

Nematodirus battus



What are the effects of *Nematodirus battus*?

- Causes diarrhoea, weight loss, dehydration and death- Usually in lambs eating grass at 6-12 weeks of age- High-risk lambs are ones challenged concurrently by coccidiosis, newly weaned, triplets or had low colostrum intake- On pasture grazed by lambs last spring- Lamb-lamb spread, adults are immune- A sudden cold snap followed by a warm period causes the eggs to all hatch together after over-wintering on the pasture- The faecal egg count doesn't rise in a flock sometimes until days-weeks after exposure as it is larval stages causing disease, so a FEC in early spring can be a false negative if clinical signs are being seen- Acts rapidly and can cause high incidence of lamb mortality

What you can do to avoid *Nematodirus* affecting your flock:

- Don't graze at-risk lambs on pasture that had lambs on last spring- Use a white wormer (benzimidazole) and - Check the SCOPS *Nematodirus* forecast <https://www.scops.org.uk/forecasts/nematodirus-forecast>]- Lancashire is currently low risk (as of 27/03/2020)