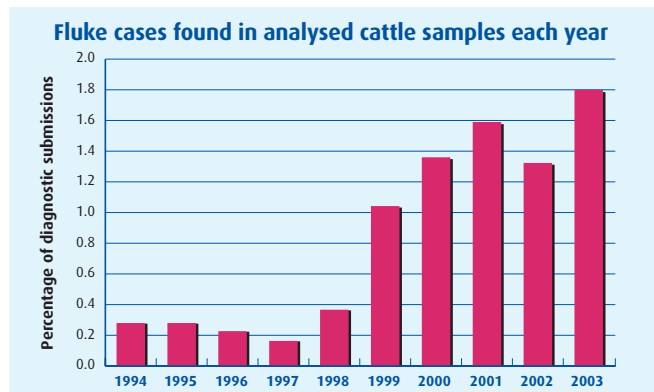




# Frequently asked questions

## Why should I treat my stock for liver fluke?

- ◆ Based on VLA sample submissions, the incidence of fluke infestation in the UK has increased **4 fold** in the last decade.



(Statistics courtesy of the VIDA Database and the Veterinary Laboratories Agency – Weybridge)

- ◆ Milder and wetter weather has increased the prevalence of liver fluke, meaning that this parasite must now be considered a threat, even in areas where it has not been a problem before<sup>1</sup>.

## How widespread is fluke in the UK? Are my animals at risk?

- ◆ In the period 2002-2003, 17% of all cattle livers were condemned in UK abattoirs.
- ◆ In 2003, it was estimated from analysis of bulk milk samples that **48% of English dairy herds** and **86% of Welsh dairy herds** had been exposed to significant fluke damage<sup>2</sup>.
- ◆ Generally, the further West you are located, the higher the rainfall and the greater the risk to your stock from fluke.



## Are there times in the year when my cattle are particularly at risk?

There are two main times of the year when cattle are exposed to infection:

### ◆ **Early Summer, on high risk farms**

A flush of infective fluke stages may be produced in the Spring, after hibernating within snails over the previous Winter. A flush in Spring will cause Summer infections in the grazing cattle.

### ◆ **Autumn/Winter – the most significant period**

Infective stages of fluke appear on grass towards the end of August and increasing numbers will be produced throughout September and October.

## What happens if my cattle are infected?

Chronic infections will result in reduced weight gain, loss of body condition, poor appetite and feed conversion rates, reduced reproductive performance and increased susceptibility to other diseases. Livers will be condemned at slaughter.

Recent data from Scotland<sup>3</sup> estimates that fluke infection depresses live weight gain between 0.5 kg and 1.2 kg per week, which can lead to a 10-15% reduction in market value per animal. In dairy cows, fluke infections can reduce calving rate by 30% and milk yield by 0.5kg per day.

## When should I treat for best effect?

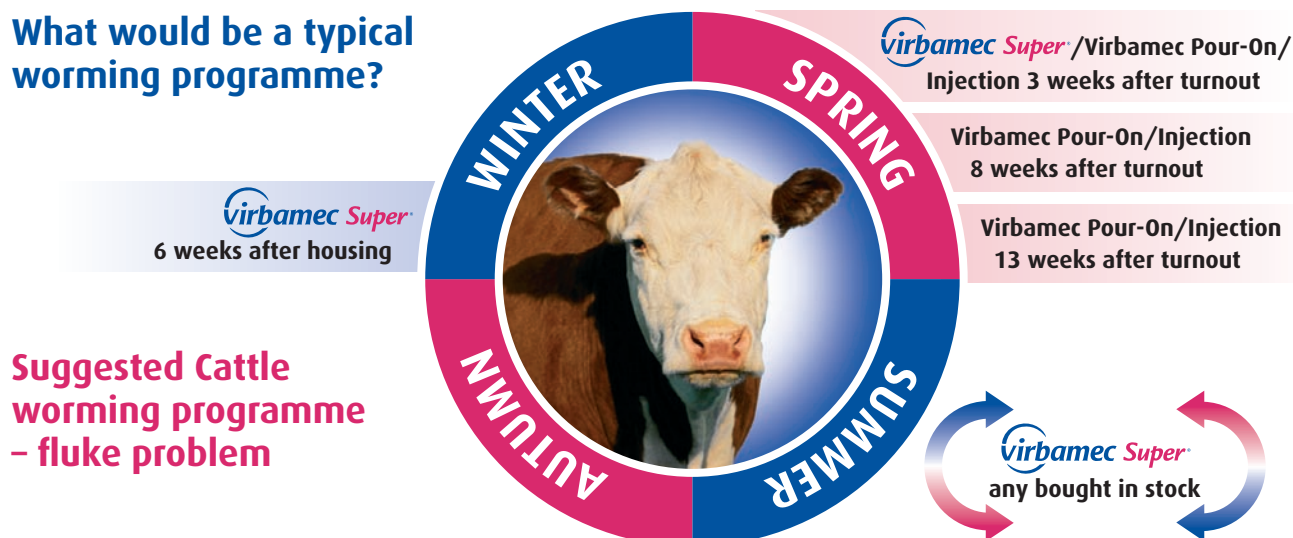
### **Beef Cattle and Dairy Replacement Heifers:**

- ◆ On high risk farms, treat during the Spring, to prevent pasture contamination with fluke eggs, from fluke that were immature during the Autumn dosing.
- ◆ Treat at housing, or approximately 6 weeks after housing, depending upon the time of year.
- ◆ Treat out-wintered stock during mid winter.

*continued overleaf*

# Virbamec Super®

## What would be a typical worming programme?



## Suggested Cattle worming programme – fluke problem

## How many doses per pack will I get?

**Dosing Guide:** At the recommended dosage level of **1 ml per 50 kg** bodyweight.

Bodyweight (kg)	Dose volume (ml)	Approximate doses available per pack size		
		200 ml pack	500 ml pack	1 Litre pack
Up to 50	1.0	200	500	1000
51-100	2.0	100	250	500
101-150	3.0	66	166	332
151-200	4.0	50	125	250
201-250	5.0	40	100	200
251-300	6.0	33	83	166
301-350	7.0	28	71	142
351-400	8.0	25	62	124
401-450	9.0	22	55	110
451-500	10.0	20	50	100
501-550	11.0	18	45	90
551-600	12.0	16	41	83

## Consumer Safety:

**Meat Withdrawal:** To comply with current European regulations regarding potential chemical residues in meat, particularly at the site of injection, **Virbamec Super** has a meat withdrawal period of **80 days**, giving the farmer and the consumer complete peace of mind.

## References:

- 1 Statistics courtesy of the VIDA Database and the Veterinary Laboratories Agency – Weybridge
- 2 Prevalence of *Fasciola hepatica* in dairy herds in England and Wales measured with an ELISA applied to bulk-tank milk (Salimi-Bejestani, Daniel et al The Veterinary Record 156, 729-731 June 4, 2005)
- 3 Quality Meat Scotland – Liver Fluke Disease in Cattle (November 2005)