



Using FARMIQ to minimise your worm burden

FARMIQ[®]

A note about worm burden.

Resistance to anthelmintic drench families within the New Zealand ruminant population is a major challenge to the animal and economic performance of the sheep and beef industry.

This is clearly shown on farms with the most recent research work indicating that up to 34% of farms across New Zealand have drench resistance to the standard Benzimidazole/ Levamisole combination type drenches and 11% of farms have resistance to triple combinations in their sheep flock.

This guide is a brief look at how we can utilise elements of FarmIQ to record, monitor and reduce the impact of internal parasitism to the New Zealand ruminant agribusiness industry. It covers using specific techniques to manage internal parasitism in association with drenching as a whole farm management policy.



What you can do in FarmIQ to minimise worm burden

Record your mobs and their movements in FarmIQ

Where can you do this in FarmIQ? Stock > Add or remove stock > Add stock

Related help section:

[Setting up mobs in FarmIQ](#)

[Moving mobs in FarmIQ](#)

It is easy to record your mobs in FarmIQ and from this you can record mob shifts. It is important - where possible - to graze paddocks with alternate stock classes to try and reduce the parasite load on individual paddocks.

Prior to weaning lambs, try and reduce the larval challenge they will face - this can be achieved by using crops/ new pastures or grazing mixed aghostock or cattle on these paddocks prior to putting the lambs on.

By recording your mob moves in FarmIQ, you can get a detailed report of all mob shifts and then, as best as possible, keep those paddocks marked for lambs after weaning as clean as you can.

Try and match the likes of pasture species, stock type and class to their nutritional demand. FarmIQ will show you paddock history and from this you can maintain a record of the movements of stock across the farm. This will ensure you can keep the pasture worm burden as low as possible, thus maximising lamb performance and reducing the need for drench use.

By as practically as possible ensuring all stock classes are grazed across all areas of the farm, we can ensure no particular areas are more or less prone to high egg burdens. After the majority of lambs are gone in the late autumn period, by mobbing up the MA ewes or grazing cattle across those paddocks they can effectively reduce the worm burden across those paddocks.

Plan crop rotations in FarmIQ

Where can you do this in FarmIQ? Land > Applications > Planting & cropping applications

Related help section: [Recording land activities in FarmIQ](#)

It's easy to record your cropping programme in the system, allowing you to view historical records and have information available at your fingertips in relation to what was planted and when.

It is preferable that different classes of stock are grazed across different areas of the farm, i.e. lamb finishing paddocks are identified and these are not all always the same paddocks year after year.

By recording your paddock cropping records, you will have more information available to help ensure the rotation of paddocks around the farm over progressive seasons.

Record your faecal egg count assessment in FarmIQ

Where can you do this in FarmIQ? Stock > Health & breeding > Faecal egg count

Related help section: [How to record a faecal egg count result in FarmIQ](#)

Performing a faecal egg count (FEC) of mobs of lambs is a great way to determine whether or not drenching is required for particular mobs of stock.

The result of faecal egg counts from mobs can be recorded in FarmIQ - this way you always have the information available in the diary and you can refer back to this data as and when required.

If you think that drench resistance may be an issue on your property it is easy to perform a faecal egg count reduction test (FECRT). You can take a FEC prior to and after drenching a mob of lambs. If there are still parasite eggs after drenching, this may indicate issues with drench resistance and it is advised to speak to your trusted large animal veterinarian around the options to investigate further.

Record your drench products and health treatments in FarmIQ

Where can you do this in FarmIQ?

Recording an animal health treatment (AHT): Stock > Health & breeding > Health treatments

Recording product inventory: Office > Product inventory > Product inventory > Add product

Related help section:

[How to record product inventory in FarmIQ](#)

[How to record AHTs in FarmIQ](#)

[Viewing the AHT report in FarmIQ](#)

Many of our users record their health treatments in FarmIQ with the emphasis being towards ensuring they are meeting their farm assurance programme requirements. While this is great, you can utilise this information more proactively to closely monitor your drench usage across your mobs of stock - this way you can quickly recall what drench families you used and when, ensuring you reduce the potential for resistance issues to occur.

Record pasture covers in FarmIQ

Where can you do this in FarmIQ? Land > Pasture covers

Related help section: [How to record pasture covers in FarmIQ](#)

We know that the vast majority of worms are located on the pasture and of these most of them are located in the first two centimetres of pasture or in the first centimetre of soil.

Using FarmIQ to record your pre- and post-grazing pasture covers means you know and can limit the exposure of your lambs to the high potential pasture worm burden lower down in the sward.

This will also help maintain higher post-grazing residuals, ensuring improved high lamb performance from both reducing worm intake and increasing dry matter intake effect.

Record your animal performance in FarmIQ

Where can you do this in FarmIQ? Stock > Weights > Record weights

Related help section: [How to record weights in FarmIQ](#)

Traditionally, we see 'spikes' in the worm burden on farms in the spring which are a result of high nutritional demand due to lambing and lactation. During this time there is a reduction in the immune response of MA ewes leading to more egg exposure onto pasture, and this is then picked up by non-immune grazing lambs which leads to a major spike in the mid-summer/autumn months.

By regularly monitoring lamb weights post weaning, we can accurately determine their performance and understand what factors may be reducing growth rates - which of course includes worm burden - and then make decisions to ensure they maintain high growth rates whilst on farm.

Put your animal health plan in FarmIQ

Where can you do this in FarmIQ?

Farm plans: Tools & calculators > Farm plans

Third-party access: People > Third party user

Related help section:

[Setting up Farm Plans in FarmIQ](#)

[Providing third-party access to your FarmIQ account](#)

It's easy to set up a 12-month animal health plan calendar in FarmIQ - we've even got a series of templates to use!

You can load one in and edit/remove/add separate events relevant to your farm operation that will show in the farm calendar.

You can give your vet third-party access to your account, and they can enter details for you and work with you around any changes or alterations as the season progresses.

The items above are some of the tools and techniques in FarmIQ that can help you manage internal parasitism on farm in a way that helps reduce the risk of increasing drench resistance. There are some great industry resources available such as www.wormwise.co.nz and of course, take some time to speak to your vet about focusing on a whole farm plan to make the most of these management tools.



Have a question?
We're here for a yarn.

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