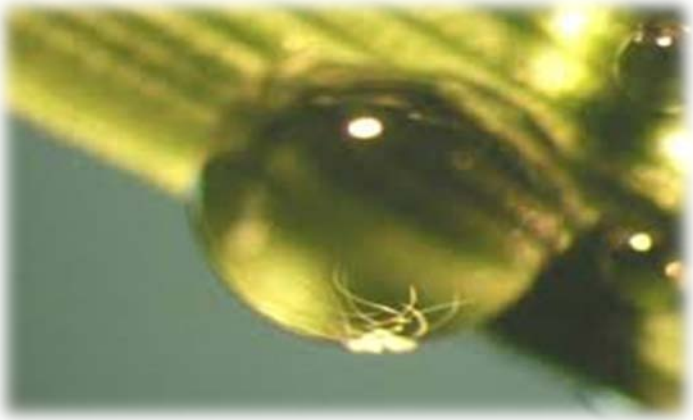
Managing Parasite Resistance Using A Whole Farm Approach

Introduction



What is the Reason for the Short Course and Penn State Project on Parasite Resistance?

Indiscriminate use of dewormers has caused an alarming increase in resistant equine parasites. Cases of resistant small strongyle parasites are being reported worldwide. Many horse owners contribute to the development of resistant parasites by deworming horses at frequent intervals, year-round, and may be using products that are totally ineffective on their farm. Adoption of new deworming practices can decrease the proliferation of resistant parasites and maintain the effectiveness of the products that are available.

What is being done to address the problem?

The Penn State Extension equine team obtained a $146,000 Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) grant which was used to develop a program designed to increase farm managers' knowledge about parasite resistance, reduce the use of de-wormers, and document parasite burdens and anthelmintic efficacy on Pennsylvania horse farms. This short course is being funded in part through this USDA grant.

Changing Minds One at a Time

"By now virtually every equine veterinarian in this country knows that regularly scheduled, across the board deworming is a bad idea. And I know many horse people do as well. But how many people have acted on this information and changed their approach to parasite control. Not nearly enough."

Dr. Martin Nielsen , DVM< PhD, DECK, DACVM quoted in Equus magazine

The "New" Protocol in Parasite Management

**Use products with proven efficacy*

**Administer at the appropriate time of the year*

**Deworm based on the parasite burdens of individual horses*

**Adopt good farm management practices*

The question you need to ask is what are you most afraid of – allowing your horses to retain some parasites or developing anthelmintic resistant parasites that can no longer be killed.

Curriculum

Module 1. Types of Equine Parasites and their Biology

Module 2. Equine Parasite Resistance . How Does it Happen? Can it Happen on Your Farm?

Module 3. Parasites in the Environment- Non Chemical Management Strategies

Module 4. The results of the Penn State Parasite Resistance Project and What it Means for You

Module 5. Conducting Fecal Egg Counts

Module 6. Putting the Pieces Together – Developing a Management Program for Your Farm

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