


The RIGHT approach – follow the 5 R's

- 1 The **RIGHT** product for the type of worm
- 2 The **RIGHT** animal
- 3 The **RIGHT** time
- 4 The **RIGHT** dose rate
- 5 Administered in the **RIGHT** way



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www.cattleparasites.org.uk



COWS has input from farmers, academics
and independent consultants

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Centre cover image: Sian Mitchell, APHA

The **COWS** Guide to The effective use of cattle wormers

Worming – have you got it right?



COWS – Control of Worms Sustainably

Who are we?

- > COWS is an industry led steering group formed in 2010 consisting of a panel of technical experts
- > COWS promotes sustainable control strategies for managing cattle parasites

What are the issues we're tackling?

- > Anthelmintic resistance is recognized as a potential threat to the cattle industry
- > There's a knowledge gap in how to best treat and manage cattle worms on-farm

What are we doing to overcome this?

- > COWS works with practicing veterinary surgeons, SQPs (Suitably Qualified Person), field experts and farmers to promote evidence based, best practice in the control of cattle worms
- > COWS provides the latest technical information for stakeholders through a wide range of media including the website www.cattleparasites.org.uk, social media, farming press and printed material

Draw up a plan for worming with the vet, SQP or animal health adviser

The 5 R's to the effective use of cattle wormers

When it comes to treating cattle for worms farmers should speak to their vet, SQP or animal health adviser for advice on implementing an effective on-farm control plan that's RIGHT.

Use the RIGHT product for the type of worm

- > Wormers belong to different classes and are active against different worms, and in some cases specific developmental stages of worms.
- > Products should be chosen to specifically target the worm, or stage of development that is most likely to occur or already identified as present on-farm.
- > Other considerations, such as withdrawal periods, and any known anthelmintic resistance issues, should also be taken into account.
- > Farmers should consult with the vet, SQP, farm adviser or veterinary pharmacist for detailed advice on choosing the right product for specific on-farm problems.
- > Only use products legally authorized for use against a particular worm species or type of stock in the UK.

Treat for the specific problem parasite

Treat the RIGHT animal

- > There is little to be gained from any anthelmintic treatment before weaning. However, as grazing intake increases, youngstock will potentially be exposed to high levels of worm eggs on the pasture.
- > Effective treatments in youngstock, when they are most susceptible to worm infections, will reduce egg contamination onto pasture.
- > Older cattle generally have a good level of immunity to gut and lung worms and therefore, depending on the farm situation, rarely require treatment. However, animals of all ages must be included in liver fluke control plans.

Youngstock are most at risk

Treat cattle at the RIGHT time

- > There is no 'one-size fits all' solution to parasite control. Treatment depends on assessing various factors, including pasture risk, animal type and time of year.
- > For youngstock, monitoring growth is a good indicator of when to treat for worms. If daily live weight (DLWG) gain falls below target, generally 0.7 to 0.8kg/day after weaning, anthelmintic treatment should be considered.
- > The risk of disease in cattle is later in the season, post mid-summer, when worm eggs have accumulated on the pasture. However, wormers can be used in the first two months of the grazing season to reduce pasture contamination with worm eggs. A group faecal egg count (FEC) test six to eight weeks post turnout alongside weight/condition monitoring can give a good indication of whether early season treatment is needed.

Dose cattle at the RIGHT rate

- > In most situations, anthelmintics are administered at a specific dose rate (ml) according to the animal's live weight (kg).
- > Therefore it's important to:
 - 1 Read the product label or Summary of Product Characteristics (SPC)
 - 2 Ensure dosing equipment is well maintained, calibrated and clean
 - 3 Weigh animals, or use a weigh band to calculate the correct dosage for each animal

Administer wormer in the RIGHT way

- > Anthelmintics can be administered to cattle in different ways. These include subcutaneous injections, ear injections, intra-ruminal boluses, pour-on products and oral drenches.
- > Always read the product label to ensure the selected product is administered in the correct way. Anthelmintics should not be home mixed with any other products.