

Equine Deworming

The Educated Horseman: Health Series



Overuse of equine deworming products has led to the development of parasite resistance. Veterinarians now recommend a personalized deworming schedule based on the individual horse's needs.

Fecal egg counts.

Examinations should be done twice a year to determine your horse's parasite load.

Create an individualized program.

Once your horse is classified either as a low shedder (fewer than 200 eggs per gram), moderate shedder (200-500 epg) or high shedder (over 500 epg), assign a specific program.

low shedder
less than 200
epg

moderate shedder
200-500
epg

high shedder
over 500
epg

20% of horses
carry
80% of parasites.

Some horses will only need to be treated twice a year.



Seasonal treatments. Typically no treatments are needed in the summer (May-September) because of extreme heat. Most worm eggs will not develop into larvae, and those that do usually die when temperatures are above 90 degrees.



Save money, improve horse health. Deworming based on fecal egg counts will reduce both annual spending and resistant parasites in your herd.

Additional measures.

Help control parasites by:

- Rotating pastures.
- Cross-grazing with ruminants.
- Avoiding overstocking pastures (1-2 acres per horse).



Adult horse schedule:

Low shedders	October: Fecal analysis & treat with ivermectin.
	January: Fecal analysis & treat with moxidectin plus praziquantel.
Moderate shedders	October: Fecal analysis & treat with moxidectin.
	January: Fecal analysis & treat with moxidectin plus praziquantel.
High shedders	October: Fecal analysis & treat with moxidectin
	January: Fecal analysis & moxidectin plus praziquantel.
	April: Treat with oxbendazole and/or pyrantel OR fenbendazole at a double dose for 5 days.

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For more information, contact Neely Walker,
LSU AgCenter Equine Specialist, School of Animal Sciences
nwalker@agcenter.lsu.edu

William B. Richardson, LSU Vice President for Agriculture
Louisiana State University Agricultural Center
Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station
Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service
LSU College of Agriculture

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