****News Release
28 September 2022

*For immediate use*

**New liver fluke control manual launches this autumn**

*In a joint levy-body effort, QMS, AHDB and HCC have produced a new manual for the control of liver fluke in grazing livestock.*

With autumn upon us, now is an ideal time to prioritise fluke on your farm, as levels of infective cysts peak on pasture and increase the risk of infection to grazing livestock. Liver fluke can have a devastating effect on the health and welfare of grazing livestock and historically, control has relied heavily on the routine blanket use of flukicide treatments. This manual has been created to highlight the latest research and advice on control practices to protect livestock from potential damage posed by liver fluke.

The five farmer case studies from across Great Britain, two of which focus on Scottish farms, cover a variety of management systems and fluke risk levels. The farmers share their fluke history, main challenges and control strategies given the situation in their flock or herd. The case studies also show how working with your vet to apply testing and treatment approaches tailored to your farm achieves optimum results.

Key areas covered are:

* On-farm risk assessment to talk through with your vet
* Sustainable use of flukicides to reduce parasite resistance
* Farm management options to reduce fluke risk
* Reducing the impact that flukicides may have on the environment

Animal Health and Welfare Manager at QMS, Eilidh Corr, explains the benefits this new release can bring your farm and the wider industry:

“The risk posed by liver fluke is unpredictable, with significant variation between fields, between farms, and between years. Coupled with the ongoing challenge of parasite resistance, effective control of liver fluke needs individual risk assessment, and now is the ideal time to carry this out.

“The new guide brings together evidence-based expert guidance, which will help farmers implement successful disease control as part of a sustainable and integrated parasite management plan. We’re grateful for the expert contributions of Lesley Stubbings, Philip Skuce and Diana Williams in developing this valuable resource.”

For more information, a monthly liver fluke forecast is available through [NADIS](https://nadis.org.uk/parasite-forecast/), whilst the [SCOPS](https://www.scops.org.uk/) and [COWS](https://www.cattleparasites.org.uk/) websites cover species specific advice.

The manual is available to view online on the QMS website (<https://www.qmscotland.co.uk/>).

**/ENDS**

**Notes to editors:**

QMS is the public body responsible for promoting the PGI labelled Scotch Beef and Scotch Lamb brands in the UK and abroad and also promoting Scottish pork products under the Specially Selected Pork logo.

Please note that the use of the word Scotch in the Scotch Beef PGI and Scotch Lamb PGI brands is correct and should not be substituted for an alternative such as Scots or Scottish. The history of the use of the word Scotch in this way, traces back to the 18th century.

QMS also helps the Scottish red meat sector improve its sustainability, efficiency and profitability and maximise its contribution to Scotland's economy.

The quality assurance schemes run by QMS cover more than 90% of livestock farmed for red meat in Scotland. They offer consumers in the UK and overseas the legal guarantee that the meat they buy has come from animals that have spent their whole lives being raised to some of the world’s strictest welfare standards.

Scotland’s beef, lamb and pork producers make an important contribution to the country’s economic, social and environmental sustainability, contributing over £2 billion to the annual GDP of Scotland and supporting around 50,000 jobs (many in fragile rural areas) in the farming, agricultural supply and processing sectors.

For more information visit www.qmscotland.co.uk or follow QMS on Facebook or Twitter.