

VET ADVICE ON TREATING FLUKE

- * Farmers who have killed all stages of fluke at housing (by double treating or delaying treatment to ensure all stages of fluke have been killed) are being advised to treat again 10 weeks post-turnout to remove adult fluke and minimise pasture contamination this spring.
- * However, if animals haven't been treated with a flukicide at housing, or if the product used hasn't effectively killed all stages of fluke, farmers should treat before turnout to prevent them excreting eggs on to the pasture and adding to the problem.
- * There are two reasons why the product may not have worked this season; fluke worms could

either be resistant, and there isn't a product which kills all stages of fluke.

- * To be certain the product has worked farmers should conduct faecal egg counts or request liver feedback from abattoirs.
- * Out-wintered cattle should be treated now to remove infection.
- * It is paramount farmers speak with their vet and implement a tailored parasite control programme for the forthcoming grazing season to ensure they are treating effectively.

Information provided by practicing farm vet Robert Howe, of Lambert Leonard and May Farm Vets, in Lancashire (part of XL Vets).