parklands VETERINARY GROUP
Large Animal Services

vetPartners

Farm Newsletter

July 2026

Do the Stock Need Dosing Now? Is there any Resistance on My Farm?

Gastrointestinal parasites pose a significant challenge to the health and productivity of cattle and sheep. The growing concern of **anthelmintic resistance** means keeping our stock healthy is more difficult, however, with the right knowledge, tools and strategies, vets and farmers can effectively manage these threats and ensure the welfare and productivity of their livestock.

Faecal Egg Counting (FEC) remains a key component of any effective parasite control plan in both sheep flocks and cattle herds. It works by measuring the number of worm eggs in faeces and is used to monitor the worm burden in the animals. FECs can be used to help determine the need to treat a group, and the amount of contamination from parasite eggs going onto the pasture, they can also be used to determine if a treatment has been effective.

Ideally, FECs should be carried out regularly through the grazing season (every few weeks). Interpretation of an FEC result is quite complex and depends on a number of factors which should be discussed with your vet or advisor.

In terms of taking samples, fresh dung is essential (ideally less than 1 hour old). Ideally take at least 10 individual samples per group, or 10% of larger groups. To reduce costs we can combine several samples to test (a pooled sample), each individual sample going into a pooled container must be the same size. Samples should also be taken at random and stored in a fridge in airtight containers. They should be tested as soon as possible, to ensure the result is representative.

Resistance of parasites to active ingredients in our anthelminthic products is a massive concern for the future of the livestock industry. In the UK, SCOPS (Sustainable Control of Parasites in Sheep) is a voluntary, industry led group which works in the interest of the UK sheep industry and recognises that resistance to parasites in sheep has the potential to become a huge problem in terms of animal welfare and future profitability of the sector.

SCOPS recommendations are based on four key principles:

Always make sure any parasite treatment you give is fully effective. This involves choosing the correct product, administering the product according to instructions, carrying out good dosing practices, checking for treatment efficacy, and storing and disposing of the product correctly.

Reduce reliance on parasite treatment through grazing management, monitoring through accessing forecasting tools e.g. Nematodirus watch, and through the use of faecal egg counts (FECs) for both monitoring and diagnosis.

Avoid bringing in resistant parasites by following a robust quarantine routine.

Minimise selection for parasites that are resistant to treatment. For example, by using targeted selective treatment.

Similar to SCOPS, a valuable resource for cattle farmers in the UK is COWS (Control Of Worms Sustainably) and can be accessed at www.cattleparasites.org.uk

COWS suggests the following top tips for controlling cattle roundworms.

Treat Appropriately

Utilize targeted treatment (either individual animals or groups of animals) at the appropriate times. Specific diagnostic test including FECs, and growth rates will help identify cattle that require treatment.

Strategic use of wormers, to avoid resistance, different wormers are safer at certain times.

Effective treatment at the time of housing, not all wormers will protect cattle in the house

For any questions on this topic speak to a Parklands vet.

Parklands Veterinary Group—Practice details

2 Caledon Road, Aughnacloy, BT69 6AL
Tel: 028 855 57811
Dungannon@parklandsvets.co.uk

81 Molesworth Road, Cookstown, BT80 8NU
Tel: 028 867 65765
Cookstown@parklandsvets.co.uk

66a Glenshane Road, Londonderry, BT47 3SF
Tel: 028 71876140
Drumahoe@parklandsvets.co.uk

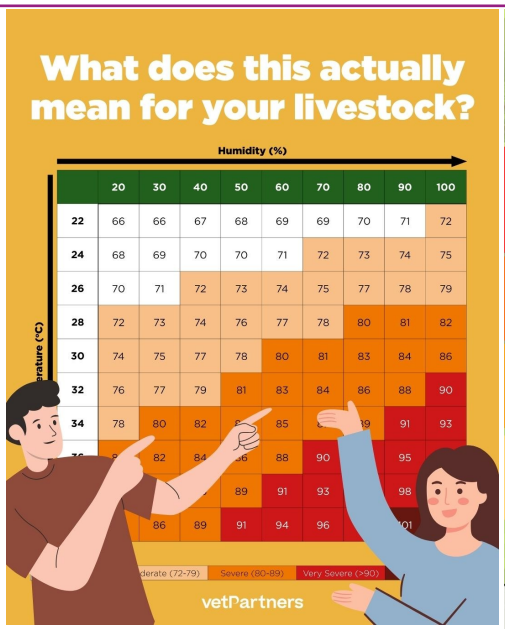
5 Old Moy Road, Dungannon BT71 6PS
Tel: 028 877 52299
Dungannon@parklandsvets.co.uk

