

Farmers record low worm egg counts after dry spring

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Farmers are reporting some of the lowest levels of parasites as the prolonged dry weather forces parasites into a state of dormancy.

However, experts are warning there could be a spike in worm cases now rain has arrived in some parts of the UK.



South West: Peter Baber

*According to results from a network of 26 farms involved in regularly monitoring worm egg counts as part of the **Zoetis Parasite Watch Scheme**, there have been no high cases in recent weeks.*

The only cases reported were from a handful of farms earlier this year in March and April.

According to sheep farmer Peter Baber, of

Weir Park Farm, Christow, Exeter, the worm challenge has been a lot less this year than previous years, with just a low-level challenge earlier in spring and some suspected nematodirus.

He says: "It does feel a bit aseasonal like we are a lot later in summer. We did treat some lambs on extremely high-risk nematodirus pastures earlier in the year.

"We do not have resistance to the wormer used, so that treatment combined with the dry weather may have caused a lower egg count.

"With the season being earlier than normal, we are monitoring egg counts earlier every 10-14 days.

"However, as soon as we get rain, I am expecting an eruption of worms, so that means I have to be constantly aware and anticipating what is happening."