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ROTATION OF WORMERS:

Because horses wormers have the ability to become resistant, horses owners are advised not to rely on any one class of wormer. That means to prolong their life you should rotate wormers
Here is an explanation:

CLASS OF HORSE WORMER there are 6 classes of compounds

<u>CLASS</u>	<u>ACTIVITY</u>
Marocyclic Lactones (Mectins): such as Abamectin, Ivermectin & Moxidectin	Broad spectrum of activity including the control of bots.
Benzimidazoles (BZ's): including Thiabendazole, Oxibendazole, Oxfendazole, Febendazole, Mebendazole & Febantel	Broad spectrum wormers.
Tetrahydropyrimidines: include Pyrantel & Morantel	Broad spectrum wormer plus one species of tapeworm.
Isoquinolones: Praziquantel	Effective against the tree tape worm species.
Heterocyclic: Piperazine	Strongyles and especially round worms
Organophosphates: Dichlorvos & Trichifon	Bots & some worms.

THE BIG ISSUES ARE:

The most important parasites are the small strongyles which are controlled by broad spectrum wormers.

No one class of compound is effective against all worms and that is the reason why wormers often contain more than one active e.g. mectin & praziquantel.

Resistance to wormers is a fact of life. When a single class of compound is over used, it loses its effectiveness. There is resistance to BZ's and emerging resistance to "mectins" most particularly Round & Pinworms. Mectin resistance to Roundworms is proven overseas and cases have been found in Australia. Further, there is evidence of Ivermectin resistance to small Strongyles developing overseas. There is reported resistance to Pyramtel in the U.S.A. but no evidence in Australia, as yet.

We should protect the "Mectins", Tetrahydropyrimidines, and Isoquinolones from overuse. Many horse owners continue to use the same wormer **OR** change their wormers by brand name, not actives.

Some worms are seasonal: Tapeworms occur in spring and possibly autumn, Bots occur in late Summer & Autumn.

Annual chemical rotation (using on class for a year then switching to another) has been advocated for years, but is not commonly adopted because annual rotation is at odds with seasonal worm activity.

There is little likelihood of any new class of wormers becoming available in the foreseeable future. Many horse owners "guess" the weight of their horses, leading to under dosing.

A STRATEGY FOR WORM CONTROL:

Weighing Horses:

1. Scales are always the best option.
2. It is easy to estimate the weight of any horse or pony by using a piece of string (bailing twine etc.) A tape measure and a calculator. First, using the string, measure around the girth and record the measurement then measure the body length from the chest to the base of the tail. When you have both measurements, use the equation to calculate the weight.

Note: Remember girth squared.

EQUATION:

BODYWEIGHT (KG) = Girth² (cm) X Body length (cm) Divided by 11,877

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS:

This is an example only and depends on stocking rates; grazing pressure, location etc (also see Other Strategies). It gives two suggested worming programs; assuming 2 x worming's per season:

SEASON	TARGET PARASITES	OPTION 1	OPTION 2
SPRING	Strongyles & Tapes	Morantel or Pyrantel Mectin	Mectin/Praziquantel Mectin
SUMMER	Strongyles & Bots	BZ Mectin	BZ/ Piperazine Mectin
AUTUMN	Strongyles & Bots & possibly Tapes	Mectin/ Praziquantel Mectin	Morantel or Pyrantel Mectin
WINTER	Strongyles	BZ/ Piperazine Mectin	BZ Mectin

OTHER STRATEGIES:

Remove manure from stables, yards, or paddocks weekly. Spell paddocks especially in summer. Cross graze using e.g. cattle/sheep for 6 months periods. Dose and contain animals for 48 hours prior to introduction to the herd.

Do not rely exclusively on any **ONE** class of compounds.

WORM TESTS:

Faecal egg counts (FECs) can be performed in the laboratory (or at you local Vets)

Treat only when levels are high enough: For individuals > 400epg (eggs per gram) for Herds (min 10) > 200 epg.

Check for anthelmintic resistance – Endure the treatments you use are effective (consult you Vet.)

Identify & selectively treat “wormy” horses. These horses tend to be “carrier animals” and routinely may have high FECs that contaminate your paddocks and so infect other horses.

CONFUSED? NEED TO KNOW MORE

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Email info@iahp.com.au

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