

The secrets of effective drenching are:—

1. To drench early before calves show symptoms of worm infestation.
2. To drench regularly so that worms are dealt with as soon as they mature.

Three-weekly drenching is necessary in many cases to keep the worms in check. The value of rotational grazing cannot be overestimated in the fight against parasites. It is probably impossible to prevent re-infestation taking place, but a change of paddock after each drench is the nearest approach to ideal.

It is well known that parasitism is much more prevalent on heavy, rich country than on poorer light country. In the first case, stocking is heavier, contamination of the pasture is heavier, and as a result, each calf gets a heavier infestation.

Supplementary feeding with concentrates has much to recommend it in keeping up the resistance and general health of the calf. Again, if supplementary feeding is to be resorted to, do not wait until obvious symptoms of parasitism are present.

To sum up, the farmer who has trouble with internal parasites of calves should:—

1. Build up the resistance of the animals by a high standard of nutrition.
2. Drench early and regularly, using a reliable vermifuge.
3. Provide rotational grazing to prevent re-infestation of the calves.

Such a programme should be easier and cheaper than burying his own calves and buying replacements.

—R. P. GILDER, B.V.Sc., Veterinarian, Palmerston North.

Answers to Correspondents

Windsucking Mare

“J.G.” Wedderburn:—

I have a thoroughbred mare which is a bad windsucker and would be pleased if you could let me know if there is any cure for this complaint. The mare has been affected for a period of about 12 months.

LIVESTOCK DIVISION:—

Windsucking is a vice which, if allowed to continue, may have a serious effect on the health of the horse, and thus lead to unsoundness. It is very similar to crib-biting, except that a grip is taken on thin air instead of some part of the manger or fittings. In order to windsuck, the horse must extend the neck, thus tensing the muscles of the neck and jaws. When well-established it may be found impossible to break the habit, in which case the animal will gradually become

useless for work. If, however, the habit is a fairly recent acquisition, it may be possible to cure by preventing the extension of the neck. Feed the animal on the ground, and when turned loose have it controlled by a head-stall with a strong strap tied short between the forelegs to a band around the chest, allowing sufficient play for a normal carriage of the head.

As windsucking is usually associated with crib-biting, it would be advisable to examine both the manger and the mare's teeth for evidence of excessive wear. If it is found to be a crib-biter also, you must adopt some means to discourage this. Feed on the ground, or smear a solution of bitter aloes over the parts of the manger used by the horse to bite on.

If treatment on the lines given above is unsuccessful, there is little else you can do, except get rid of the animal

or keep it apart from others which might copy the vice.

Rape as Greenfeed for Milking Cows

“V.A.D.,” Taupiri:—

Could you please tell me if rape is good for milking cows as greenfeed.

LIVESTOCK DIVISION:—

Rape is grown chiefly for sheep or pigs. It is satisfactory for cattle, but dairy cows should be fed rape or grazed on the crop only immediately after milking, to avoid tainting the milk. To avoid danger from bloat or excessive scouring cows should not be left on the rape for more than half-an-hour. Only mature rape should be fed, maturity being indicated by the change of colour of the leaves from green to slightly purple.



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