



Parasite Control

Deworming every 2-4 months and rotating products, right? Not anymore!

- We now know that only 20% of horses shed 80% of eggs that infect other horses
- We also know that there is much resistance to many classes of dewormers
- It is very important to remember that the “it won’t hurt anything to continue the plan I’ve been on” contributes to parasite resistance to dewormers and can be a huge problem in the future

What does this mean for me and my horses?

- The majority of adult horses do great on 1-2 times yearly deworming
- All horses can be divided into 1 of 3 categories by a fecal egg count (FEC) – low, medium, and high shedders
- Younger horses (less than 3 years old) will require more deworming than adults do to their immature immune system

Testing

- Fecal egg counts (FEC) can be performed 6-16 weeks after the last dewormer was administered (the time depends on which class of dewormer was used). A fecal sample can be obtained at your appointment or collected up to 5 days prior as long as it is stored in a bag and refrigerated
- Fecal egg count reduction test (FECRT) is performed to determine if there is resistance to certain dewormers on a farm. A FEC is performed before deworming and again 14 days later, then the 2 are compared.

Deworming tips

- Be sure to give your horse the appropriate amount of dewormer for his weight. Weight tapes are available upon request
- Include treatment for bots and tapeworms in late fall/early winter (after the first frost)

Classes of dewormers

- Benzimidazoles: widespread resistance for roundworms and small strongyles
 - Fenbendazole – Panacur, Safeguard
 - Oxibendazole (anthelmicide)
- Tetrahydropyrimidines: widespread resistance for roundworms and small strongyles
 - Pyrantel - Strongid
- Macrocytic lactones: resistance for roundworms
 - Ivermectin – Eqvalan, Zimectrin
 - Moxidectin – Quest
- Isoquinoline-pyrozines: only medication effective for tapeworms
 - Praziquantel – Quest plus, Zimectrin gold (in combination with a macrocytic lactone)

*modified from the current AAEP recommendations