

The benefits of regular on farm FEC testing

Survey Data

SURVEY DETAILS:

- Questionnaire was sent to 199 FECPAK users who have sheep and / or cattle
- Received 49 responses
- Results supported findings from project farmers

SUMMARY RESULTS:

- 74% of respondents had decreased the number of treatment to lambs (between 20% and 75% decrease)
- 67% had changed the timing of treatments to lambs
- 41% of FECPAK users had changed their worming policy for adult ewes at mating AND at lambing
- 91% claimed to have a better understanding of the parasite situation on their farms
- 79% of clients said that using regular faecal egg counting had been of financial benefit to their business



General findings:

- 23% of users have confirmed drench resistance and 12% of users have suspected drench resistance after checking drench efficacy's using FECPAK
- 37% of users claim that monitoring FEC and altering their worm control programme has improved animal performance.
- 29% of users have identified unexpected problems as a result of FEC monitoring.

Utilising Faecal Egg Counts

How many FEC samples do users test in a year?

- 25% of clients carry out 30 or more FEC tests per year

No. Of tests	< 10	10 - 30	30 - 50	50 - 100	>100
% Users	28	47	13	6	6

Which stock class is FEC used on most? (% of users)

- Most users use FECPAK to monitor parasites in lambs

	Regularly	Occasionally	None
Lambs	72	28	0
Repl. Ewe Lambs	50	48	3
Adult Ewes	11	63	26
Young Cattle	12	26	62
Adult Cattle	0	12	88

How long do users take to test 1 sample?

- 77% of users take 20 minutes or less to test 1 sample

Time (Mins)	10	10 - 20	20 - 30	30 - 40	>40
% Users	26	51	23	2	0

How easy do users find the FECPAK system to use?

- 83% of users had received training. The 2 users who found it difficult have not attended a training course.

	V Easy	Easy	OK	Difficult	V Difficult
% Users	19	57	21	4	0

Cattle:

- Only 38% of users who have cattle, monitor egg counts in them
- 42% say that they have reduced cattle treatments:-
 - 2 users reduced by 40% & 50% respectively
 - 1 user cut out at least 1 wormer per head across 600 cattle
 - 1 user has moved away from wormer boluses for young stock and monitors FEC – **this more than paid for the FECPAK within 1 year**

Comments received in the survey

"The FECPAK is more of an investment against resistance however we will get the money invested back over time"

"We have reduced labour and now have more targeted worming. We haven't re-paid the cost of the kit yet but we're getting there"

"FECPAK is good for morale as I feel I have a handle on the challenge and can take action when necessary"

"I need to work further with my vet to develop a strategy - then I will fully utilise FECPAK"

"I would use the FECPAK more often if it wasn't shared as live a bit far from where the group kit is kept"

"FECPAK has been a huge benefit to the business – I'm back in control of the worm situation on my farm"