

Major Parasites of Cattle

Protozoa

- Cryptosporidium and coccidia
- Neonates (cryptosporidium) and calves (coccidia) at risk
- Immunity usually develops in 3-6 months
- **Prevention**
 - Buy calves >2 weeks old
 - Hygiene
 - Prophalactics

Worms

- Lung and gut worms
- First grazing season highest risk
- Immunity usually develops in 1-2 years
- **Prevention**
 - Grazing management
 - Anthelmintic treatment

Fluke

- Liver and rumen fluke
- Cattle of all ages at risk, particularly in wet areas
- Immunity does not readily develop
- **Prevention**
 - Grazing management
 - Anthelmintic treatment

Take home messages

- Identify the major parasites present on your farm and implement appropriate control strategies
- Include a parasite control in your herd health plan developed with your vet