

Integrated Worm Management

WHAT: First summer **drench**—broad spectrum.

WHY: Control black scour worm, small brown stomach worm.

WHEN: As pasture is drying off (usually November/December, but no later than mid-December). Drenching will have the greatest overall effect because worm larvae on pasture are dying off more rapidly and reinfection is less.

WHAT: Second summer **drench**.

WHEN: Control worms if a WormTest indicates numbers still high in February—wet summer; ‘low-worm risk’ pasture not available.

WHAT: **Grazing** management—**lambing ewes**.

WHY: Lambing ewes temporarily lose their resistance to worms.

WHAT: **Grazing** management—**weaners**.

WHY: Young sheep are more susceptible to worms than older sheep.

How: Prepare low worm risk paddocks for lambing ewes and weaners.

WHAT: **Low worm risk paddock**.

How: Keep paddock sheep free (or no sheep less than 18 months old) for a period of time, depending on location and season e.g. NSW tablelands—at least three months in summer, and six months in cooler months. Can graze cattle. Alternatively use paddocks that have been cropped, cut for hay, or forage crops.

WHAT: Manage **drench resistance**.

How: Monitor the effectiveness of drenching; quarantine drench sheep being brought onto the property; use the correct dose; seek expert advice for your local area.

WHAT: Good **nutrition**.

WHY: Well nourished sheep, especially young sheep, have better immunity or resistance to worms than poorly nourished sheep. Weaners that grow well develop immunity to worms and other infections much earlier than poor weaners. Protein supplements (e.g. lupins) can improve immunity and worm control.

WHAT: Compact **lambing**—aim for a tight joining (six weeks) and lambing using fit and fertile rams and well nourished ewes.

WHY: The longer lambs are on the lambing paddock, the greater the uptake of worms.

WHAT: **Wean early**—12 to 14 weeks from start of lambing (assuming a six week joining).

WHY: Optimises nutrition for weaners, reduces exposure to worms from contaminated lambing paddocks; enables ewes to recover body condition and their immunity to worms.

NOTE: Lambs may require drenching at 12 to 14 weeks, even if not weaned. In some cases where early weaning is not practised, ewes may also need an extra drench, due of greater exposure to contaminated pasture. If in doubt, WormTest.