

## Horse worms

Using wormers that already have established resistance on your property will not protect your horse from worm related disease. Faecal egg counts can be performed to enable us to assess the effectiveness of your current program.

Rotate active ingredients on an annual basis. This is called slow rotation. This means that you should use one class of active ingredient for an entire year, and then switch to a different class of active ingredient the next year.

Its important to know that the majority of horse worming products currently on the market have one of two major classes of active ingredient they are either mectin based or azole based. If you are currently using any wormer with an active ingredient ending in ...ectin then your rotational choices are limited to wormers that do not contain any actives ending in .. ectin. This is regardless of the other active ingredients contained within the wormer. To make the correct choice you must change to a wormer with an active ending in ...azole . There are other classes of active ingredient, and these are generally used in combination with other actives to target specific parasites (for example, the addition of praziquantel provides protection against tapeworm).



Give the correct dose. If horses are under-dosed with wormer, the internal parasites are exposed to a sub-lethal amount of the drug leaving a population of worms that are able to tolerate the wormer. Modern wormers are very safe and it is better to err on the side of slight overdose.

Practice good pasture hygiene. Frequent manure removal will help to decrease the risk of grass contamination with worm eggs or larvae. Fresh, non-composted manure should not be spread onto paddocks grazed by horses. Moving horses onto a fresh paddock following worming, and prolonged destocking of the pasture will also help to reduce reinfection rates and decrease the frequency of treatments needed.

Worm regularly. If treatments are too infrequent pasture contamination with worm larvae and eggs will not be controlled. Pastured horses should be wormed every 6-8 weeks, as they are more likely to become re-infested with worms while grazing. It is important to remember that up to 99% of worm larvae exist on the pastures and only 1% are actually in a horse.



Worm all horses on your property, including foals, at the same time. Avoid introducing resistant worms to your stables. Deworm all new horses with prior to turn out and keep them confined to a box for 48 hrs after worming to prevent pasture contamination.