



A Word on Deworming.....

Recommendations for deworming are changing drastically. Gone are the days of a “one size fits all” protocol. Toss out old habits of rotating dewormers. Recent research has brought about valuable new information related to how we should customize our deworming strategies to the specific needs of your horse and your farm.

Natural Immunity – Some horses have a stronger and more robust immune system than others. As a result, these horses do not tend to harbor as many parasites and may not need dewormed as often. However, other horses have weaker immune systems that make them even more susceptible to parasites. These horses are referred to as “high shedders” because the parasites will easily multiply inside of them and they will shed extremely high egg counts into the stool. Luckily, we can identify the “high shedders” by performing **quantitative fecal egg count** exams. Knowing whether *your* horse is a “high shedder” will directly affect how often it needs dewormed. With the information obtained in a quantitative fecal exam, we can begin to customize a deworming program specific to your horse.



Parasite Resistance - Resistance to certain dewormers has been well documented in other species, such as goats. You might be surprised to know that inappropriate, haphazard deworming in goats has resulted in resistance to every dewormer available on the market. Recently, resistance to certain dewormers has been documented in horses too. We must be more careful about how and when we deworm to prevent resistance. The level of parasite resistance and effectiveness of a dewormer specific to your farm can be tested with a **fecal egg reduction count**. This will allow us to choose the most effective dewormer for *your* farm and further customize your parasite program.



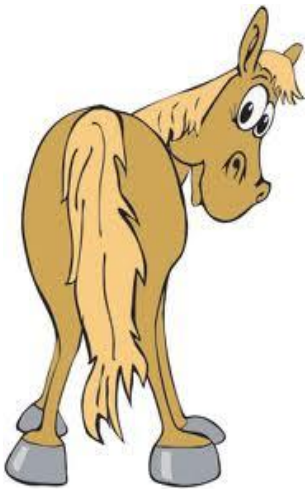
So Many Choices, Which One Do I Use? – Liquids, pastes, powders and pellets....Deworming treatments are not created equal. Some dewormers last longer than others, some dewormers are stronger than others, and not all dewormers treat all types of parasites. For instance, fenbendazole (Safeguard) only lasts 4-6 weeks, while ivermectin (Zimecterin) lasts 8-12 weeks. In addition, some generic dewormers have been proven as less effective than their name brand counterparts. And, some should not be used on foals.

Timing is Everything! - Planning deworming treatments with the seasons, parasite life cycles, pasture rotation and other farm management (manure spreading, manure removal, foal weaning etc) will help maximize effectiveness of the parasite control program and ultimately reduce the parasites while saving you money. This is known as strategic deworming.

**To Help Everybody Update their deworming program, we have created a
Custom Internal Parasite Management Evaluation.**

- 1) Initial Quantitative Fecal Egg Count – Provided that your horse has not been recently treated, we will use this as a baseline to determine whether your horse is a “high” or “low” shedder.
- 2) Deworming Treatment – Following the initial egg count, your horse will be treated with a specific dewormer as specified by Dr. Walker.
- 3) Fecal Egg Reduction Count – 10-14 Days after the patient has been dewormed, a second fecal sample should be submitted for exam. We will evaluate results and determine the effectiveness of the dewormer on your farm.
- 4) Management Program – Based on the results from *your* horse on *your* farm, and *your* personal grazing/management plan, we will advise you on a custom parasite management plan that best suits your specific needs.

For Spring 2011, the parasite evaluation will be available at an introductory price of \$25.



To Have Your Horse Evaluated:

- 1) Submitting the 1st fecal: We will provide you with a sample bag. The sample should be collected from a fresh pile that has just been produced and then immediately refrigerated. Once collected and refrigerated, the sample should be dropped for evaluation within 24 hours. Test results will not be valid if your horse has been dewormed in the previous 8 weeks.
- 2) Treatment: We will recommend and provide the appropriate deworming treatment based on your horse’s results. Use the weight tape provided to more accurately dose your horse.
- 3) Submitting the 2nd fecal: We will call to remind you when the second fecal is due. This will typically be within 10-14 days after treatment. Follow directions as for the first fecal submission.

Please feel free to contact Dr. Walker for more information.

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