



Worms in Sheep

Monitoring for success

There have been several high counts on monitoring Worm Egg Counts (WEC) in the last month. In previous years, the cold weather would slow the lifecycle of the worms and lead to low burdens in December and January, but this has not been the case since before 2022. Anthelmintic resistance is a serious problem in the sheep sector and must be thought of as a long term problem. Good WEC sampling involves collecting around 10 fresh samples of roughly equal weight and bringing them to the practice the same day. We can then perform a faecal egg count analysis and this count can guide worming advice and acts as a pre-treatment value that can be used for comparison with a post-treatment check. Ewes rarely need worming at routine points in the year, and it can be detrimental to the resistance patterns on the farm to blanket worm pregnant ewes.



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ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE PATHWAY

Animal Health and Welfare Pathway (AHWP) and Endemics Follow-up is a government scheme aiming to improve animal health and disease testing on farms, with a tailored approach from your vets.

Who can apply? What does the scheme require?

For cattle, any person who has 11 or more beef or dairy cattle on their CPH. Blood sampling 5+ animals from each management group for BVD antibody is required, the best animals to test are those between 9-18 months of age - any sex.

For sheep, any person who has 21 or more sheep on their CPH. Dung sampling from 10-15 lambs are taken as individuals and then pooled at the lab for a Worm Egg Count (WEC). If appropriate, worming treatment will be recommended and a post-drench WEC should be undertaken.

After and alongside testing for the mandatory disease - (BVD antibody for cattle and WEC for sheep), you can carry out any other veterinary work and testing that is suitable for your farm (not just BVD or worms). Our vets will guide you through this process and write a report to summarise the AHWP and recommend any follow-up testing.

A follow-up visit can unlock further funding for disease testing and veterinary work.

How much funding is available?

£647 for a Pathway Review of beef cattle

£447 for a Pathway review of dairy cattle

£547 for a Pathway review of sheep

£258 for a (beef or dairy) cattle Endemics Follow-up if the Review BVD test results is negative and if a PI hunt is not carried out.

£945 for a beef cattle Endemics Follow-up if the Review BVD test results are positive - or - a PI hunt is carried out on the recommendations of the vet, despite a negative Pathway BVD result

£1,884 for a dairy cattle Endemics Follow-up if the Review BVD test results are positive - or - a PI hunt is carried out on the recommendations of the vet, despite a negative Pathway BVD result

£658 for and Endemics Follow-up of sheep

Speak to one of our farm vets for more information or to book a visit.