



In September...

Watch out for parasites...

Lungworm

Several cases of lungworm have been seen recently in beef and dairy cattle. Signs have varied from mild coughing following exercise to severe respiratory distress. Lungworm infections are much less predictable than gut-worms as details of larval survival and transmission are still not fully understood.

Signs of infection are seen during the second week after infection - the severity depends on the number of developing worms within the airways.

Treatment is by worming – preferably with an avermectin product (various brands of ivermectin are available). For dairy cows and replacement heifers within 60 days of calving a nil-milk withdrawal product (Eprinex) must be used. In very severe infections, animals can appear worse following treatment due to the large numbers of dead worms within the airways. Badly affected animals may also require antibiotic treatment for secondary bacterial pneumonia.

In the longer term, vaccination is the most reliable control method – young calves require 2 doses of Huskvac prior to first turnout.

Haemonchus (Barber's Pole Worm)



Losses due to *Haemonchus contortus* stomach worms (Barber's Pole Worms) have also been seen in the last few weeks amongst fattening lambs. The worms suck blood from the lining of the abomasum, which can result in severe anaemia (which may be noticed as pale membranes of the eye), swelling under the jaw, as well as weight loss and weakness in more long-standing cases. Scour is generally not a feature, although it may be seen if animals are also infected with other worms.

Please ring to discuss if you think your animals may be affected.