



# DN NEWSLETTER

## issue 03

The good weather has continued through April and what an ideal lambing time it has been for farmers lambing this month. With the majority of lambs now on the ground, this newsletter will look at parasite challenges, the latest grass growth reports, plus the Clitheroe Truck Run for the NHS.

### Parasite challenges for lambs

In the next couple of months Parasitic gastroenteritis in lambs will become major concern. Pasture management, anthelmintic treatments and diagnostic monitoring are strategies which will help reduce the risk of disease and subsequent losses. Two parasites which are a major concern are Nematodirosis and coccidiosis.

#### **Nematodirosis**

When lambs are between 4 and 12 weeks of age Nematodirus can occur. The eggs of the parasite over winter on pastures which have been grazed in the previous season. When the weather temperature changes from cold to warm the eggs begin to hatch which often coincides with when lambs consume large amounts of grass. If lambs pick up the parasite off the grass, the larvae damage the intestine resulting in diarrhoea, dehydration and potentially death. Northern England is currently at moderate to high risk of contamination.

You can monitor the risk using this link: <https://www.nadis.org.uk/parasite-forecast.aspx>

#### **Control strategies against Nematodirus include:**

- Avoid grazing pastures which have been grazed by lambs in the last season
- Know the signs of the disease– heavily soiled backends, lack of appetite and thirsty lambs
- Treat with 1-BZ
- Ensure the correct dose is given for the weight and calibrate the dosing gun first
- Perform faecal egg counts 7-10 days post treatment

#### **Coccidiosis**

Coccidiosis is another disease to be aware of in lambs, especially in intensive rearing systems. Signs of the disease are anorexia, weight loss, diarrhoea and death in severe cases, usually occurring between 4 and 8 weeks old. There will be heavy contamination of coccidia around feed troughs and creep feeders, particularly in warm wet weather. Stress can also onset Coccidiosis such as poor colostrum supply at birth, a change in the weather and high stocking densities.

#### **Control strategies against Coccidiosis include:**

- Reduce stocking densities and batch lambs on their age
- Avoid heavily contaminated pastures
- Anticoccidial medication is available and should be used strategically according to risk

**Both of these diseases have very similar signs so it is important to determine which parasite is causing the problem and treat correctly.**



## Grass growth and nutrient values.

Grass growth this week is up quite significantly from last week and has exceeded the growth compared to this time last year. The table below represents the growth and nutritional values of this weeks grass.

Grass growth (kg DM/ha)	51.1
Dry matter (%)	22.8
Metabolisable Energy (MJ/kg DM)	12.7
Crude Protein (%)	19.9

## Craig's Clitheroe Truck Run for the NHS.

A member of our Transport Team, DN Driver Craig Booth, has been working hard to organise a truck run to raise money for the NHS. Authorised by Lancashire Constabulary and teaming up with Ribble FM, the truck run took place last night, Thursday April 23rd.

The convoy of over 60 trucks left Clitheroe Auction at 6.40pm and the route took them down the A59 to Whalley, through to Barrow, then down into Clitheroe and along Eshton Terrace, Bawdlands, through the town centre and back up Chatburn Road to finish at Clitheroe Hospital. They were then met by the emergency services and hospital staff for a clap for the NHS at 8pm.

This was not a public event and social distancing guidelines were adhered to at all times by all participants. The truck run was organised to raise valuable funds for the NHS and to boost moral in the local community, showing support to our amazing health workers and to all key workers.

**The total raised so far stands at an incredible £3,403!**

Donations can be made at: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/nhs-truckrun>



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