

## Our Team



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## Living And Working In Your Community

September 2020

Hello and welcome to September – definite mixed bag weather wise, hope nobody was blown away last week! The hot weather was very difficult for stock with the heat lasting all day and night for a few days on the trot – probably something that will occur more frequently in the future, something that will need to be ‘treated’

We have seen some very odd worm and coccidia results in sheep/lambs – unexpected results in odd age groups. If you have poor lambs or scouring lambs, it’s worth sampling. When taking faeces samples, take at least 6 individual samples into separate pots or gloves, squeeze as much air out as possible and bring in to us asap – or put in the fridge if there is any delay (we’re looking for eggs so we want to slow down the hatching). If you want very rapid results we can put a rush on them and generally get results the next day. Any questions, ring us at the office.

Fingers crossed for a good September.

Mary

### Worming lambs

Wormer resistance is something you will have heard about for a number of years but may not have encountered. In the last 6-8 weeks the Practice has identified worming treatment failures with all 3 of the normal worming groups; white wormer (benzimidazoles, 1-BZ), yellow wormer (levamisole, 2-LV) and clear wormers (macrocyclic lactones such as ivermectin and moxidectin, 3-ML). This has resulted in lambs that have stopped growing, costing money due to both reduced production and the cost of subsequent treatments.

#### How do you know if your wormer is working?

A faeces sample can be taken after treatment to assess how many worms have survived the medication. A wormer that is working effectively should kill at least 95% of the worms in the sheep. The sample should be taken 7 days after treatment for yellow wormers and 14 days for white and clear drenches.

#### So how do you avoid developing wormer resistance?

Firstly don’t buy resistant worms; this means effective quarantine treatment and consider any new pasture (rented, purchased or common grazing) that has been grazed by sheep, a risk.

- **Treat only when needed:**

The pre-tupping ewe dose selects heavily for wormer resistance and is needed only in exceptional cases. It is recommended that only lean, immature or clinically affected (scouring) ewes, are treated at this time.

Use faeces samples to predict when worming is needed in growing lambs.

- **Select the appropriate anthelmintic:**

Use a narrow spectrum drug targeted at the parasite in question.

Avoid the use of off target combination products.

#### Administer anthelmintics effectively:

- Give the correct dose, by the correct route
- Dose for the heaviest in the group
- Check the dosing gun (calibrate and maintain properly)
- Do not mix with other products prior to dosing



Sian Fuller



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Tracey Huntley

Rotate anthelmintic group, every worming treatment selects for resistance to the drug used so a reliance on one group of wormer will select repeatedly for resistance to this drug.

• **Maintain susceptible worms:**

Grazing rotation should be used as part of a parasite control plan and traditionally it was recommended to dose then move sheep to clean ground. We have learnt this is a bad idea as worms that survive the treatment are taken onto the clean pasture. These worms are resistant to the drug used and as they multiply will lead to a population of worms with a high level of resistance.

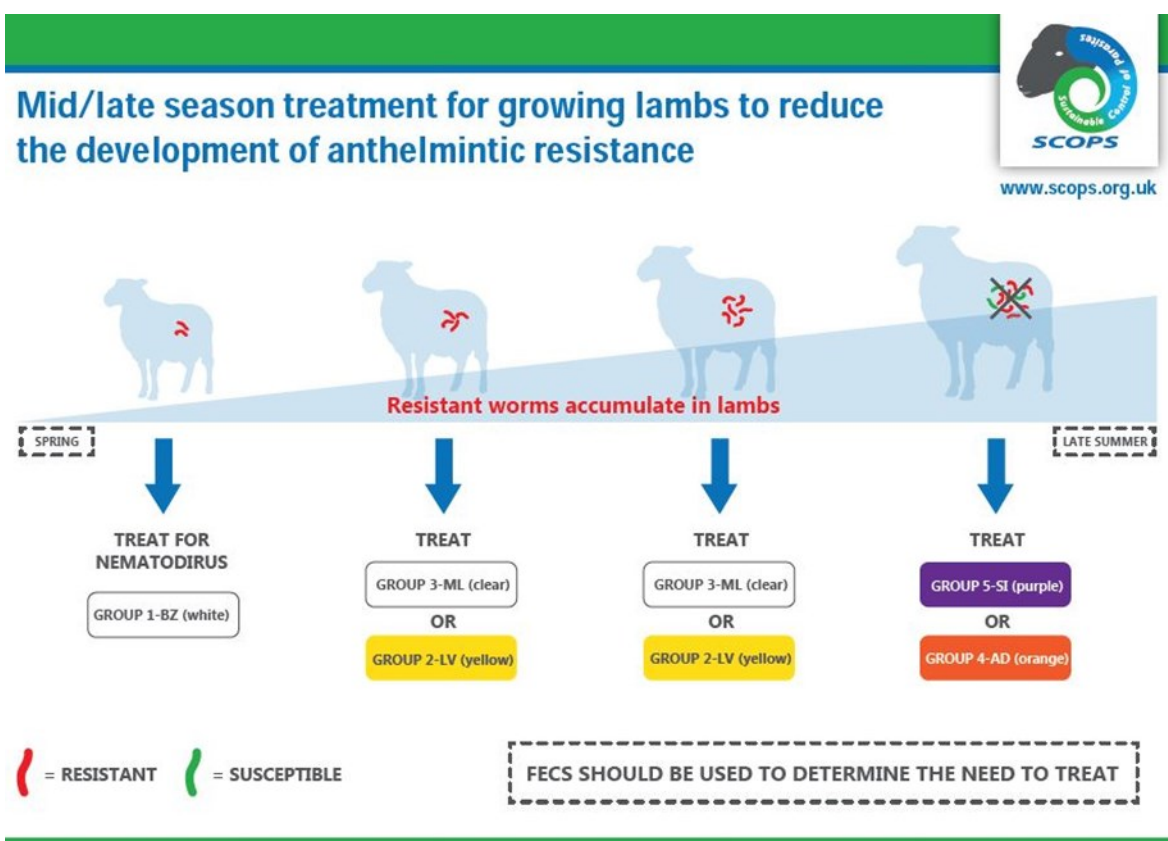
This can be avoided by:

- ° Part flock treatments: leave 10% of lambs untreated, this can also help avoid withdrawal period issues if the fittest lambs near slaughter condition are left untreated
- ° Dose then delay move: All lambs are treated then returned to 'dirty' pasture for 4-7 days. This means they become lightly re-infected with a mixed susceptible worm population before moving to clean pasture.

• **Break dose:**

The two new wormer groups (4-AD orange and 5-SI purple) can be used tactically to reduce resistance development via a mid-season 'break dose'. This removes worms that have survived prolonged exposure to other wormer groups used earlier in the season.

To get the most out of this one-off annual drench it is important to use it in the latter part of the grazing season. The objective is to remove worms that have survived previous treatments with one or more of the older groups. This helps slow the development of resistance to these three groups, with the double benefit that killing the build-up of worms surviving in the lambs will boost performance.



**Medicines update**

Ubro Red has been relaunched as Ubrostar Red with a change to the withdrawal periods. Please check the withdrawal period before you use this product.



Alamycin LA has a new formulation with new withdrawal periods.

Cattle meat W/D is now 41 days.  
Sheep meat W/D is now 24 days.

