



Sheep & Beef Talk

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Are You Drenching Your Cattle Effectively?

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With winter well behind us and calves on the ground, the parasite levels will be starting to build. It is well known that intestinal worms can be a major cause of poor growth in young cattle. The three species of intestinal parasite of greatest importance to cattle are; *Cooperia*, *Ostertagia* and *Trichostrongylus*.

By their second autumn, at about 12-15 months of age, cattle will develop a good immunity to *Cooperia* making it of little importance in older animals. This however means that those under 15 months are still very susceptible. As not all drenches will successfully kill *Cooperia*, it is vital that an effective drench is used. Use of an ineffective drench resulting in large numbers

of *Cooperia* will result in scouring and scrawny weaners and in severe cases, has even caused death. Trial work has also shown that in seemingly healthy cattle even low numbers of *Cooperia* can cause significant production losses.

To effectively kill *Cooperia* a drench containing levamisole is required. Fortunately, this is included in most oral combination drenches. If a pour on or injectable drench is used, it is important to ensure a levamisole is included. Injectable and pour on drenches such as Eclipse and Boss both contain levamisole.

For a successful treatment against all gut parasites in

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Reminders for December

- Monitor stock for flystrike.
- Check weaned lambs B12 and selenium levels.
- Have you checked that your drench works?
- Clostridial vaccination for lambs.
- Make a plan for facial eczema prevention.
- Order Toxovax and Campyvax.
- Book in cow pregnancy testing for 6 weeks after bull removal.

Are You Drenching Your Cattle Effectively? (continued)

young cattle, a combination drench with both levamisole and "mectin" (ivermectin/ abamectin etc) components is essential. Doing a 10-day post drench FEC test can

give you a good indication of how well your drench is working and is an important tool for early recognition of resistance issues.

For the best results from

your young stock, an effective parasite control program is vital. To put a plan together for this coming season contact your nearest VetEnt clinic today.



Figure 1: Cooperia Parasite



Purchase Bravecto chew or dog spot-on and go in the draw to win a Swandri Farmers pack (valued at \$674.75).

Offer valid 4th November to 4th January 2020.

Wishing all of our clients a very Merry Christmas!

As we hurtle to the end of 2019 we would like to express best wishes and safe and happy holidays for the festive season, to all our amazing clients. It has been our pleasure working alongside you to help get the best out of your herds, flocks, and your business this year. A very Merry Christmas to you all and wishing you the very best for 2020!

