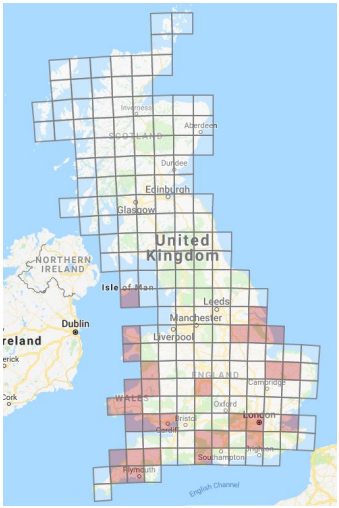
Practice Name

Practice Logo

NEMATODIRUS ALERT
HIGH RISK PERIOD



A meterological model based on soil temperature data shows lambs in your local area are at high risk of Nematodirus (N.battus) in the coming week. We are therefore sending you this NADIS alert. Nematodirosis causes diarrhoea, stunts growth in lambs and can result in lamb mortalities. It has a different life cycle to other gut worms of sheep and understanding this will help you to understand the risk on your farm and manage it.

YOUR PEAK HATCH PREDICTION

Your square	Your predicted peak hatch date	Altitude of the nearest weather station
143	13/04/2018	129 meters

Prediction is based on the altitude of your nearest weather station. If your farm is at a lower altitude, the peak hatch will be before the predicted date (100m lower will be approximately 1 week earlier, www.scops.org.uk), or later if higher. South facing fields will also be earlier. Disease usually occurs one to two weeks after peak hatch if grazing infected pasture, so contact your vet for optimum treatment time and product choice.

Signs to watch out for:

Only lambs are affected by Nematodirus; ewes do not show disease.

- Sudden onset of profuse watery diarrhoea in young lambs.
- Dirty 'back ends'.
- Lambs are dull and depressed, stop suckling, and rapidly develop a gaunt appearance with obvious dehydration and condition loss.
- Deaths from dehydration (early in an outbreak death can occur suddenly and without obvious signs of scour).
- Weight loss in the remaining lambs.

NADIS
Animal Health Skills

Plan for health – ask your vet for a veterinary health plan

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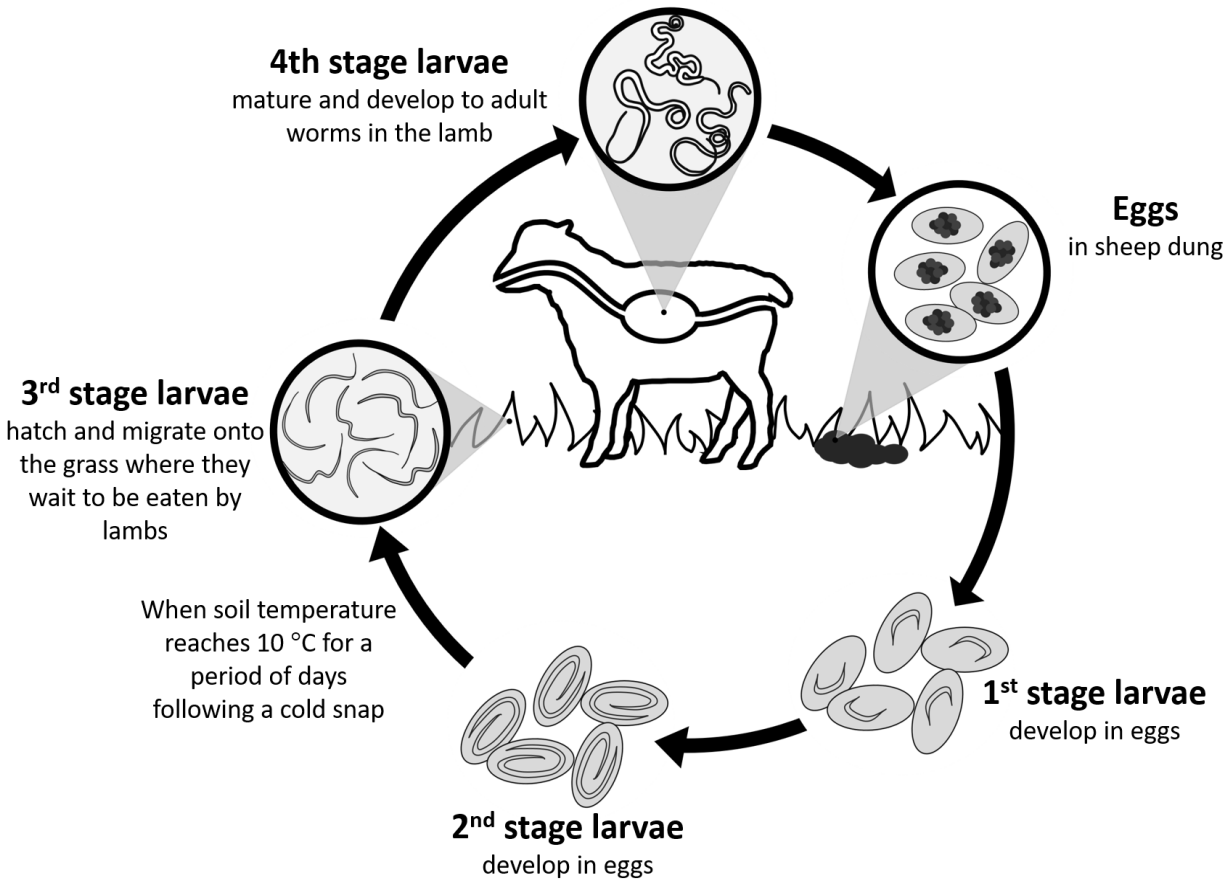
Local Weather – How it affects nematodirus

