

DEWORMING SHEEP & GOATS

UF/IFAS EXTENSION



EQUIPMENT

A **drench gun** is used to administer precise amounts of liquid medication to livestock.



Drench Gun Maintenance:

- Thoroughly clean after each use, disassembling the drench gun to clean every piece completely.
- After the drench gun is completely dry, it can be reassembled.
- Store in a sealed plastic bag before using again.
- Lubricate the O-ring periodically with vegetable oil, mineral oil will degrade the O-ring.



Always Check:

- For any broken pieces or sharp edges on the drench gun.
- That the drench gun is dosing correctly and consistently.
- That the drench gun is calibrated and set to the correct dose.

TYPES OF DEWORMERS

There are 3 main classes of dewormers that can be used for sheep and goats, including **benzimidazoles**, **macrocyclic lactones**, and **imidazothiazoles**.



Using a combination of different classes of dewormer or switching dewormers between treatments is highly recommended and should be done under the guidance of your veterinarian. This practice prevents parasitic resistance.

Parasitic resistance is defined as a decrease in the sensitivity of a parasite population to antiparasitic drugs.

DEWORMER CLASS	COMMON/BRAND NAMES	EFFECTIVENESS
Benzimidazoles	Abendazole (Valbazen) Fenbendazole (Safe-Guard, Panacur) Oxfendazole (Synanthic)	Effective against tapeworms, whipworms, and threadneck worms. Not effective against the barber pole worm due to resistance.
Macrocyclic Lactones	Ivermectin (Ivomec) Eprinomectin (Eprinex) Moxidectin (Cydectin) Doramectin (Dectomax)	This class of dewormers is widely used, which has contributed to parasitic resistance. Ivermectin has history of resistance. Moxidectin is prone to resistance when used often.
Imidazothiazoles	Levamisole (Prohibit)	This is a smaller class of dewormer that has shown to have a stimulating effect on the immune system in some instances.

SELECTIVE TREATMENT

The use of dewormers should be **selective** and **targeted**. Identify animals that need treatment by monitoring clinical indicators. Avoiding treatment when deworming isn't necessary prevents parasitic resistance development.



FAMACHA score - color of mucous membrane to indicate anemia



Bottle jaw - submandibular oedema



Body Condition Score (BCS)



Consistency of feces, cleanliness of hindquarters, fecal egg counts

SMALL RUMINANT INTERNAL PARASITES



Barber Pole



Threadworm



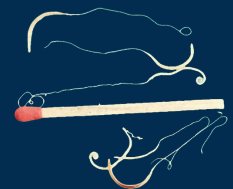
Stomach Worm



Black Scour



Hookworm



Whipworm

Parasite species should be identified by fecal egg count & identification to select the most effective dewormer.