreaks of husk:
  1. Lungworm **previously diagnosed** on your farm.
  2. **Worming regime.** This may not have allowed the cattle to **build up immunity** to lung worm. Alternatively the lung worm may **erupt after a wormer** has been applied. Just because an animal has been wormed does not mean it is protected.
  3. **Stock management at pasture.** Adults may seed the pasture with lungworm larvae creating a risk for youngsters.
  4. **Replacement stock.** These may have never seen lungworm in which case they are a huge risk.
  5. **Changing climate.** Warmer wetter autumns allow the larvae to remain on the pastures longer causing outbreaks later in the year. **If you are worried then please talk to us at the vets so we can advise you of the best strategy.**

### Buying in sheep:

Many of you will be buying sheep in over the **next couple of months**. With such good sheep prices we need to **minimize losses** both through **death** and **poor doers**. We need **to keep to disease out of your farms** as disease costs you money. There are a few basic steps that you should be carrying out:

1. **Wormer resistance** – All incoming stock should be drenched with zolvix and injected (see scab.) They should then be yarded for 24 hours.
2. **Scab** – They should be injected with cydectin LA, this lasts for 60 days against scab.
3. **Foot rot** – Foot dip through golden hoof or formalin once a week for 4 weeks.
4. **CODD** – Isolate from rest of flock for a minimum of 30 days and monitor.
5. **Enzootic / toxoplasma abortion** – Vaccinate females.
6. **Sudden death** – start the 7 in 1 vaccination course. Many of you were caught out last year.

### Milk fever risk in both beef and dairy cows

The risk of both **clinical and subclinical milk fever** can be **higher in the summer months**. 2 possible reasons for this are:

1. If **transition cows** are at **grass** then they have the potential to **gain body condition** on grass which is likely to be too high in both **Calcium and Potassium**.
2. For housed transition cows **dry matter intakes** can be **compromised in warmer weather** either because of heat stress or because of an increased risk of heating / secondary fermentation of the TMR at the feed face.

Results from a three year trial suggested that **57% of cows were experiencing hypocalcemia post calving**.

- A large proportion of these were **subclinical cases, only** detected by blood sampling.
- **Sub clinical hypocalcaemia is a significant** risk factor for retained foetal membranes, metritis and endometritis.
- **The only way to know if subclinical milk fever is an issue is to blood sample fresh calved cows within 24 hours of calving.**
- **Another element of the investigation of hypocalcaemia and transition cow health issues (apart from considering forage analysis and diet composition etc.) is to assess transition cow daily dry matter intakes which should be around 12kg DM / cow / day.**