

New Recommended Deworming Protocol

New parasitology research suggests that most of us are over-deworming our horses! The rotational deworming schedules that we have been recommending are actually based on science that is over 40 years old. These practices have caused a huge rise in parasite resistance because we have been unnecessarily deworming our horses every 8 weeks. If we continue to use these same practices, our current dewormers will no longer be effective. Researchers have found that only 20% of the equine population actually carries 80% of all parasites. By performing twice yearly Fecal Egg Counts (FEC), we will be able to identify each adult horse as a low, medium, or high parasite egg shedder and will then be able to tailor our deworming practices more specifically for each horse. This means fewer, more effective dewormings per year for each horse, less parasite resistance, and more effective dewormers for our future.

ADULTS: All adult horses should have an FEC performed twice yearly (Spring & Fall). Follow the recommendations below according to the horse's FEC result. (*see note below for pregnant mares)

Low shedders: (<200EPG): Deworm twice yearly

- **Spring:** Pyrantel Pamoate or Fendendazole

(It is recommended that low shedders get dewormed with Quest® or Pancur Power Pak® as the spring treatment every other year to target encysted larvae)

- **Fall:** Ivermectin

Medium Shedders: (200-500EPG): Deworm three times yearly.

*Note: Veterinarian may consider doing FEC Reduction on this group.

- **Spring:** Pyrantel Pamoate or Fendendazole
- **Early Summer:** Quest® or Panacur Power Pak®
- **Fall:** Ivermectin

High Shedders: (>500EPG): Deworm four times per year and do FEC Reduction*yearly.

- **Spring:** Pyrantel Pamoate or Fendendazole
- **Early Summer:** Quest® or Panacur Power Pak®
- **Early Fall:** Ivermectin
- **Late Fall:** Pyrantel Pamoate or Fendendazole

Note We recommend not using Pancur Power Pak or Quest® during pregnancy. Pregnant mares should not receive either of these products until after foaling.

*FEC Reduction involves performing a FEC before and 14 days after (21 days after if used Quest®) deworming with the recommended dewormer to check for parasite resistance. FEC should decrease by 90%.

Foal Schedule*

2 months: Anthelcide (Oxibendazole)

4 months: Double dose of Strongid (Pyrantel Pamoate)

6 months: Do a FEC (fecal egg count) before weaning (around 6 months) and choose the dewormer accordingly.

9 months: Ivermectin

12 months: Ivermectin

Where conditions warrant (e.g. large number of foals and /or premise contamination because foals are turned out on same ground each year) foals can be dewormed monthly up to 6 months of age. This can be accomplished by using single dose Panacur (Fenbendazole) in the regime at 1, 3, and 5 months of age.