

DEWORMING CALENDAR *for* SOUTHEAST QUEENSLAND

Modified calendar for **senior horses** (18 years and older) with pasture access

SPRING September – November	SUMMER December – February	AUTUMN March – May	WINTER June – August
Deworm IF: FEC is more than 200 epg <i>or</i> Horse has been on pasture since the autumn	Deworm IF: FEC is more than 200 epg <i>or</i> Deworming is advised by a vet ¹	Deworm IF: FEC is more than 200 epg <i>or</i> Horse has been on pasture since the spring	Deworm IF: FEC is more than 200 epg <i>or</i> Deworming is advised by a vet
Deworm WITH: <u>Fenbendazole</u> , 1.5 to 2X standard dose, daily for 3–5 days (lower dose and shorter duration for older horses)	Deworm WITH: <u>Oxibendazole</u> (best for pinworms) <i>or</i> <u>'mectin</u> (ivermectin or abamectin) Reserve pyrantel/morantel for tapeworms	Deworm WITH: <u>Pyrantel</u> , 13.2 mg/kg (2X standard dose) alternatively, morantel at 2X standard dose <i>or</i> <u>'mectin + praziquantel</u>	Deworm WITH: <u>Oxibendazole</u> <i>or</i> <u>'mectin</u> (ivermectin or abamectin) Reserve pyrantel/morantel for tapeworms
WHY: Ability of the immune system to control parasites declines in senior horses; small strongyle larvae may be present in very high numbers and can cause significant damage to the lining of the bowel. Although moxidectin is an effective larvicidal treatment, adverse effects are more likely in senior horses, particularly those who are underweight or dealing with illness or injury. The manufacturer warns <i>“Do not use in sick, debilitated, or underweight animals.”</i> Fenbendazole may be the safer choice, but it must still be used with care.	WHY: <i>Deworm only the horses shedding lots of strongyle eggs onto the pasture.</i> Slow anthelmintic resistance by <i>not</i> deworming low-FEC horses when conditions are unfavourable to parasites on pasture. Use a stretch of hot (>35 °C), dry weather to kill larvae on the pasture, and save the anthelmintics for when conditions favour parasites on pasture. ¹ Vet may advise treatment for parasitic disease transmitted by insects, such as summer sores or onchocerca dermatitis/uveitis, or if the horse is showing signs of pinworm or bot infection.	WHY: Limit anthelmintic use by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> targeting all the important parasites* in adult horses in the one dose (* Pyrantel/morantel does not control bots; use the 'mectin combo if bots are a problem) waiting until the cool weather sets in and conditions favour survival, but not development, of parasites on pasture Pyrantel/morantel at 2 times the standard dose may be safer than the 'mectins in senior horses; the older the horse, the more likely the 'mectins may cause adverse effects.**	WHY: <i>Deworm only the horses shedding lots of strongyle eggs onto the pasture.</i> By moving the 'winter' deworming to the autumn, it is often possible to limit anthelmintic use to <u>twice a year</u> — autumn and spring — or roughly every 6 months, in healthy senior horses. ** Monitor anthelmintic effectiveness with post-treatment FECs if 'mectins are not included in the program Repeat the FEC 4–5 weeks after 'bendazole or 'rantel treatment

FEC: faecal egg count; epg: eggs per gram of manure

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