

Anthelmintic Resistance

- the Facts

- The incidence of anthelmintic resistance is increasing in the UK.
- The broad spectrum anthelmintics (wormers) can be allocated into three classes of drugs, each class has a different mode of action;

Class

- 1-BZ Benzimidazoles (White drench)
 - 2-LV Levamisoles (Yellow drench)
 - 3-AV Avermectins/Milbemycins (Clear drench)
- Resistance has been reported against all three anthelmintic classes in worms of sheep. Reports of multiple drug class failure are also increasing.
 - Once the parasite population on a farm becomes resistant then for all practical purposes this resistance is permanent.

What can be done?

Monitoring

- Consider monitoring roundworm infections through regular faecal egg counts on fresh mob samples.
- Undertake a post drench efficacy check to determine whether the class of anthelmintic is still effective or whether drug resistance is present.

- Set realistic targets for your sheep and investigate any failures to achieve them.

Conserve drug efficacy

- Do not introduce problems onto your farm, treat bought in sheep with drenches from both the 2-LV and 3-AV class of drugs and where possible yard for at least 24 hours prior to turnout.
- Do not underdose stock by estimating live weight. Base the dosing volume on the heaviest animal in the group.
- Avoid using the same class of anthelmintic year after year. Introduce an annual rotation.
- Check that the dosing gun is delivering the correct volume of drench prior to use and administer all drenches over the back of the tongue.
- Dosing animals onto clean pasture can select strongly for anthelmintic resistance.
- Plan a strategic worming program with your veterinary practitioner that will reduce unnecessary treatments. Where possible integrate grazing management into routine farm strategies to provide some 'low-risk' pastures.
- Because each anthelmintic family has its own unique strengths it is important to conserve the efficacy of our existing drenches.

For more information
see News Sheet Volume 4
Number 15



Membership Application

I hereby apply for admission to membership of The MoreDun Foundation ('the company') as a:

- 1. Annual Full Member**
(voting) £25
- 2. Life Member**
(voting) £500
- 3. Annual Overseas Member**
(non voting) £30
- 4. Annual Student Member**
(non voting) £10
- 5. Annual Corporate Member**
(non voting) £150
- 6. Annual Group Member**
ie library, veterinary group or agricultural/breed society
(non voting) £55

I agree to be bound by the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the company and, in the case of membership as a Full or Life Member, in accordance with clause 6 of the Memorandum of Association, to contribute, if required, an amount not exceeding one pound sterling (£1) to the company's assets in the event of the company being wound up while I am a member or within one year after cessation of my membership.

Signature:

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