



Highgate Veterinary Clinic

Cattle Worming Special - April 2008

Cattle worming special



Turnout must now be just around the corner so your planned pre turnout treatments such as Huskvac should be well under way. Deciding which worming strategy and product to use is a confusing. Many of you have used the same regime successfully for many years but new products appear and old ones become less useful. Circumstances may change e.g. less staff or you may now be aiming for higher growth targets. A change in stocking density may affect worm burdens. Therefore it's always worth reviewing worming policy in your youngstock.

The ideal should be to treat as little as possible to maximise weight gains and avoid disease but at the same time allowing the calf's immunity to worms to develop in the first season so that worming is unnecessary in the subsequent grazing seasons.

First, choosing a wormer to use should be based on what chemical works. Worm resistance is widespread in sheep worm species but will become more significant in cattle if care is not taken in choosing when and how often to treat. SAC have developed a new advisory policy called SCOPS to help farmers reduce the risk of worm resistance and we can advise you on how to reduce the chances of wormer resistance in your herd.

So what choices have you got? The accompanying table gives you a quick reference regarding the types of wormers and recommended worming regimes but let's look at the options.

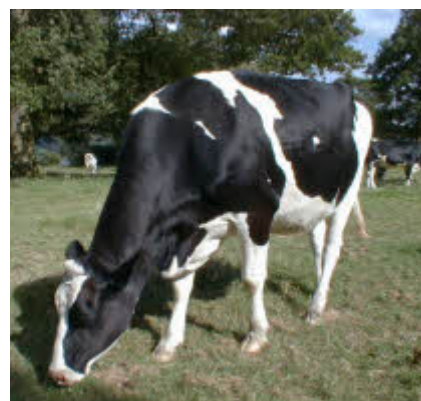
- Do nothing and treat only if disease occurs. This is cheap in terms of drug bills but can lead to poor growth rates and risks of death. Sods law says you'll be busy silaging when they start to scour.
- Move onto clean pasture i.e. aftermath mid grazing season. This in itself can reduce worm burdens enough to stop disease. Dosing and worming is now discouraged under SCOPS but dosing a week before or after moving can reduce worm burdens enough to increase growth rates.
- Set grazing and strategic worming. Dosing calves early in the season e.g. ivermectin at 3 and 8 weeks after turnout (or Dectomax 0 and 8 weeks) is very cost effective and is a personal favourite of mine but it does require handling stock twice at grass and gives no protection against husk if vaccine isn't used. In addition, care must be taken not to put stock onto contaminated pasture later in the season.
- Set grazing and pulse release boluses. Autoworm is the only pulse release bolus giving about 5 months treatment but releasing drug every 3 weeks so that the calves can be exposed to worms and so develop immunity and give good growth rates. Therefore it's perhaps the gold standard for replacement stock. The drawbacks are administering the bolus in the first place (avoid very young calves) and cost.
- Extra long acting injection. Cydectin 10% LA lasts up to 5 months it is a bit fiddly to administer (in the ear) but is slightly cheaper than a bolus. The drawback is that we suspect the calves develop little immunity to worms so we wouldn't recommend its use in replacement cattle or any cattle you're going to graze next season. In common with boluses, it has a long meat withdrawal (over 100 days) so don't use it in stock close to finishing.

Please remember that lungworm (husk) is so unpredictable that none of the above regimes prevent it. Huskvac is the gold standard for control but please don't worm your calves within 2 weeks of giving the second dose of vaccine. Without vaccination, you need to keep a close eye on your calves in the second half of the grazing season and treat groups of coughing calves promptly.

A turn in treatment with an avermectin will treat worms and mange. If fluke is a problem on your farm delay treatment for six weeks after turn in and use a fluke and ivermectin combined treatment.

If you've done the job correctly in the first season, you will not need to treat in the second season and so saving you money. Treating adult cattle for worms in our opinion is not as clear-cut as the adverts for Eprinex suggest. Beef adults never need worming neither should older adult dairy cattle. The new calved dairy heifer that has lots of stressors may benefit from getting rid of her worm burden.

We hope this makes a review of your worming regime an easier task but if you would like any help, please contact us.



Drug Name	Active Ingredient & Spectrum of Activity	Admin by	Dose Regime	Price per 250Kg calf £	Withdrawal Period Days
Panacur (Intervet)	Fenbendazole Gut worms Lung worm	Drench	18mls per 250kg / 20mls per 265kg / 25mls per 335kg As a treatment for clinically affected or "dose and move"	0.60	12
		Bolus	Only if between 100 and 300 Kg and greater than 3 months old. Active for 140days	8.30	200
Autoworm Finisher (Schering-Plough)	Oxfendazole Gut worms Lung worm Tapeworms	Bolus	Only if between 100 and 400kg Releases 5 doses with 3 week intervals. (15weeks activity) 1 bolus at turnout of set stocked calves or dose before moving to contaminated pasture	10.10	180
Autoworm First Grazer (Schering-Plough)	Oxfendazole Gut worms Lung worm Tapeworms	Bolus	Releases 7 doses with 3 week intervals (21 weeks activity)	10.92	
Levacur (Intervet)	Levamisole Gut worms Lung worm	Injection	63mls per 250kg	0.61	18
Ivomec (Merial)	Ivermectin Gut worms Lung worm Warbles Mange mites Sucking lice	Injection	Treat set stocked calves on first grazing season at 3, 8 and possibly 13 weeks after turn out. Active against gut worms for 21 days Active against lung worm for 28 days 201-250kgs - 5mls 251-300kg- 6mls	46p 0.92 -1.38 per season	35
		Pour on	25mls per 250kg Active against a wider range of lice and mites	65p 1.30-1.95 per season	15
Dectomax (Pfizer)	Doramectin Gut worms Lung worm Warbles Mange mites Sucking lice	Injection	5mls per 250kg calf at turn out and 8 weeks later Active against gut worms and lung worm for 35days		56
		Pour on	25mls per 250kg Active against a wider range of lice and mites	2.68 5.36 per season	35
Cydectin (Fort Dodge)	Moxidectin Gut worms Lung worm Warbles Mange mites Sucking lice	Injection	5mls per 250kg repeated at 8-10 week intervals Active against gut worms for 8weeks Active against lung worm for 5weeks	2.11 4.22-6.33 per season	65
		LA Injection	2.5mls per 250kg at turn out and set stocked throughout first grazing season Active against gut worms and lung worm for 120days	5.00 per season	108
		Pour On	25mls per 250kg repeated at 8-10 week intervals Active against gut worms for 8weeks Active against lung worm for 5weeks Active against a wider range of lice and hornflies	2.30 4.60-6.90 per season	14