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FriarsMoor Livestock Health

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

PARASITE DIAGNOSTIC TECHNOLOGY

Article by Becca Price, Vet

Last year the practice invested in an 'Ovacyte Automated faecal egg analyser', which uses AI to look at a sample, identify and count the number of worm eggs and Cocci present. Previously to do this each sample was looked at through the microscope by one of the vets or lab techs and counted manually – quite a laborious process! When carrying out WECs we can detect a number of different worms: Strongyle-type, Nematodirus, Moniezia, and Cocci. Testing for Lungworm and Fluke can be done in house but are run differently.

One of the good things about utilising technology is the ease of data collection, allowing us to look for trends through the seasons and on individual farms.

During the warmer months, when we would expect parasite burdens to be higher, we would recommend a pooled WEC of each group of animals every 4-6 weeks and then treating if needed based on a discussion with your vet.

We want to reduce the number of anthelmintic treatments needed - to reduce the likelihood of resistance developing, protect the environment and save some money!

Understanding the "risk" of different pasture is increasingly important to develop a more holistic approach to parasite control. We can use a colour coded pasture risk map to decide where certain groups of animals are going to graze next.

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COURSES

As well as our regular course calendar, you can register your interest for the courses below. As soon as we have enough sign-ups, we'll be in touch.

- → **Foot trimming**
- → **AI**
- → **Mastering medicines**
- → **Milksure**

Call or email to book courses:
T: 01258 472314
E: farmoffice@fmlh.co.uk

UPCOMING COURSES

- → **PRACTICAL DIY AI COURSE**
  17/11/25 / WEST STOUR
- → **HEIFER EFFICIENCY – FIRST SERVICE TO CALVING**
  26/11/25 / WEST STOUR
- → **SELECTIVE DRY COW THERAPY MEETING & THE DRY COW ENVIRONMENT**
  27/11/25 / WEST STOUR
- → **DAIRY & BEEF CLIENTS 2025 PARASITE CONTROL REVIEW**
  03/12/25 / WEST STOUR

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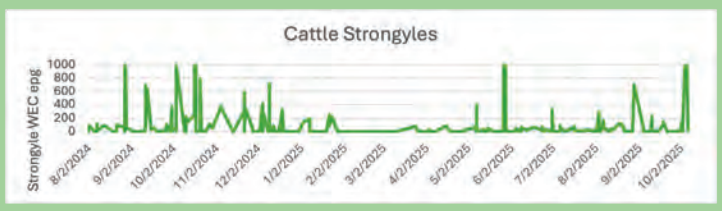
For example, a field not grazed by that species in the last year, a new ley after arable crop, or re-growth after forage can be grazed by your most vulnerable animals – young lambs or first season calves. This is 'low risk' or 'green'.

The graphs represent all WECs done over the last 14 months (note – alpaca and goat WECs will be included within the sheep graph). We see lowest WECs in January/February.



Graphs showing WEC results from our West Stour in-house lab

CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT AT CLOSWORTH

Our recent Charity Quiz Night held at our Closworth branch raised an amazing total of £700! 🥳 A massive thank you to everyone who came along, took part, and donated. Watch this space to be the first to hear about upcoming events.

THANK YOU!

Supporting

Supporting MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

FCN THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

This summer we have seen some very high WECs, especially in small ruminants. This is likely a combination of the warm dry weather, lack of grass growth and overgrazing.

High counts might also be an indicator of Haemoncus, also know as Barber's Pole worm. Haemonchus is a blood-sucking parasite which can cause a severe anaemia. A recent upgrade to the Ovacyte machine now allows us to differentiate between Haemonchus eggs and other strongyle-type eggs.

The winter is a good time to meet with your vet and review your farm parasite control plan before next spring. Please get in touch with the practice to do so.

Read the full article online: www.fmlh.co.uk/news-resources

PRACTICE NEWS

We have recently welcomed our 2025 intern, **Molly Morrison**, who lots of you will have already met. Molly spent time with us as a student and joins us from a farming family north of Salisbury.

Wally, who joined us recently has passed his ROMs accreditation. This means he is qualified to carry out mobility scores. Wally will also be sheep pregnancy scanning from December to February. Get in touch with the farm office to book him in for either!

FARMING FRIENDS

We are proud to be a founding partner in Salisbury and district agricultural club's 'Farming friends'. Aiming to bring the rural farming community together in a spring drinks evening and an 'autumn celebration' supper. We were joined by 150 guests for a delicious meal, farming themed quiz and grain competition. We look forward to April's event in the Salisbury and Shaftesbury area.