



Cooper Zimbabwe (1992) (Pvt) Ltd

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Coopers Bulletin

Worms – A Hidden Enemy

It is that time of year again when we should consider dosing our stock against worms (including fluke). Ideally, stock is dosed at least twice a year, the first treatment being given at fall/in autumn (end of the rainy season) and the second, just when we are getting into the wet season. The autumn drench ensures that our animals get into the dry period, which is associated with poor pastures, without unnecessary competition with worms, and the summer drench ensures that contamination of pastures in the rainy season is minimised. Additional optional drenching is given somewhere in between depending on management practices.

It is also important to know which type of worms are at your property in order to select the most appropriate product. This can be achieved by randomly taking a few dung samples and submitting them fresh to the Central Veterinary Laboratory, 18 Borrowdale Road, Harare. We are fortunate that testing dung for worms (worm egg count) does not require expensive and complicated equipment therefore it is not an expensive measure. This section of the laboratory was one of the few that remained operational during the tumultuous period 2000 to 2010.

In Zimbabwe there are only two groups of worms to really worry about, i.e. round worms and liver fluke. (Tapeworm do occur but is of less economic importance.) Round worms such as wireworm are present throughout the country and where animals drink from dams and rivers it's almost certain that liver fluke will be a problem as well. Animals drinking from water troughs are sufficiently covered by dosing just with simple deworming products such as **SYSTEMEX**. Those drinking from dams and rivers are at risk of infection from fluke as well therefore the product chosen should also be effective against fluke. Please ask your Coopers representative for **NILZAN DRENCH**, **NILZAN BOLUS**, **SYSTEMEX PLUS FLUKE** or other newer products detailed below. As infection is through ingestion of worm larvae during grazing, animals should be moved to clean pastures after treatment to avoid re-infection.

Coopers have recently introduced new products that are effective for both worms as well as blue ticks. They either contain an ivermectin (against roundworm, mites and blue ticks) or they are combination products incorporating an ivermectin and a fluke-killing active to ensure a wider coverage of worms.



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One of the products available is **BIMECTIN[®]**. A single subcutaneous injection of Bimectin at 1ml per 50kg body weight is effective against both blue ticks and a wide range of round worms, including those found in the eye (eyeworm), in the nose (nasal worm in sheep and goats) and under the skin (Parafilaria –causing false bruising). With proper planning Bimectin and other ivermectin-based products could be incorporated into a management program to achieve both good worm as well as blue tick control. Monthly injections with Bimectin provide good control. For sustained action a long acting injection with **SOLUTION[®]** kills blue ticks for more than 54 days and roundworm for more than 74 days!

Another product performing the same function is **AVOTAN[®]**, which is a ready to use pour on formulation. The beauty of this product is that it does not leave any residues in milk therefore it is the product of choice among dairy farmers for use on animals producing milk for human consumption.

Where the worm burden includes fluke, **FLUXACUR[®] NF** drench is the answer. One dose will cover roundworm (wireworm, hookworm, false bruising, nasal worm etc), fluke, blue ticks, mites and lice. The combination product called **SOVEREIGN**, is also available as a pour on formulation, and is applied from the middle of the back to the tail base in a straight line. This quickly gets absorbed into the blood stream to ‘nail’ the blood-sucking worms, fluke and blue ticks.



For these and more please contact your Coopers representative or the technical team at 04 486 134. Mobiles: 0712 202 399 and 0712 635 819

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.cooperzimbabwe.co.zw