

# New Strategies in Deworming

Some important points you may not have known about controlling worms in horses

Rotational deworming has not prevented resistance the way we had hoped, instead we are seeing more resistance to commonly used dewormers such as Panacur and Strongid and even Ivermectin and Moxidectin.

Having a low number of intestinal parasites is not necessarily harmful to horses.

The most effective way of keeping worm levels low in horses is to keep their pastures and paddocks clear of manure.

Another effective way of managing intestinal parasites is to control them strategically, through the use of a McMaster's fecal test, and then deworming the horses based on their worm counts

The **McMasters test** measures the number of parasite eggs per gram of horse feces. We use these numbers to determine how to deworm each individual horse. The best time to perform fecal tests is in the spring: late March/early April.

Low Shedders	Moderate Shedders	High Shedders
<200 eggs/g	200-500 eggs/g	>500 eggs/g
Consider deworming only once a year in the fall with an Ivermectin/Praziquantal or Moxidectin/Praziquantal product. This will take care of the tapeworms and bots seen in the fall	Deworm twice a year: after the performance of the spring fecal, and then again in the fall for tapes and bots. Spring deworming can be done with any product, but if using a pyrantal or fenbendazole product, a fecal should be re-taken in 10-14 days to discover its effectiveness on your farm. Fall deworming should be performed with an Ivermectin/praziquantal or Moxidectin/praziquantal product.	Deworm every eight weeks, except during the cold winter months, when it is unnecessary to deworm (in our part of the country). Use the same product the entire year EXCEPT in the fall when an Ivermectin/praziquantal or Moxidectin/praziquantal product should be used. If deworming with pyrantal or fenbendazole, a fecal should be retaken in 10-14 days to determine resistance on your farm. The following year, choose a different dewormer that is used every eight weeks for the entire year

Approximately 20% of the horses in a pasture carry 80% of the parasites. By identifying the high shedders and eliminating their parasites, you will greatly reduce the entire parasite load in the pasture, without unnecessarily deworming horses who do not need it.

**Drug name/commercial name translator:**

Pyrantal – Strongid

Fenbendazole - Panacur or Safeguard

Ivermectin/Praziquantal - Equimax or Zimectrin Gold

Moxidectin/Praziquantal - Quest Plus

**Resources**

The Horse Magazine, May 2010 issue.

2010 University of Pennsylvania Veterinary Conference. Dr. Rose Nolan Watson

Merial Website: [www.rethinkdeworming.com](http://www.rethinkdeworming.com)

Complete Equine Health Service website: [www.completeequinehealthservice.com](http://www.completeequinehealthservice.com)