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# Implementation of sustainable parasite control strategies on extensive sheep farms

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#### Extensive sheep farming in the UK





- > Improved pastures
- Early lambing
- Sheep more accessible for handling
- More economically viable



- Rough grazing (minimal improved)
- Late lambing
- Difficult to gather sheep

Well established data on parasite challenge + anthelmintic resistance

Little known about parasite challenge & anthelmintic resistance

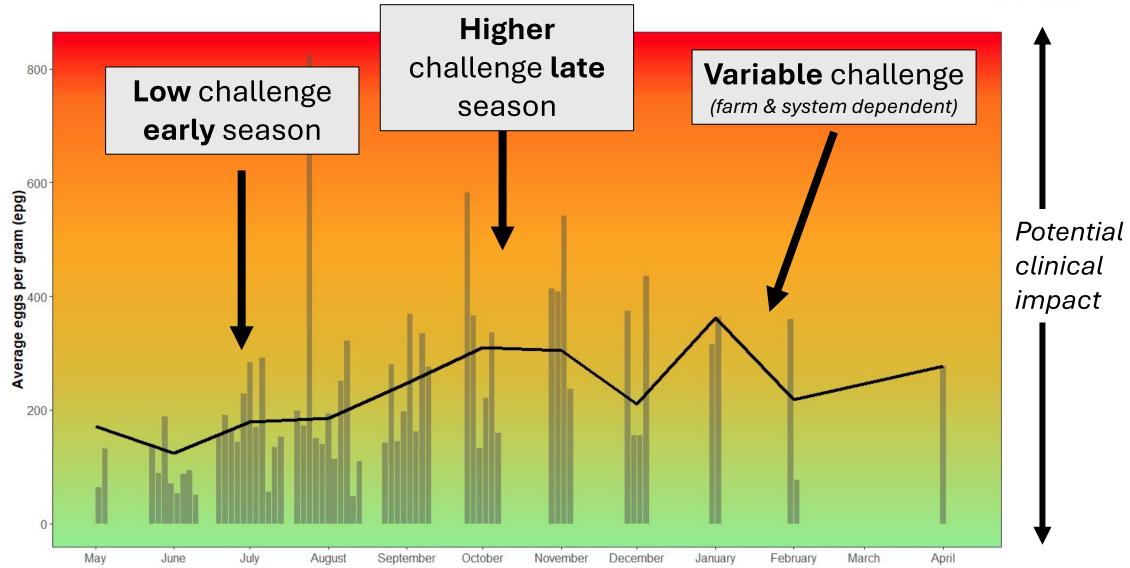
#### Is there a parasite challenge on extensive farms?





## Extensive farms **do** face a **production impacting** parasite challenge

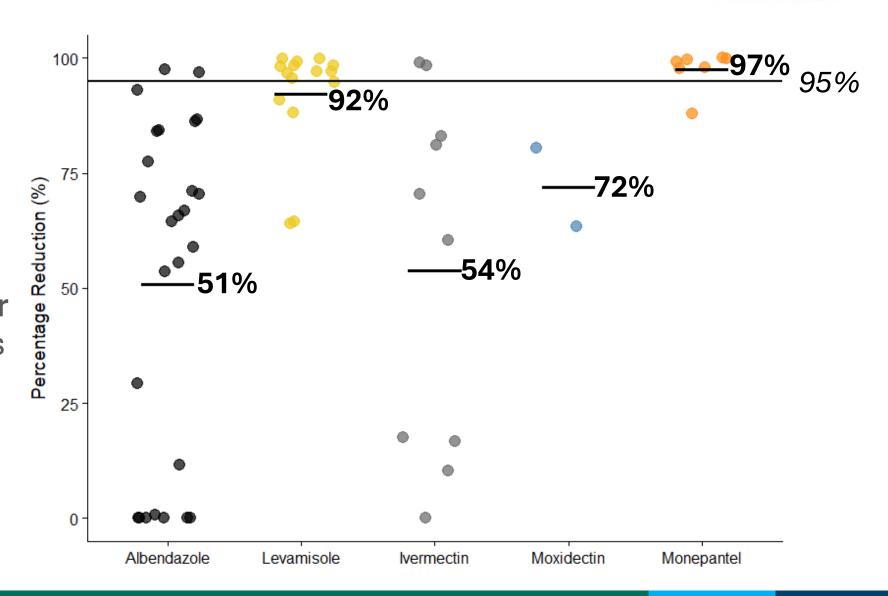




#### Anthelmintic resistance on extensive farms



- > **75** efficacy tests
- All farms had resistance to one or more anthelmintics