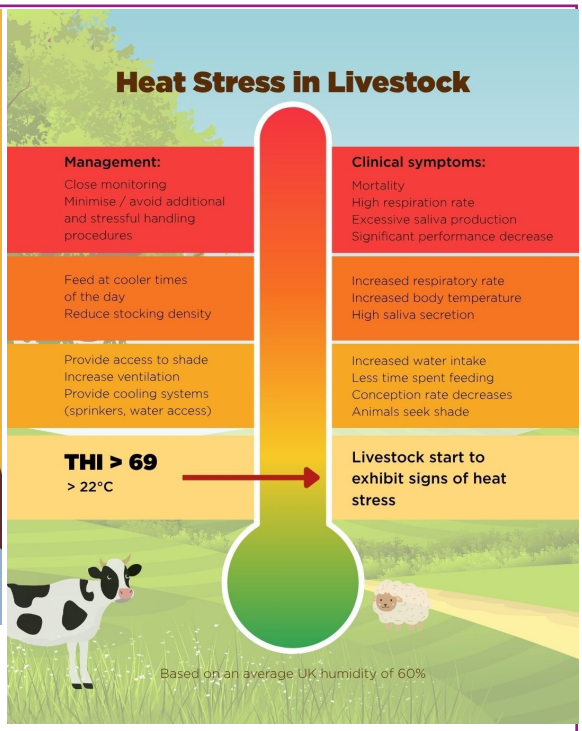
26 Townhill Road, Portglenone BT44 8AD
Tel: 028 258 21239
Portglenone@parklandsvets.co.uk

Website: **Parklandsvets.com**

Heat Stress in Livestock

It's that time of year where we need to be aware of heat stress in our livestock. When temperatures reach 22°C livestock can start to exhibit signs of heat stress if accompanied by high humidity. However, this is based on 60% humidity, which is the UK average. If we take into account different humidity levels plus many other factors such as bedding type, breed, system, wind speed etc. this temperature threshold for heat stress can reduce dramatically.





Keep an eye on your livestock and be prepared with strategies to mitigate problems like cooling systems.

Opposite is a table showing the recommended MINIMUM water intake for different animals, its now more important than ever to check the cleanliness of the water and troughs and ensure fast supply to maximise the amount of water each animal takes in during their time at the trough. In dairy herds all lactating and dry cows should all have at least 10cm of water trough edge space accessible (multiply number of cows in yard by 10cm for minimum trough edge space).

Weight (kg), or or production Level	Water intake (Litres) Temp 5°C	15°C	28°C
Calf 90kg	8	9	13
Calf 180kg	14	17	23
Yearling 360kg	24	30	40
Heifer 545kg	34	41	55
Dry cow 630kg	37	46	62
Lactating cow 9 kg/day	46	55	68
27 kg/day	84	94	99
36 kg/day	103	121	147
45 kg/day	122	143	174

Summer Mastitis

This year has really heated up and so Summer Mastitis is already starting. The main ways to prevent this are to use:

1. Fly repellents like pour-on and spot-on (not pour on wormers as these do not repel flies well) and fly tags for the ears. Other products like Stockholm Tar on the udder twice weekly work well at the peak fly time when the flies are "savage".
2. We need to ensure they have adequate dry cow therapy in the form of antibiotic Dry cow tubes and teat sealants, which will last all summer and not run out half way through.
4. Management practices like keeping the cows on high, exposed "airy" fields can have a huge effect on reducing fly numbers. Meadows with high hedges or forest nearby are dangerous!
5. Moving the cows every month to clean pasture has been shown to reduce mastitis after calving!

Treatment of the quarter can be successful if got early enough.

1. The infected quarter(s) will need to be stripped out completely and treated with a milking tube.
2. Antibiotic injections may be necessary if the infection is serious.
3. The cow will need treated for as long as it takes to kill the infection in the udder.
4. The use of a dry cow tube and sealant after the infection is killed will help to ensure there are no relapses of mastitis but be mindful of the cows due calving date!
5. The infection may return so be sure to carefully watch the cow for a time after treatment is finished. Speak to a parklands vets for advice.