



### Beef Cattle Worming

With resistance to wormers becoming more and more of a problem and the margins of beef and dairy farming under immense pressure, using the right wormer at the right time is vital. Firstly, two simple rules should be adhered to:

- 1) Rotate the wormer family (see fig. 3 over page) annually to reduce resistance pressure.
- 2) Use wormer only when a problem is known about. Discuss with your vet the use of worm egg counts to help in determining if the scouring/poor doing is worm-related or not. The more specific advice depends on the calving pattern and age of calves.



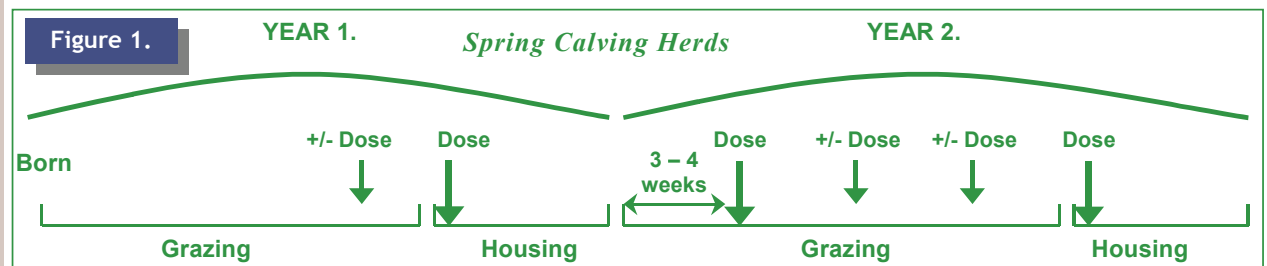
#### Spring-born Calves (see fig. 1)

##### 1<sup>st</sup> year at grazing

Spring born calves will not be eating too much grass, so the worm build up should be small. Under normal circumstances the animals only require one dose of wormer at housing. Later on in the season they may require a dose of wormer if the burden is high, but this is optional.

##### 2<sup>nd</sup> year at grazing.

After approximately one month at grass there is the option of a worm egg count to see what the worm burden is on these animals. The majority of farms will worm once, 3-4 weeks after turnout, then depending on the length of action or persistence of the product used and the dosing interval recommended by the manufacturer, a second and third dose may also be used during the season; for example, at 3, 8 and 13 weeks for an Ivermectin-based product, or possibly 8-week intervals for some of the newer, longer-acting Mitibemycins.



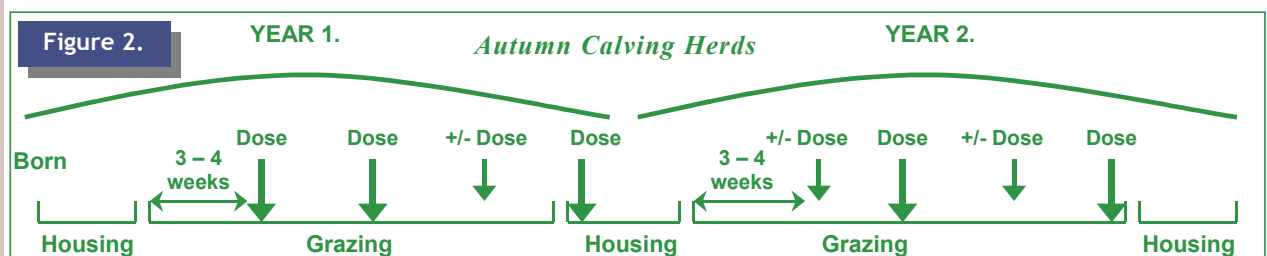
#### Autumn-born Calves (see fig. 2)

##### 1<sup>st</sup> year at grazing

Autumn-born calves will be more mature at turnout and will consume more grass therefore will have a higher risk of a higher worm burden. They should be wormed at 3-4 weeks after turnout and then at intervals thereafter, depending on the product used. (See recommendations for individual products—figure 3 over page).

##### 2<sup>nd</sup> year at grazing

This should involve a dosing regime of wormer throughout the summer similar to 2<sup>nd</sup> year at grass for “Spring Calvers”. However, these cattle are more mature in their second season at grass and more resistant to worming. In fact they may not require any more than one dose mid-way through the season to stop any build up of worms.





## Lungworm Control

The use of wormer earlier on in the year after turnout will help reduce the build-up of lung worm on the pasture and give a smaller, steady dose of lungworm over the season, which should allow the animal to gain good immunity but without clinical signs of disease.

It is always recommended to worm animals on housing to clear out any low-grade infection with gut parasites, but mainly to clear out any lung worm before housing to reduce the risk of pneumonia. The use of Huskvac is uncommon in beef herds but is a viable option for problem herds. No worming for a minimum of two weeks after vaccinating and ensuring good exposure to lungworm will give best immunity in the subsequent grazing season.

For calves to obtain good immunity to lungworm the animals require some exposure to lungworm to stimulate their immune system.

Over-worming of young stock can mean that little or no exposure occurs and then as an adult a sudden exposure to lungworm can mean they are susceptible as no immunity was gained as a calf.

Figure 3.

### Worming products available for cattle include: (3 families)

#### 1. Ivermectin based products:

**Old type (medium acting):** Ivomec Pour-on Minimum 5 weeks between doses.

Noromectin Minimum 5 weeks between doses.

**New Type (generally longer acting) :** Eprinex Minimum 5 weeks between doses.

Dectomax Minimum 8 weeks between doses.

Cydetin Minimum 8 weeks between doses.

#### 2. Levamisole based products (short acting):

Levacur SC 3% (oral drench) Minimum 3 weeks between doses

Levacide injection (sub/cut injection) Minimum 3 weeks between injections

#### 3. Benzimidazole based products (short acting):

Panacur 10% (oral drench) Minimum 3 weeks between doses