

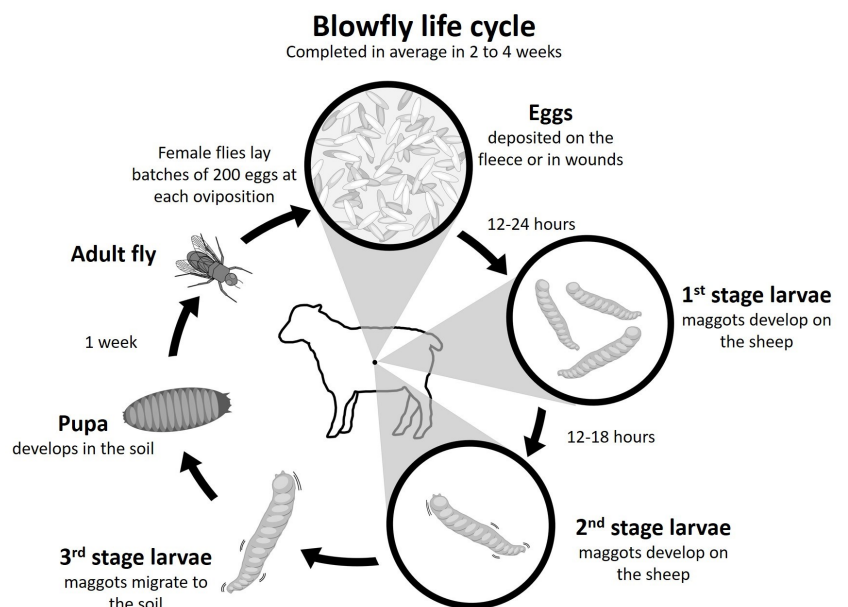
BLOWFLY STRIKE ALERT :

Based on assessment of daily weather conditions, your farm is in an area at of blowfly strike in sheep

The NADIS blowfly forecast suggests that weather conditions in your area mean that your flock is at of blowfly strike caused by female flies being active and laying eggs. We are therefore sending this as a reminder for early prevention and treatment of strike. Carcasses, dirty backends, foot rot lesions and open wounds are all good candidates for egg laying sites. Strike can develop very quickly, with the first maggots appearing within 12 hours of eggs being laid.

PREVENTION

- If a **preventative treatment** has not yet been applied, do so **ASAP**
 - By using preventative treatment early on in the blowfly season, the risk of strike will be dramatically reduced.
 - Seek advice from the practice regarding the most appropriate product, based on labour resources, age of your lambs during the risk period, withdrawal periods and anticipated slaughter
 - Remember application area and method will vary between products so remind yourself of instructions before use
- **Reduce dirty backends** - Dagging, crutching and timely shearing are all important.
- **Tail docking** lambs is a debated but accepted procedure to reduce strike in lowland flocks.
- **Control worm burdens.** Discuss with your vet an appropriate faecal egg counting and parasite control plan.
- **Manage the fly population:** Reducing the fly population early in the year has the greatest impact on the challenge to your flock for the grazing season. Flies can lay up to 3000 eggs in a 3 month period so populations can increase quickly
 - Inexpensive fly traps have been shown to reduce strike incidence by 80% in a season.
 - Consider how you site and manage muck heaps
 - Prompt disposal of deadstock
- In high risk periods, consider grazing your more exposed pastures which are less favourable to the flies.



BLOWFLY STRIKE ALERT :

TREATMENT

- **Prompt treatment** is a necessity if it is to be successful,
- Seriously consider euthanasia of severely affected or sick sheep for welfare reasons.
- **Clip** entire affected area
- **Apply effective product** to kill the maggots.
- Be aware that Insect Growth Regulators (IGRs) do NOT kill maggots.
- Seek advice from the practice as to effective products to use.
- Consider injecting non-steroidal pain relief and spray or injected antibiotic to cover secondary bacterial infection.
- Please call to discuss any treatments with your vet.



CHECK STOCK DAILY FOR ANY SIGNS OF STRIKE



- Discomfort
- Irritation/Restlessness
- Separation from flock
- Damp/Discoloured fleece
- Lameness and wounds
- Dull and sick animals
- Found dead animals

The earlier strike is recognised; the more effective treatment will be. Often the struck area is not obvious until the animal is handled and the fleece parted.

Answering the following questions can help you assess the risk of blowfly strike on your farm:

- | | | | |
|----|---|-----|----|
| 1. | Do your sheep have dirty backends due to poor worm control? | YES | NO |
| 2. | Do you check your sheep daily? | YES | NO |
| 3. | Do you use preventative treatments early in the season? | YES | NO |

BE PART OF THE SOLUTION

Help NADIS in conjunction with Elanco nationally assess and improve the surveillance of Blowfly Strike. If you see a case; please log it at: alerts.nadis.org.uk All data is confidential and not shared with your vets or any other bodies. The information will be used to build an active national map of when strike is occurring.

The NADIS Parasite Forecast is based on detailed monthly Met Office data for each of the 40sq km areas 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

See the live Blowfly Alert at alerts.nadis.org.uk

Or visit our full website at nadis.org.uk

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