



## ***Town & Country Animal Hospital, PC***

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# **Sheep Flock Health Program**

## **Principal Health Concerns:**

Parasite Control (internal & external)  
Vaccinations  
Breeding strategy  
Foot care  
Medications usage

## **Parasite Control:**

- **Periodic fecal examinations** can monitor needs and effectiveness of de-worming program
  - Different parasites may require different medications for control
- **Strategic de-worming:** treat, and move to “clean” pasture when possible
- When “rotating” products, be sure to rotate drugs, not just brand names to avoid development of resistance
- Read and follow any label slaughter “withdrawal time” requirements
- Effectiveness of oral deworming products can be improved by:
  - With-holding food for 24 hours prior to treatment
  - Treat two days in a row (i.e./ full dose twice, 24 hours apart)
- **Objectives of de-worming**
  - Prevent disease in lactating ewes
  - Prevent ewes from contaminating spring pasture
  - Prevent disease in suckling and weaned lambs
- **Principal parasites**
  - Stomach worms:
    - *Haemonchus contortus* – primary concern, can suck blood from stomach
    - Other worms (*Ostertagia*, *Trichostrongylus*, *Strongyloides*)
    - Most deworming products are aimed at these “worm” parasites
  - *Coccidia* (intestinal protozoa)
    - Require different medication to prevent and/or treat infections, when identified
  - External parasites
    - Lice, mites
  - Other
    - Nasal bots, flies, “brain worm” of deer

## Products recommended for intestinal/stomach worm control:

- *Levamisole* (Tramisole, Levasole 0.184gm bolus):
  - 1 bolus per 50# (follow label directions)
  - Broad spectrum of internal parasite control (not including coccidia)
- *Ivermectin* (Ivomec 1% Injectable):
  - Use in sheep is “extra-label” (i.e. not labeled for sheep)
  - 0.1cc per 10# (1.0cc per 110#) by mouth or injected under skin
  - Observe slaughter withdrawal time of 45 days
  - Broad spectrum of internal parasite control (not coccidia), and effective against some external parasites as well
- *Fenbendazole* (Safeguard 10% Paste or Suspension; Panacur 10% Suspension, 100mg/cc)
  - 5 – 10 mg/kg (2.3 – 4.6mg/#) dose range, by mouth
  - Suspension (labeled for horses & cattle): 2.3 –4.6cc per 100#  
Paste (labeled for horses): Dose as indicated by weight marks on syringe, @ actual weight, or doubled body weight for higher dose (i.e./ 100# sheep gets amount for 100# or 200#)
  - Higher dose (10mg/kg) is recommended for broader activity and to limit development of resistance
  - Not effective for prevention or treatment of coccidia

## Medications recommended for prevention & treatment of intestinal coccidia:

- These should be used under direction and/or supervision of veterinarian
  - *Deccox* (feed additive for prevention)
  - *Corid* (amprolium)
  - *Albon* (sulfadimethoxine)
- Timing of de-worming
  - When possible, de-worm and move to “clean” pasture
  - Timing options (depending on conditions, animal density, and aggressiveness of management):
    - Spring-summer-fall
    - Spring-early summer-late summer-fall
    - Every 2 months from March til November
    - Every 3-4 weeks during pasture season
    - Deworm @ 3, 6, 9, and 12 weeks after turnout in spring

## Vaccination Recommendations

- *Clostridium perfringens* Types C + D (“over-eating disease”)
- *Clostridium tetani* (tetanus)
- Other diseases as indicated by farm situation
  - Chlamydia (can cause abortion)
  - *Vibrio* (can cause abortion)
  - Rabies

- Recommended product:
  - “CD/T” vaccine (Clostridium Types C+D, plus Tetanus)
    - Follow label dosing guidelines
    - Usually 2cc under skin (SQ) or in muscle (IM)
    - Initial vaccination twice, 3-4 weeks apart, then yearly
  - Ewes: yearly CD/T booster in late pregnancy (3-4 weeks prior to lambing)
    - Benefits ewe
    - Benefits lambs via colostrum
  - Lambs:
    - if ewes were properly boosted –
      - CD/T @ 2-3 months of age
      - booster 3-4 weeks later
    - if ewes were not properly boosted –
      - Tetanus anti-toxin at tail-docking, castration, etc.
      - Then follow regular schedule starting @ 2-3 months of age
  - Rams: yearly CD/T booster with rest of flock

## Other Issues:

Foot trimming: Should be done at least 2-3 times per year, +/- treat foot rot as needed.

### Vitamin E/Selenium (Bo-Se):

- For prevention of “white muscle disease” in lambs
- ½ cc under skin (SQ) for lambs < 2 weeks of age
- 1cc for lambs 2 weeks of age or older
- Usually administered as a single dose (unless directed by doctor)

### Breeding issues:

- ~ 5 month gestation period
- Higher ovulation rate if bred on second or later estrus
- “Flush” ewes with grain prior to and during breeding season to increase ovulation rates

### Antibiotic and general medication use:

- Follow label or doctor recommendations regarding dose, route of administration, course of treatment, and storage of medications.
- Watch expiration dates. Discard out-dated medications.
- Observe all “withdrawal times” (for meat intended for human consumption), per label and/or veterinarian recommendation.
- If in doubt, ask your veterinarian.