

wormwise

Newsletter

December 2015

New website



The new [Wormwise website](#) has been launched and has advice on the sustainable management of worms on farms. Go to the website to see:

- The Wormwise principles
- Information about drenches
- Drench resistance – what is it and how to manage it
- Managing worms on farms
- Resources including newsletters, handbooks and research survey results
- Contacts

Parasite management planning

Parasite management plans are a lot more than just a drenching plan. They provide an overview of parasite management for the whole farm - taking into account everything from the type of farm, current drench efficacies and cattle to sheep ratio. The plan can be started at any time and usually begins with a faecal egg count reduction test (FECRT). It is best to complete it before the new season lambs are on the ground.

When completing the plan, the following information is usually collected.

- Stock numbers and classes
- Stock policy e.g. breeding, trading, stud etc
- New grass and cropping policies
- Previous drench history; type of drench and frequency of use, classes drenched and when
- FECRT results if available

By working through this information and discussing the various ways of managing parasites to achieve maximum productivity and sustainability, we will have a plan that outlines the following:

- Lamb drenching plan for the coming season
- Cattle drenching programme
- Provision of refugia in the lamb drenching programme and in any situations where adult sheep are going to be drenched
- Provision of refugia in cattle
- Monitoring plan
 - Faecal egg counts – When, what class of stock
 - Larval cultures
 - Drench checks
- Management of stock onto new grass and crops
- Use of sheep and cattle integration to reduce larval contamination
- Risk assessment of current practices
- Mitigation of high risk procedures if being used
- Use of 'knock out' drenching in the lamb programme

A parasite management plan will result in better parasite control on a sheep and beef property. This is demonstrated in the following case example.

A FECRT was carried out on a hill country breeding property in early 2015. They had been using mainly double combination drenches containing BZ (white drench) and Levamisole plus some triple combinations. Adult ewes were hardly ever drenched. Production was going well and no issues had been detected.

The results of the test showed:

- Ostertagia was showing resistance to all three action families tested. This included the combination of BZ and Levamisole.
- Trichostrongylus was resistant to BZ and Levamisole but not these two in combination.
- Nematodirus was resistant to BZ and Levamisole, including them in combination, but was susceptible to Ivermectin.
- Nematodirus, Haemonchus, Ostertagia and Trichostrongylus species were present in high enough numbers to give a valid result.

After discussing these results, good practices were reinforced and some changes were made:

- All routine lamb drenches given were triple combinations
- A 'knock-out' drench using a novel drench was put in place for April in the lamb drenching programme
- Any tail end ewes that required drenching are now given triple combination
- A drench check was implemented 10 days after the lamb weaning drench
- Refugia provision – Lambs, undrenched tail end ewes are to be run with drenched lambs. Only a minority of ewes (including 2-tooths) being drenched so always a majority left undrenched
- Integrated grazing. Cows are used to tidy up rough feed on the farm. They will graze paddocks within the sheep rotation where required but not necessarily in the rotation per se. Weaner heifers will graze the lamb finishing blocks from July until February then the lambs graze until July. Rising 2-tooths will start to come off their hill block in early January and adult ewes will graze this to remove larval contamination.
- Quarantine drenching. Triple drench all rams coming into the property and when sheep going between farms

Feedback from famers

The general feedback from people who have completed a parasite management plan is that they are more confident in parasite management and have a clearly defined pathway to follow.

Need a parasite management plan?

If you would like to get a parasite management plan, arrange an appointment with your vet.