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## DEWORMING SCHEDULE BASED ON FECALS

Recent research has shown that 80% of the parasite egg population comes from 20% of the equine population on a given farm indicating most horses are resistant to parasites. Parasite resistance to dewormers is increasing and no new classes of dewormers are currently being developed. Based on these issues, we have three goals for decreasing your horse's parasite burden.

1. Determine if your horse is a low, moderate, or high shedder of GI parasites.
2. Use a dewormer that is effective for your horse.
3. Decrease your horse's exposure to parasites.

To accomplish these goals we recommend the following plan:

1. To begin, we need to determine your horse's parasite burden:
  - An initial fecal egg count should be performed at least 6-8 weeks after deworming with pyrantel pamoate (Strongid) or 10-12 weeks after deworming with ivermectin (Zimectrin) or moxidectin (Quest). This will determine if your horse is a low, moderate, or high shedder of GI parasites. A deworming program will be recommended.
2. Next, we need to find dewormers that are effective for your horse.
  - Deworm your horse with the recommended product. Use the product recommended closest to today's date, e.g. if today is March 1, use the April 1 dewormer. For future dewormings, you will fold into the recommended schedule.
  - Have a repeat fecal egg count performed 10 to 14 days later to make sure the parasites were killed. This step is very important to determine if the dewormer was effective.
  - Each time your horse is due to be dewormed (as per the recommended schedule) repeat this procedure- have a fecal egg count performed before deworming, deworm your horse with the recommended product, and repeat a fecal egg count 10 to 14 days later. This process should be repeated for each dewormer used: ivermectin (Zimectrin, Zimectrin Gold, or Equimax), pyrantel pamoate (Strongid), and moxidectin (Quest or Quest Plus). Once we know which products are effective for your horse, we do not need to perform a fecal egg count every time your horse is dewormed.
  - After the first year on this program, only an annual fecal egg count is necessary.
3. Decrease your horse's exposure to parasites:
  - Remove manure from paddocks twice weekly if possible.
  - If you are going to drag or mow paddocks, wait until the hottest days of the year, drag or mow, and then leave the paddock vacant for several weeks or drag at the end of the grazing season.

We will recommend a deworming schedule that is a starting point based on the guidelines discussed above.

15 Hidden Pines Drive  
Clarksburg, NJ 08510-1214  
Phone 732.780.7563 Fax 732.780.5265  
[www.ColtsHeadVet.com](http://www.ColtsHeadVet.com) [MyHorseVet@aol.com](mailto:MyHorseVet@aol.com)



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Deworming schedule for \_\_\_\_\_ owned by \_\_\_\_\_

Fecal egg count performed on \_\_\_\_\_ Next fecal is due \_\_\_\_\_

Your horse is a **LOW** **MODERATE** **HIGH** shedder of parasites

Deworm your horse with \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ then fold into the schedule below

**Low Shedder:**

**April 15** – ivermectin + praziquantel (Zimectrin Gold or Equimax)  
**October 15** – moxidectin + praziquantel (Quest Plus, if not available, then Zimectrin Gold, or Equimax) **\*see note below**  
**January 15** – ivermectin (Zimectrin or generic product)

**Moderate Shedder:**

**April 1** – ivermectin + praziquantel (Zimectrin Gold or Equimax)  
**June 1** – pyrantel pamoate (Strongid, PyranticPaste)  
**October 15** – moxidectin + praziquantel (Quest Plus, if not available, then Zimectrin Gold or Equimax) **\*see note below**  
**January 15** – ivermectin (Zimectrin or generic product)

**High Shedder:**

**April 1** – ivermectin + praziquantel (Zimectrin Gold or Equimax)  
**June 1** – pyrantel pamoate (Strongid, PyranticPaste)  
**July 15** – moxidectin (Quest) **\*see note below**  
**October 15** – moxidectin + praziquantel (Quest Plus, if not available, then Zimectrin Gold or Equimax) **\*see note below**  
**January 15** – ivermectin (Zimectrin or generic product)

- **Note for Quest and Quest Plus:** Accurate weight determination is important. A weight tape can be used to estimate your horse's weight. **Do not use Quest or Quest Plus in severely underweight horses.**
- **Sample collection:** A fecal sample should include 2-3 fresh (collected in the past 4 hours) fecal balls stored in a plastic bag with as much air squeezed out as possible, submitted immediately or stored in a refrigerator for up to a day.
- Rinse your horse's mouth with water or wait until there is nothing in their mouth before deworming to ensure accurate dosing.
- New horses to the herd – have fecal egg count performed, deworm with ivermectin, and then isolate for 4 days.
- Please call for a deworming schedule for horses less than 1 year of age and pregnant mares.
- All deworming products mentioned in the schedule are available through our office for your convenience

**Notes:**

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(ivermectin/praziquantel)

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Purchased At (Business Name): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Which of the following best describes your primary role relative to horses?

\_\_\_\_ Horse Owner      \_\_\_\_ Trainer/Stable Manager      Other: \_\_\_\_\_

How many horses do you own/are responsible for?: \_\_\_\_\_

Was this your first purchase of ZIMECTERIN Gold?    \_\_\_\_ Yes    \_\_\_\_ No

Will you purchase ZIMECTERIN Gold in the future?    \_\_\_\_ Yes    \_\_\_\_ No

How often do you deworm your horse(s) per year? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you currently rotate dewormers during the year?    \_\_\_\_ Yes    \_\_\_\_ No

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