



Tidewater Equine Clinic & Farm Animal Services

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Deworming Recommendations

Shedding Status:

A fecal egg count (**FEC**) determines a horse's shedding status by counting the number of strongyle-type eggs per gram (**EPG**) of feces. Fecal samples should be taken in the fall or spring because these seasons have the highest parasite infection rates. For accuracy of shedding status, samples should be collected at least 2 months after deworming.

Status	Treatment
LOW SHEDDERS (FEC ≤ 150 EPG)	1. Ivermectin in April 2. Ivermectin + praziquantel in November (Equimaxx)
MODERATE SHEDDERS (200 EPG ≤ FEC ≤ 500 EPG)	1. Ivermectin in April 2. Fenbendazole, pyrantel or ivermectin in July 3. Moxidectin + praziquantel in November (Quest Plus)
HIGH SHEDDERS* (FEC > 500 EPG)	1. Fenbendazole, pyrantel or ivermectin in January 2. Ivermectin in April 3. Fenbendazole, pyrantel or ivermectin in July 4. Moxidectin + praziquantel in October (Quest Plus)

*Young horses, aged 1-3 years, should be considered "high shedders" until their immune systems fully mature.

Fecal egg count reduction test (FECRT):

FECRT taking a fecal sample and deworming with the chosen product on the same day, and then taking a second fecal sample 10-14 days later. The percent reduction of the strongyle eggs after deworming shows the level of resistance to that product in the strongyle population.

Product information:

- Praziquantel kills tapeworms and is recommended to be used at least annually in the fall.
- Ivermectin or moxidectin should be given after the first frost (October) to kill botfly larvae.
- In adult horses, strongyles have shown widespread resistance to fenbendazole, oxibendazole, and pyrantel pamoate. If you have concerns about resistance to these products, a fecal egg count reduction test can be performed on your horse's feces.