

Fact sheet 3. Principles of worm management

February 2023

wormwise

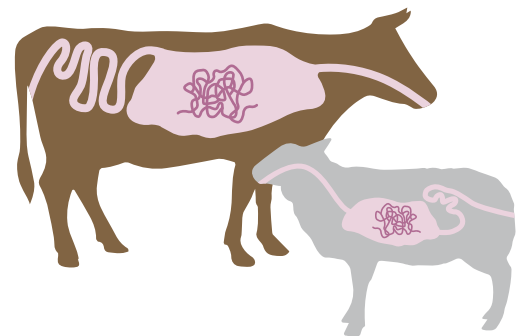
national worm management strategy



The purpose of any internal parasite (worm) management programme is to maintain or enhance profitability by minimising the effects parasites have on animal performance and welfare.

This is achieved by, reducing the uptake of infective larvae by susceptible stock and monitoring the success of worm management strategies.

Every farmer should carefully consider all the available strategies for worm management and how best to integrate them on their property.



Worm management strategies may include:

- Pasture and stock management plans that reduce exposure of susceptible animals to worms at key times.
- Ensuring animals are well fed and have adequate mineral status.
- Minimising stress and attending to disease prevention.
- Use of genetics to breed animals that are less reliant on drench to manage worm challenge.
- Use appropriate drenching strategies on the most susceptible stock classes. Have a plan in place to mitigate risks of drench resistance.

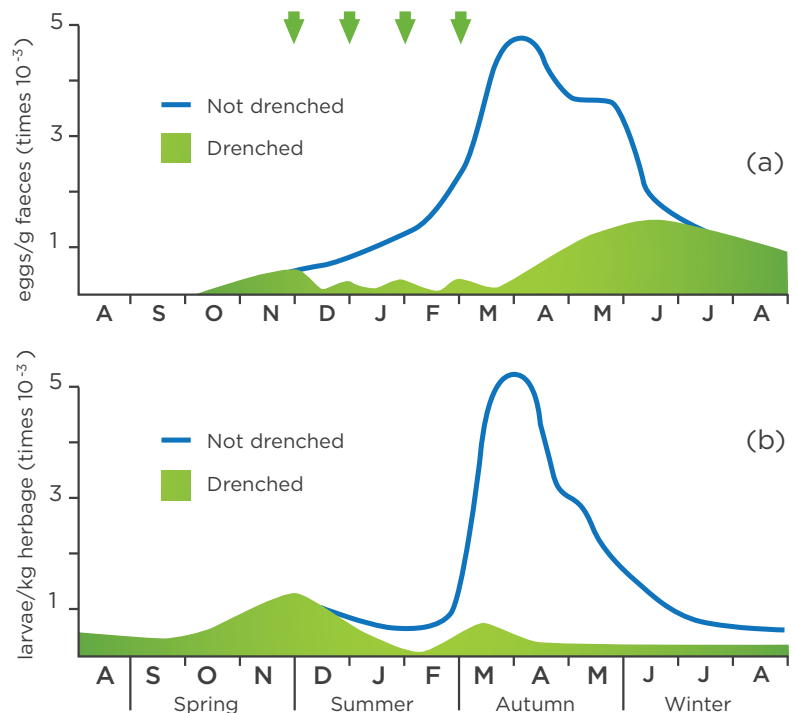


The tools to monitor effectiveness include faecal egg counts (FEC) and the identification of worms present using faecal larval cultures.

Monitoring production measures, such as weight gain, gives information about the effects of worms on stock.

The effect of four x monthly drenches from weaning on (a) the faecal egg output of lambs and (b) the pattern of larval availability on pasture.

▶ Anthelmintic treatment (from Brunsdon, 1981).



A key factor in any strategy is knowing what is happening with worms on the farm. Many tools are available but the mix will vary from farm to farm.

