



Worming Treatment Check (WTC) Guide for Private Veterinarians, with clients in England

Background: *The Animal Health and Welfare Pathway* supports continued improvements in farm animal health and welfare in England. The first step on the Pathway, *the Annual Health and Welfare Review*, is now ready to be rolled out and is a funded annual visit from a vet or a vet lead team. It can be undertaken whenever it works for the farmer. It will allow the farmer and their vet to concentrate on their animals' specific health and welfare priorities. During the visit, the vet will provide bespoke advice and arrange some diagnostic testing around endemic diseases — these were agreed by the farmers and vets who helped to design the Pathway. *The Worming Treatment Check* is the chosen test for sheep flocks. It is recommended that vets send samples to approved laboratories for testing. The list can be found here: <https://apply-for-an-annual-health-and-welfare-review.defra.gov.uk/apply/labs-sheep>

Further details on the pathway and vet visits can be found here: [Animal Health and Welfare Pathway - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk) and [The Annual Health and Welfare Review: rolling out yearly vet visits - Farming \(blog.gov.uk\)](http://blog.gov.uk)

Information for practices submitting to APHA:

- Email a request for a Worming Treatment Check (WTC) sampling kit, to APHA VIC Carmarthen General Mailbox Carmarthen@apha.gov.uk
- Upon receipt of the request, APHA Carmarthen will provide 15 sample pots for the collection of 10, preferably 15 faecal samples pre-treatment from a group of lambs (**<12 months-old, sampling ewes is contrary to SCOPS advice**). A further 15 sample pots will be sent for the collection of the 10-15 faecal samples post-treatment, if a positive count resulted from the pre-treatment test samples. Each set of sample pots will be accompanied by a copy of the Worming Treatment Check Test Submission Form.
- The samples will be tested using the Worming Treatment Check test (TC1668)
- When post treatment samples are submitted these should be cross referenced using the submission number provided on the preliminary report.
- To get the best result, consider monitoring faecal egg counts in advance and only start the WTC test when there is an egg count high enough to indicate the need for treatment. Figure 1 (see below) provides a basic guide to seasonal worm egg production indicating suitable times for the Worm Treatment Check to be completed. Please bear in mind that this shows the general trend – roundworms are influenced by climate and therefore timings vary throughout the country. Also refer to the SCOPS guidance which can be found here: [Worming Treatment Check \(scops.org.uk\)](http://scops.org.uk) and [user-guide-to-the-sheep-worming-treatment-check-v2.pdf \(scops.org.uk\)](http://scops.org.uk) Every farm/flock should be considered on an individual basis.
- The current cost of the Worming Treatment Check test (TC1668) can be found here: [Disease Surveillance Tests \(vla.gov.uk\)](http://vla.gov.uk)
- Please contact your local APHA Veterinary Investigation Centre if you have any queries.

