

It is important to work with your veterinarian to develop a worming program before the lambing season

For more information:

Handbook for the Control of Internal Parasites of Sheep and Goats



This handbook from the University of Guelph is available as a free download:

http://www.uoguelph.ca/~pmenzies/Handbook_Home.html

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Not all ewes may need treating

Most at risk: Young ewes, ewes raising multiple lambs or those in poor body condition are likely to have higher worm burdens.

Mature ewes in good body condition, especially with singles, can control their worm burden without dosing.

Leave the best and treat the rest

Monitor: how pale is the lower eyelid?



Watch out for bottle jaw

Monitor faecal egg counts in ewes at intervals during lactation

What happens to Worms in Winter

- and why it matters

Should we dose all the ewes in winter or before turnout in spring to control barberpole worm?



Problem:

A 2 year old ewe with twins dies:
3 weeks after lambing.
No bottle jaw but extremely pale.
Sudden death from a heavy load of
Haemonchus picked up in the fall.



Should
have paid
more
attention

Problem:

Ewes lambing in winter or spring
will contaminate the pastures with
eggs.

Lambs turned out with ewes in May
are likely to pick up larvae by late
June



Why not dose them all?

Worms picked up in fall do not mature
but stay dormant as larvae in the gut.

Around lambing time, the ewe's
immune response is reduced and the
worms come out of dormancy, mature
and lay eggs.

This is seen from about 2 weeks
before lambing to several weeks after
turnout in the spring. This is the
source of contamination of pastures
with *Haemonchus*.

Haemonchus does not survive
overwinter on pasture but is killed by
freezing temperatures.

No susceptible worms will be present
on pasture in the spring.

Most worms in the ewes will be killed
by the wormer, but any that are
resistant will thrive and will be the
main source to infect the lambs. If all
the ewes are dosed, only resistant
worms will be left – rapid buildup of
resistance!

Haemonchus picked up in the fall
can cause disease in lactating
ewes as well as producing huge
numbers of eggs to contaminate
the pasture

BUT:

Regularly treating all
ewes when they are not
on pasture selects for
worms resistant to the
wormer

*Do not dose all the flock in
the barn, in winter or before
turnout*

