



## Deworming Recommendations for Pastured Animals in Vermont: The Short Version

Generally, we want to deworm with two goals in mind. First, to get the animals cleaned up (as free of parasites as possible) for the winter to decrease the numbers of parasites that overwinter in your livestock. Second, we want to deworm to keep animals from shedding high numbers of parasites that contaminate pastures. As the days begin to lengthen and warm, overwintered parasites come out of hiding (refugia) in your animals and begin to ramp up egg production to contaminate the environment. Pasture contamination is how parasites keep themselves in business: if a pasture is heavily contaminated, continual infection of your animals will result throughout the warm months. Our goal should be to limit pasture contamination and interrupt the parasite's lifecycle. A third goal should be considered for pregnant animals: Parasites also multiply in readiness for young to be born so as to infect the babies. Pregnant animals should be dewormed during the dry period or before birth to help stop this cycle. Consult your veterinarian about milk and meat withholding times as well as which dewormers are safe during pregnancy for food producing animals.

1. Clean your animals up for the winter with ivermectin (if milk withholding is not an issue). In horses, you should use a product that kills tapeworms once or twice per year, so Equimax or Zimectrin Gold is recommended in the fall, after the hard frost sets in.
2. Clean your animals up to prevent pasture contamination by deworming in the spring as the green shoots of grass are just coming up. For people who manage their farms carefully (smart manure removal) and plan to use fecal testing over the summer, one or two doses of dewormer during this time of the year may be

HEALTHY FARMS LARGE  
ANIMAL VETERINARY SERVICES

ALISON CORNWALL DVM  
HEALTHYFARMSVET@GMAIL.COM  
979 US ROUTE 2, MIDDLESEX, VT 05602  
WWW.HEALTHYFARMSVET.COM 802.505.9639

---



enough to keep your animals healthy all summer long. For those who manage less intensely, plan on deworming 3 times, 1 month apart or April 1<sup>st</sup>, May 1<sup>st</sup>, and June 1<sup>st</sup> with Safeguard or Panacur. In ruminants, you need twice the label dose. In horses and pigs, the label dose is adequate. Safeguard is easier on pastures (it does not kill dung beetles or harm the healthy bugs that help break down feces as much as ivermectin) and is a good choice for this time of year.

3. Test your animals' feces for parasite eggs 4 weeks after the last expected dose of spring dewormer. This will tell you if you need to continue deworming or change deworming plans. My clients can download forms for free fecal tests on my website. Make sure to download and instruction form as well as a submission form.
4. *If your animals are housed at a high-density facility or if you do not do any pasture management (manure removal) you may need to deworm more frequently and should work with your vet and utilize fecal testing to make certain that your animals are not heavily parasitized.*
5. *If you have pregnant animals, contact your veterinarian on how to best deworm for health of the young: generally deworm pregnant animals before birthing and don't forget to deworm foals every MONTH during the first year of life. Young ruminants also need aggressive deworming and may need treatment for coccidia as well.*