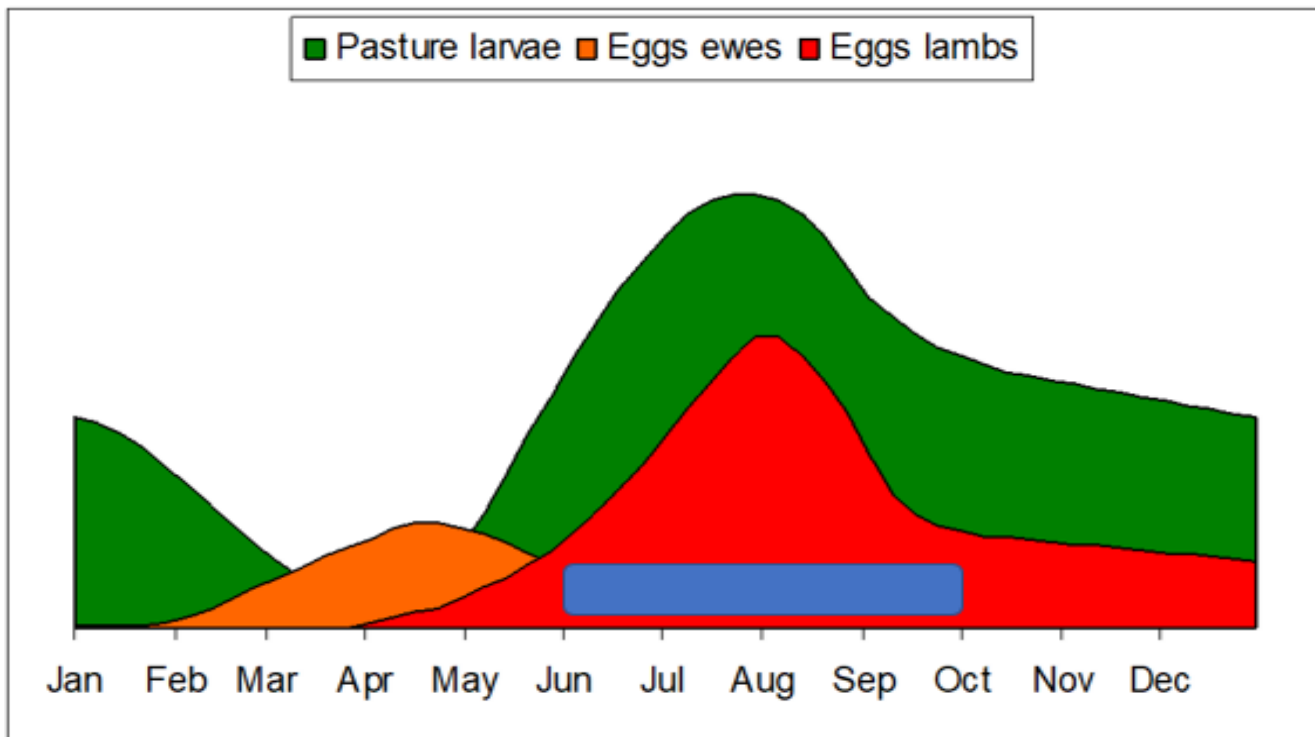


Figure 1. Blue bar indicates recommended period during which to do the Worm Treatment Check. Please bear in mind that this shows the general trend – roundworms are influenced by climate and therefore timings vary throughout the country. Also refer to the SCOPS guidance. Every farm/flock should be considered on an individual basis.

Steps and Sampling Timeline

Request a WTC sampling kit from APHA VIC Carmarthen

Day	Action
0	Collect 10, preferably 15 individual faecal samples from the group of lambs (<12 mnths-old). * Administer the wormer Complete submission form and submit with samples.
7	If Yellow (2-LV) wormer used Collect 15 individual faecal samples from the same group of lambs. Complete submission form and submit with samples.
14	If other (1-BZ, 3-ML, 4-AD, or 5-SI) wormers were used Collect 15 individual faecal samples from the same group of lambs. Complete submission form and submit with samples.
Results available	Discuss results with farmer

*Pre-treatment samples can be collected the day before if needed. Sampling ewes is contrary to SCOPS advice. Group should not have received any anthelmintic treatment in the previous 4 weeks.

Summary of faecal sampling method for Worming Treatment Check

1. Only take freshly deposited faeces (ideally still warm).
2. Collect at least 5 g of faeces / ~7 faecal pellets per individual lamb. The more the better!
3. 10, preferably 15 individual samples in individual containers. This allows the lab to weigh each sample and perform the composite test (TC1668) using the same amount of faeces for all samples provided.
4. Samples should be from 10 different lambs, preferably 15 (< 12 months-old, sampling ewes is contrary to SCOPS advice). Group should not have received any anthelmintic treatment in the previous 4 weeks.
5. Try to avoid collecting parts of the sample touching the soil directly, because the soil may contain nematode eggs. Also avoid collecting grass and stones as this can change the sample weight.
6. Containers should be clearly labelled.
7. Samples should be posted on the same day as collection to APHA VIC Carmarthen. If not sent immediately, store hygienically in a refrigerator or cool box (for no more than a day or two).
8. Ideally aim to collect samples at the beginning of the week. Do not post on a Friday.
9. Use and fully complete the specific Worming Treatment Check Test Submission Form.
10. Post-treatment sample should be **crossed referenced** with the **submission number of the preliminary report**.