



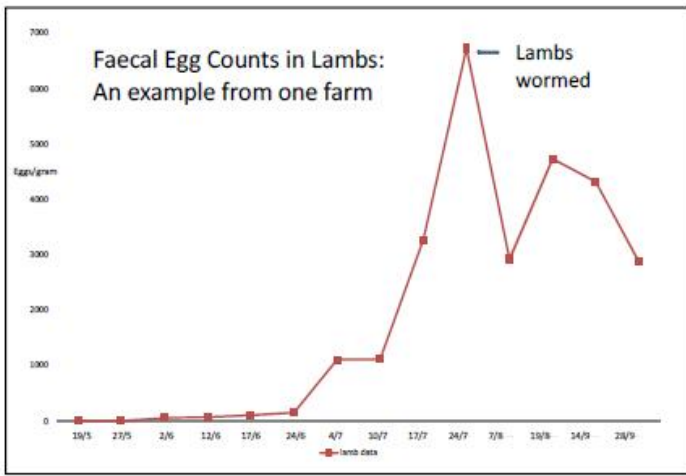
# BARBERPOLE WORM IN NOVA SCOTIA

OCTOBER 2013



How big a problem is it?  
 How can I tell when I have a problem?  
 What can I do about it?

Barberpole worm (*Haemonchus*) is a serious pathogen. It is very common, and increasingly resistant to available wormers



**What to look for:**

- The colour of the lower eyelid: pale pink or white (anaemic)
- Loss of condition
- Bottle jaw: this is seen in heavy infections
- This worm causes blood loss. It does not cause scouring

- Levels of infection in lambs rise rapidly from late June onward, throughout the summer
- Resistance to one or more wormers was seen in 7 of 8 farms sampled
- Ewes have high worm counts after lambing, for 2-3 months, and can be severely affected



Bottle jaw

This eyelid is white

Photos: D. Thibault

This lamb has a severe infection with barberpole worm



**What are the options?**

- Monitor lambs often: eyelid colour, weight gain, faecal egg counts
- Monitor ewes after lambing, especially young ewes
- Wean lambs onto clean grazing if possible
- Do not dose all the flock at once, especially in winter; leave a few untreated
- Do not dose and move immediately to clean pasture

**IF ANY OF THESE SYMPTOMS APPEAR CONSULT YOUR VETERINARIAN FOR ADVICE**

For more information:  
 Handbook for the Control of Internal Parasites of Sheep and Goats  
[http://www.uoguelph.ca/~pmenzies/Handbook\\_Home.html](http://www.uoguelph.ca/~pmenzies/Handbook_Home.html)

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