

The “New Deal” in Parasite Control

Veterinarians are highly concerned about the current status of parasite resistance in the equine world. With the three families of deworming medications showing notable resistance in some areas, and no new products being developed by the pharmaceutical companies, a new approach to control of intestinal parasites has become necessary. Maintaining a low level of parasites in the horse’s body (demonstrated by a < 200 epg fecal egg count result) may cultivate a parasite population that is less resistant to dewormers.

An excellent level of paddock hygiene is paramount to decreasing the parasites and eggs in the fields. Dragging the

fields only helps to disperse parasite eggs and contaminate more of the field, and dragged fields should ideally be empty for 4 weeks after.

Manure testing for parasites plays a significant role in the new protocol. Running a test on your horse’s manure to check for parasites and the numbers of eggs present is a good, concrete way to measure the effectiveness of your program. Horses are usually separated into 3 categories: low shedders of less than 200 eggs per gram (epg) of manure, medium shedders of 200-500 epg, and high shedders of greater than 500 epg. It might be easier though, to

categorize your property or environment as low level, moderate level, and high level of parasite exposure.

Level of exposure would be dictated by:

- a. number of horses in the barn; number of horses per paddock
- b. frequency of travel of horses (to/from shows, to/from Florida, etc.)
- c. paddock hygiene (manure removal frequency and disposal, etc.)

For a more in depth explanation please visit our website: www.MidHudsonVet.net



Paddock Hygiene: Tools to decrease contamination

- Daily or weekly paddock / field manure clean up
- Treating fields with lime prior to rain acts to fertilize and alter soil pH to make it less hospitable to parasite eggs
- Rotate paddocks
- Fewer horses per paddock
- Isolation of new horses for 2–3 weeks



The veterinarians at Mid-Hudson Veterinary Practice can help customize a program for you and your property via email, or otherwise scheduled farm visits. We can obtain manure samples at scheduled farm calls and help you update your deworming program for optimal health of your horses.

Mark Jordan, DVM
Jennifer Enger, DVM
Michelle Singer, VMD
Jennifer Puttress, DVM

Deworming Schedule by exposure level

LEVEL OF EXPOSURE TO PARASITES	DEWORMING FREQUENCY	FECAL TESTING FREQUENCY
LOW LEVEL	Two times per year April- Quest (moxidectin) November- Equimax (ivermectin/praziquantel)	Once a year
MODERATE LEVEL	Three times per year Jan- Quest (moxidectin) May- Panacur (fenbendazole) double dose or PowerPac November- Equimax	Twice a year
HIGH LEVEL	Four times per year January- Ivermectin April- Panacur double dose or PowerPac July- Strongid (pyrantel) double dose November- Equimax	Two or Three times a year