- N. battus has a unique life cycle. With most parasitic worms of sheep, eggs are passed out by infected sheep onto pasture, they then undergo development into larvae within the sheep's gut once it has been ingested. With N. battus, the **larvae develop on the pasture within an egg**.
- This larval stage is very resistant to extreme temperatures and survives even harsh winters on pasture within the egg.
- Larvae will hatch on mass after **a period of cold exposure followed by a temperature exceeding 10°C over a period of days**. This is predicted to occur within the next week in your local area.
- In wet and cool conditions, the larvae can survive for months on the pasture.
- This mass hatch occurs annually on permanent pasture, but the level of disease depends on it coinciding with grazing activity of young susceptible lambs.
- The cold spring this year has resulted in a delayed hatching of the larvae.
  - If lambs are 6-12 weeks old at the time of the hatch, they are likely to experience problems.
  - Lambs typically become immune to the effects of *N.battus* from exposure by about 3 months old and so are less likely to be affected if they are older when the mass hatch occurs.

Nematodirus life cycle



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PREVENTION & TREATMENT

- If possible, move lambs to clean grazing (ie. pasture that has not been grazed by lambs in the previous year).
- If lambs can't be moved to clean grazing, treat all at risk lambs.
- Repeat treatment 2 weeks later may be required. Consult with your vet to help make this decision.
- White (1-BZ) wormers are still the recommended treatment of choice. Some cases of suspected resistance in *N. battus* have been reported, however SCOPS advice is still to use a Group 1-BZ wormer unless other worm species are present and resistance has been confirmed.
- Some other commonly used wormers aren't as effective as white wormers against Nematodirus so please discuss fully with your vet if you are concerned about using 1-BZ wormers.
- Take a Faecal Egg Count 14 days after treatment to monitor if it has been effective.

The following factors will affect the risk of Nematodirus in lambs. Answer the questions for advice relating to your farm:

1. Are lambs grazing permanent pasture that was grazed by lambs in the last two years? YES ◯ NO ◯
2. Are most lambs in the group 6 -12 weeks old? YES ◯ NO ◯
3. Do lambs have dirty backends and other clinical signs? YES ◯ NO ◯

As local conditions can vary considerably, why not call the practice to discuss Nematodirus control measures and treatments relevant to your farm? The most effective way to control all parasites is as part of a veterinary parasite control plan so contact the practice for further details.

Contact Practice Contact

Call 01234 54321 Or Email practice@email.co.uk

The NADIS Parasite Forecast is based on detailed monthly Met Office data across the UK. Weather conditions directly affect the likely levels of parasite activity. Disease incidence will also depend on farm management, grazing and treatment history. Individual farm and field conditions may vary, so consult your vet as part of a veterinary parasite control plan.

NADIS Animal Health Skills

Plan for health – ask your vet for a veterinary health plan