

## Professional Veterinary Services for all Livestock Species

# CVP Large Animal News

## Parasite Focus

### Lungworm

Husk is caused by the lungworm *Dictyocaulus viviparus* and it manifests as a problem in cattle grazing grass during late summer to autumn.

Outbreaks are very unpredictable and can happen suddenly, causing serious respiratory disease in adult cows as well as youngstock.

Calves affected will often be seen coughing, neck outstretched, and be open mouthed breathing.

While it is more common in calves, you can also see it in older cattle if they have not previously been exposed.

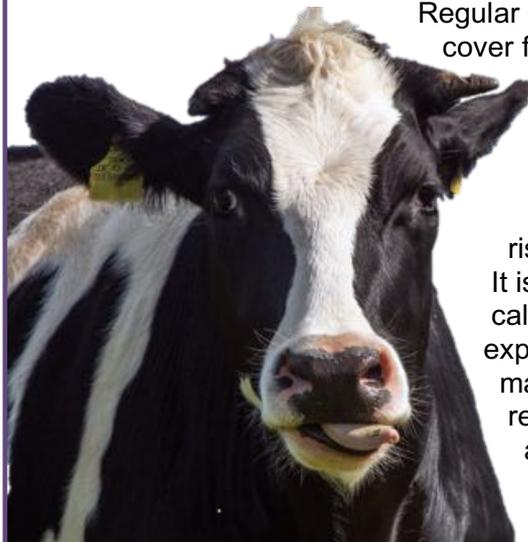
#### There are two main ways to control lungworm

- Vaccination
- Regular worming

Vaccination of young stock will protect the calves against lungworm and is most useful on farms with a high lungworm burden. The vaccine is two doses given 4-6 weeks apart.



Lungworm lifecycle



Regular oral worming will cover for both lungworm and roundworms.

At intervals of four weeks it will allow adequate protection during the risk period.

It is important for the calves to get some exposure so that they may build an immune response and hence avoid disease later in life.

## •Autumn Special Offers•

**Ivomec Classic** pour on  
1L £26.50 (ex vat) 5L £84.75 (ex vat)

**Ivomec Super** injection  
500ml £110 (ex vat). 1L £210 (ex vat)

**Other prices available on request.**

## •Cashback voucher•



**Pick up a cash back voucher at reception when you make your purchase. Valid until end November 2016.**

## New TB Tester Joins the CVP team!

**Florin - Liviu Conduruta MRCVS**  
OV-TB Tester



Florin joined the livestock team in 2016 as our dedicated TB Tester.

He graduated from the faculty of veterinary medicine in IASI (Romania) in 2010.

## Liver Fluke

Liver fluke, caused by the parasite *Fasciola hepatica*, can affect all grazing animals. It has a complex life cycle, involving an intermediate host, the mud snail. Both temperature and amount of rainfall influence levels of liver fluke in the environment.

**In sheep, there are three different clinical presentations of liver fluke disease,** depending on temperature, rainfall and how many fluke are ingested at one time.



### 1. Acute

- Disease occurs in Autumn and early Winter
- Caused by the migration of large numbers of immature flukes through the liver, which causes extensive damage to the liver and bleeding
- This type of liver fluke disease often results in **sudden death**. Other clinical signs include pale, weak, dull sheep with abdominal pain

### 2. Subacute

- Disease occurs in Autumn and Winter
- Clinical signs include **weight loss, ill-thrift and anaemia**

### 3. Chronic

- Disease occurs in late Winter to early Spring
- Caused by adult flukes in bile ducts and liver leading to damage
- Clinical signs include **decreased production and fertility**, bottle jaw and chronic weight loss



Cattle Liver

**In cattle, the most common presentation is the more subtle, chronic form.**

Clinical signs include decreased milk production and decreased growth rates.

## Diagnosis

Diagnosis of liver fluke is not straightforward and there are different methods that can be used.

**Blood samples** can be taken to identify liver damage, and can pick up antibodies indicating exposure to fluke. These antibodies appear 2-4 weeks after infection, and persist for many months.

**A faecal egg count** can identify fluke eggs, but egg production may be sporadic so repeated tests may be necessary. Feedback from slaughterhouses regarding condemned livers can also be a good way of identifying a fluke problem. For dairy herds, bulk milk tests can be carried out to indicate exposure to liver fluke.



Liver Flukes

## Treatment and control

Each farm should have a tailored approach to the treatment and control of fluke, based on various factors, so contact us for specific treatment protocols for you.

Treatment should be aimed at when fluke is prevalent, and not all year round. Different products act upon different stages of the fluke – early immature, late immature and adult, so it's important to use the right product at the right time.

When treating dairy cattle for liver fluke, remember that milk withholds must be considered. Treatment is often done in the dry period, and is usually aimed at adult fluke stages associated with chronic disease.

It is important to check liver fluke forecasts to be aware of high and low risk periods, and modify flukicide treatment plans accordingly.

**These can be found at**  
[www.nadis.org.uk/parasite-forecast.aspx](http://www.nadis.org.uk/parasite-forecast.aspx)