

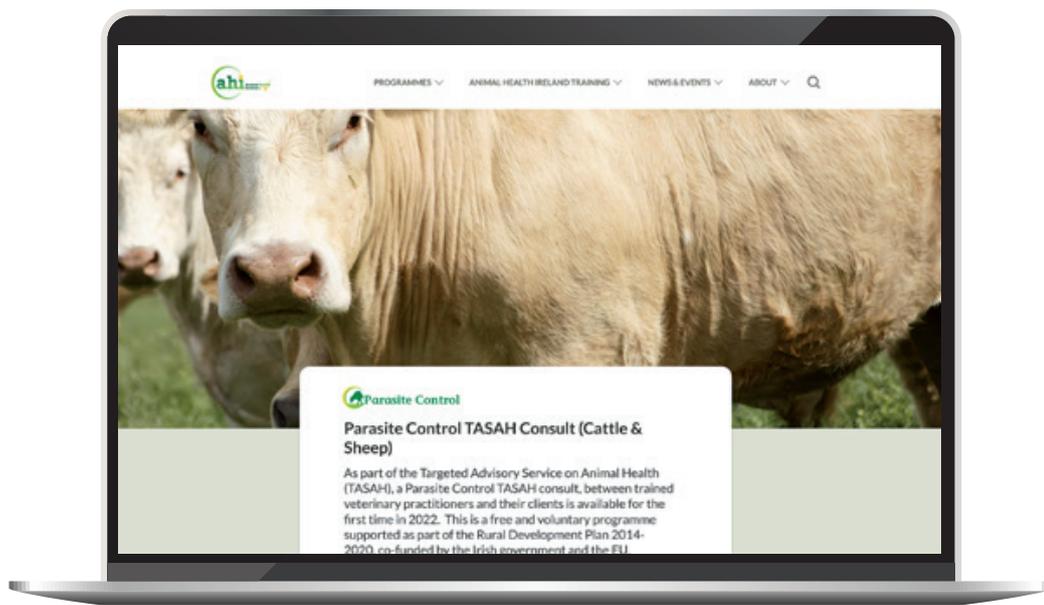
# Parasite Control TASAHA: a funded activity for planning for parasite control in the grazing season

Natascha Meunier, Beef HealthCheck Programme Manager

As animals go to grass they are exposed to parasitic worms and risk developing clinical signs such as coughing or scouring. Parasitic worms can also affect production with reduced growth rates, reduced fertility and decreased milk yields. Affected animals can be treated, but a comprehensive parasite control plan can help prevent production losses before obvious clinical signs are seen. Anthelmintic (wormer) resistance is also becoming an increasing problem in Ireland, particularly for sheep worms. Resistance is present when wormers don't kill their target worms as intended. This can be a gradual process on farm with treatments becoming less effective over time. A drench test can help indicate if there might be a problem with resistance to certain wormers. Your veterinary practitioner can give advice on this.

A newly developed Parasite Control Targeted Advisory Service on Animal Health (TASAHA) has now been launched for 2022. The purpose of the Parasite Control TASAHA is to facilitate discussions and planning between farmers and their veterinary practitioners on the best practices around parasite control and trying to minimise the further development of anthelmintic resistance. Parasite control is a complex problem and requires planning tailored to specific farms and production systems. For this reason, a parasite control plan should consider parasite factors, weather, testing, grazing and farm management for an individual farm.

The funded Parasite Control TASAHA will assist farmers by providing a voluntary veterinary farm visit and two faecal egg counts and is open to all cattle and sheep farms in Ireland. Farmers can register for the activity on the AHI website and they will need to nominate a trained participating veterinary practitioner to conduct the visit. More information on the programme and how to register is available on the AHI website: [Click here](#).



A faecal egg count (FEC) can be a useful tool to better understand the levels of parasite contamination on the pasture and whether wormer treatment is necessary for both cattle and sheep. It tests if there are worm eggs, or larvae, in a dung sample from livestock and can also be used to detect coccidia oocysts. It is advised to do a regular FEC for gut worms in first season grazing calves from two months after turn-out as part of a parasite control plan. First season grazing calves initially have no immunity to parasites and are at high risk of clinical, as well as subclinical gut worm infestations. Suckler calves are at low risk until late in the season at weaning when their grass uptake increases. All animals should be monitored closely for coughing, usually the first sign of lungworm. It is rare for adult cattle to show any clinical signs of gut worm infestation, although lungworm can be a concern if they are exposed to very contaminated pastures or have not developed a good immunity to the lungworm.



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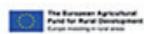
## PARASITE CONTROL TASAH CONSULT

A newly developed Parasite Control Targeted Advisory Service on Animal Health (TASAH) has now been launched for 2022. This new service is part of the Rural Development Plan 2014-2020, co-funded by the Irish government and the EU. The purpose of the Parasite Control TASAH is to facilitate discussions and planning between farmers and their veterinary practitioners on the best practices around parasite control and trying to minimise the further development of anthelmintic resistance. Resistance is a growing concern and is considered present when wormers no longer kill the target parasites and have become less effective. Parasite resistance and control is a complex problem and requires planning tailored to specific farms. A 'one size fits all' approach is not effective for parasite control. For this reason, AHI encourages a parasite control plan that considers parasite factors, weather, testing, grazing and farm management for an individual farm.

The Parasite Control TASAH can assist farmers by funding a veterinary farm visit and two faecal egg counts and is open to all cattle and sheep farms in Ireland. More information on the programme and how to register is available on the AHI website.

[Click here to register](#)



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