## Can we improve parasite management on extensive farms?



#### Design of individual solutions



Workshop to review each farm's FEC, efficacy & management data to develop individual solutions based on existing control strategies

FEC monitoring – ewes postlambing Targeted FEC monitoring

Low pre-treatment FECs

Increased FEC monitoring - *lambs* 

FEC monitoring – ewes pre-mating

FEC monitoring – interaction between flocks

High FECs on improved grazing

Targeted treatment when moving in-bye

Use of effective anthelmintics

**Treatment failure** 

Calibration of dosing equipment

Use of species information to target treatments

Weight-based targeted selective treatment of lambs

#### Preserving susceptible populations

Monitor interaction between holdings

Leaving proportion untreated

### FECs viewed as practical solution



#### Used/did not use?

Farmer A – Y

Farmer D - Y

Farmer C - Y

Farmer E - Y

Farmer H – Offline

Farmer I - Y

#### Increased FEC monitoring

#### **Positive**

Negative

Allows r decisio Quick &

All agree –
Allows more informed decisions.
Quick & easier to do.

Farmer C– Good to have a plan for sampling – what to do and when. Plan needs to work for system.

Farmer D – Allows informed decision making

Farmers A & I – Lets you monitor more easily

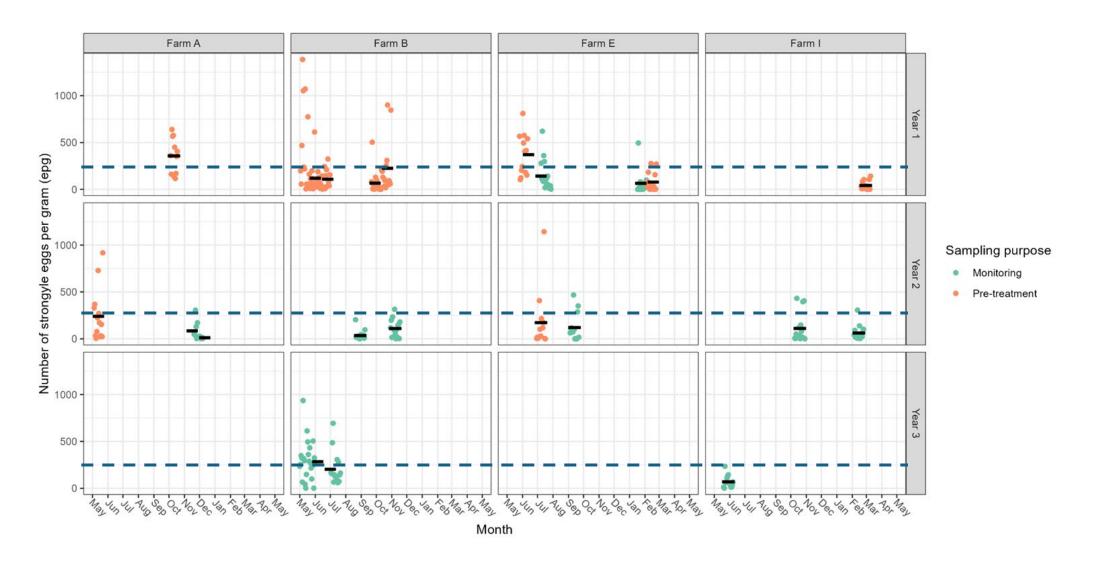
Farmers A & E– Length of time between sending results away and getting results back – particular issue for remote areas Farmer C – not easy if you don't have the correct **equipment**.

Farmer E – Difficult to access training

## -ow Impact

### Increased FEC monitoring in ewes





### Grazing-based strategies less practical



#### Used/did not use?

Farmer A – Y/N depend on time of year

Farmer D - N

Farmer C - N

Farmer E - Y

Farmer H - Offline

Farmer I – Y/N

Grazing contaminated pastures with other livestock

**Positive** 

**Negative** 

Farmer I – **Weather** dependent – ground damage/poaching etc.

High Impact

Farmer E – Cattle grazing for better usage of land



Farmers C & D – Grazing competition between different types of stock – best ground to growing lambs... difficult to balance

Farmer C – A lot of the ground **not suitable** for grazing cattle

Farmer C – Sheep only

Low Impact

Farmer A – **Timing** for maximum impact.

Farmer E – Cattle: increased fencing costs

#### Grazing structure on extensive farms





#### Summary



- Implementation of sustainable control practices on nine farms for two years
- There is a need for sustainable control on extensive farms
- Good uptake of FEC monitoring on extensive farms
- Accessibility of solutions dependent on farm structure



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