

## BETTER Farm update July 2019

Frank Campion

### Animal & Grassland Research & Innovation Centre

Weaning of lambs on the lowland flocks is well under way with most of the flocks hoping to have weaned by early July with lambs at approximately 14 weeks of age. Once weaned, lambs will graze to a residual of 5.5-6cm on grazing paddocks with the dry ewes used to remove the remainder down to a residual of 4cm. Many of the farms recorded very high grass growth rates in early June which combined with the relatively wet weather made grazing conditions difficult for some. The rain also slowed down silage cutting and removal of excess paddocks for silage thus slowing down the return of these paddocks into the grazing rotation. Some of the flocks have begun selling lambs with the majority of lambs fit so far mainly being singles and pet lambs finished indoors.

Most of the flocks dosed using either a group 2 –LV or 3-ML product for *Trichostrongylus* based on the result of FECPAK analysis in early to mid-June. A count of greater than 500 eggs is considered the threshold for dosing. A regular check will be kept on FECPAK counts throughout the summer and lambs dosed in accordance with the results. This year very careful attention is being paid to the anthelmintic usage on the farms to identify resistance issues and extend the effectiveness of the anthelmintic types that do work. Rumen fluke was also detected on two of the heavier farms in the programme. Ewes were dosed in response to these egg counts but it is important that fluke dosing is only carried out where necessary and following faecal egg count analysis where possible.

**Table 1.** Mean, minimum and maximum egg counts from FECPAK analysis carried out during the week of June 3rd

	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Min</b>	<b>Max</b>
<b>Trichostrongylus</b>	400	120	750