



Warwick Equine Veterinarians

Worming Horses

Although there are large number of wormers out on the market. It is important to read the label so that you know what medication you are actually giving your horse. This is important as you need to give understand which worming drugs are effective and then ensure you rotate wormers so that you do not get resistance on your yard.

Up till recently, advice given by scientists in regards to worming, was to switch wormers regularly, as frequently as alternating wormers each time. However with further understanding on the mechanisms of resistance to wormers. We now know that there are better systems out there to manage worming your horses.

The principles that scientists advocate are;

- 1) Never under dose a wormer to a horse- Otherwise resistance will develop rapidly
- 2) Reduce the frequency of worming- Ideally only worm when the horse's worm burden is at a significant level
- 3) Rotate your wormers to a different class of drug every year and reduce the frequency that you use one specific drug
- 4) Add a tapeworm drug like praziquantel to your program once a year
- 5) Reduce your worm load by poo picking paddocks and don't feed directly off the ground

One way to reduce the incidence of drug resistance is to follow a rotational program whereby you test your horses for worms in between worming. If your worm tests returns with a positive value (above 300 eggs per gram of manure), you would then reworm to reduce the level of worm infestation.

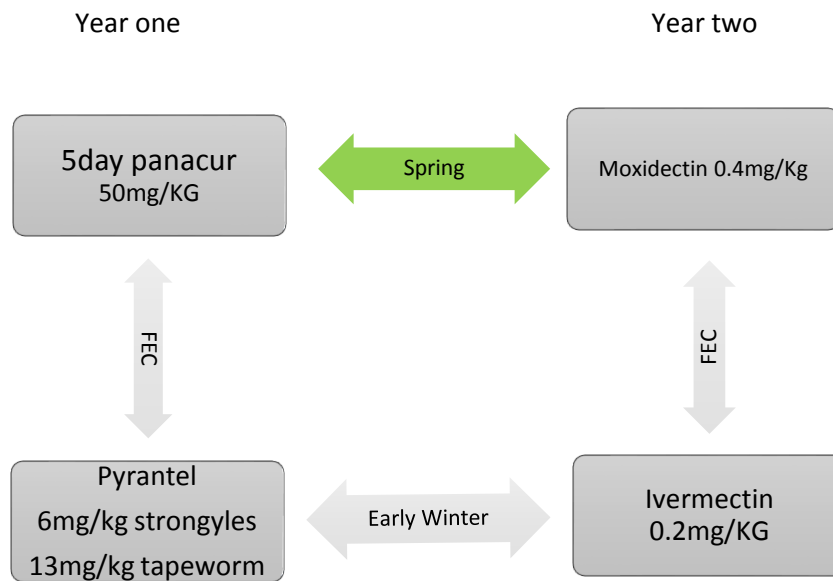


Fig 1- Worming rotation over 2 years, FEC= Fecal Worm Count

Therefore this spring we would recommend that you use a moxidectin based wormer like Equest. Then follow this up with fecal worm tests, and if your FEC level is about 300 eggs per gram then you should follow up with a wormer such as Strategy-T.

The FEC can be run by a company known as Worm Lab Australia who are in Laidley, QLD (facebook the company for more information). Their basic worm test is \$10 per sample and their premium test for \$55 will also identify the worm type and test for resistance.

<https://www.facebook.com/wormlabaustralia?fref=ts>

We will send you further seasonal recommendations of which wormer to use in our future newsletters.

For further information please on this or any other matter, please feel free to discuss with Dr Frank or Dr Tias.