

# Sheep and Goat Parasite Information

## Basic Principles:

- Parasite control involves knowledge of husbandry, nutrition and helminthology (study of parasitic worms) combined with basic common sense.
- Nutrition must be adequate to the needs of the animals.
- No matter how many or few parasites the animal has, if they are not well nourished, they will do poorly.
- Combine anthelmintic treatment with placing animals on minimally contaminated pastures.
- Targeted treatment of only those individual animals contributing the greatest numbers of parasites.

## Parasite Control

### Strategies:

Seasonal  
Pasture Rotation  
Nutrition  
Deworming  
Culling

Pasture rotation is the best method of parasite control.

## **80/20 Rule**

- 80% of parasites are maintained in 20% of the animals
  - Identify and cull or deworm the 20%

## Parasite Control Tips:

- Deworm in winter to most effectively reduce Barber Pole worms during the warm months.
- Rotate to a clean pasture every 30 days.
- Only use 1-2 dewormers until they are no longer effective.
- Confirm dewormer efficacy with fecal tests.
- Conduct routine conjunctival scores/FAMACHA to assess severely anemic animals.
- Use name brand dewormers for the most reliable results.
- Use oral dewormers over injectables, pour-ons, or feed additives.
- Clean feed bunks, water troughs, and dry lot environments routinely to reduce the spread of coccidia through young kids and lambs.
- Do NOT over-graze pastures—50% of larvae occur within 2.5 cm of the ground.
- Deworm pregnant ewes and does prior to parturition; avoid Valbazen (first month) and Levamisole (last month) in pregnant animals.
- Deworm all kids and lambs after weaning and move to a clean pasture away from adults.
- Adding additional animal species (ie. horses, cows, etc) aides in reducing parasite numbers.
- Double the labeled dose for goat dewormers, but withdrawal times change when using medications off label, so always consult with a veterinarian beforehand.



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