

Improving roundworm control in your cattle

Do you know how much you spend on cattle wormers? Can you cut down treatment costs and still get the same performance?

In the past faecal egg counting (FEC) has been mainly focused on helping to control parasites in sheep. However, the cattle industry faces the same parasite issues and cattle farmers would benefit from applying this technology.

Is resistance to cattle wormers an issue?

Extensive resistance has been found on New Zealand cattle farms but, unlike sheep parasites, the biggest problem was with Group 3 (ML) wormers. The main reason being most cattle producers have relied on this group since the advent of injectable and pour on wormers which are far more attractive than battling with a beast's head to drench it – sound familiar?

There is already evidence of resistance to cattle wormers on a few farms in the UK and we suspect that it may be widespread – it's just that no one has properly looked yet.

We have assumed for years that sheep wormers were working fine but the extent of wormer resistance in sheep parasites is now alarming. Let's heed the warnings and messages from the sheep industry to ensure that we can delay the problem for our cattle.



Is FEC in cattle reliable?

The team at **FECPAK** have now modified the **FECPAK** system so that farmers, advisors and vets can get a cattle FEC test which has been validated by leading research institutes from around the world as being more accurate and repeatable than traditional FEC methodologies.

Can FECPAK help you?

Neil Perkins of Dinas Island Farm, Newport, Pembrokeshire purchased a **FECPAK** in 2006 and as well as using it effectively on sheep he monitored FEC in his young cattle.

"For first season grazers we always used a pulse release wormer bolus which was administered at turnout, as this cost us £15.00/ head we decided to change policy and monitor FEC and treat accordingly. In the first year the FEC's got high enough to dose once in the summer. In

the second year there were low burdens present but the monthly FEC counts showed that it was not rising therefore we got away without any wormer to the 60 yearlings until housing" comments Neil.

Neil's **FECPAK** has more than paid for itself through savings on cattle wormers in just one grazing season without compromising performance. Anything the farm saves in the cattle and sheep enterprise since then is now their profit!

For more information about FEPAK contact us on 01970 828236

*Please note that FEC is not a reliable indicator of Fluke and Lungworm infections. Many of our clients vaccinate for lungworm and use FEC to monitor for other roundworms. Speak to your vet about the best policy for your system.

***FECPAK** is only reliable for cattle under 18 months of age.