



Formulation matters

SHEEP AND GOATS SHOULD BE DEWORMED ORALLY WITH DRENCH FORMULATIONS

- 1) Oral dewormers (drenches) were specifically formulated for sheep and goats.
- 2) Only oral dewormers are FDA-approved for sheep and goats.
- 3) Oral dewormers are usually more effective.
- 4) Oral dewormers are faster acting; they go directly into the digestive system.
- 5) Oral dewormers have shorter withdrawal periods.
(consider moxidectin for goats, 19-23 days for oral; 120-130 days for injectable)
- 6) Oral dewormers are safer (especially levamisole).
- 7) Dewormers approved for other species don't necessarily meet extra label drug requirements. Just because you can get it, doesn't mean it's legal.
- 8) Blocks, mineral mixes, and crumbles containing deworming ingredients should not be fed to sheep and goats. The exception is morantel tartrate (FDA-approved), and it should only be fed to individual goats that are eating well.
- 9) Injectable dewormers should not be used in sheep and goats; nor should injectable dewormers be squirted in their mouths.
- 10) Pour-on dewormers should not be used in sheep and goats; nor should pour-on dewormers be given orally.

BUT OTHER FORMULATIONS ARE CHEAPER AND EASIER . . . OR ARE THEY?

Some producers use injectables and pour-on formulations (often, orally) to deworm their sheep/goats because these products can be less expensive and easier to administer. But are they less expensive when they are less effective or when they accelerate the development of resistant worms? Are they less expensive if they cause death or result in illegal residues? The withdrawal periods for off-label drug use are often not known.