



Recommended Targeted Deworming Schedule for Healthy, Mature Horses that are considered to be low shedders

The following recommendations are based on healthy, mature horses that have a low egg count on fecal examination (<200 eggs per gram). If your horse is a high shedder, is young (>1 year old), is underweight, or has any other medical conditions, consult with your veterinarian prior to forming an effective deworming protocol.

SPRING: After temperatures consistently stay above freezing (>32°F), or May 1st, whichever comes first

- Fecal test for baseline eggs per gram count, followed by Moxidectin for healthy, mature horses that are not underweight
– NEVER use in foals, sick, or underweight horses!
- A follow-up fecal exam should be taken 14 days post-treatment for moderate or high shedders as assessed by previous fecal exams. Low shedders do not require retesting at this time

SUMMER: Retest ~ 4 months after Spring deworming (AUGUST) only required for susceptible horses

- Repeat fecals should be done in all horses in susceptible climates where egg proliferation is still prevalent (ie Northern climates where the temperatures rarely go above 104°F)

FALL: After the first frost, or on December 1st (whichever comes first):

- Ivermectin with Praziquantel product

WINTER: Retest fecal ~3 months after the Fall deworming (FEBRUARY) only required for susceptible horses

- Repeat fecals should be done in all horses in susceptible climates where egg proliferation is still prevalent (ie Southern climates where the temperatures do not stay consistently below 43°F)

If the fecal tests remain significantly positive after retesting, a different dewormer should be used and the fecal re-tested.

In addition to before and after deworming, **fecal tests should also be done periodically throughout the year to monitor parasite load.** The frequency of tests will depend on the environment, history, and known parasite load of the individual horse. Remember, 20% of horses carry 80% of the parasite population, so deworming will likely need to be more frequent in these individuals.

And, perhaps most importantly, maintaining proper **environmental control:**

- good pasture management
 - removing manure as quickly as possible and limiting the number of horses on a single pasture
 - keeping pastures properly mowed and maintained
 - no more than 1 horse per 2 acres where possible
 - as parasites are generally host-specific, rotating a different species onto the same pastures will decrease the ability of the parasite to propagate in the environment
- decreasing fly populations
 - fly traps, keeping manure and trash covered, placing fans in barn
- proper composting of manure
 - must be kept above 40°C (>104°F) for a minimum of two weeks before being reapplied to pastures
- include the entire herd in a proper deworming program and deworm any new pasture mates before introduction to the herd

