

Parasite Control for Goats

By Martha Thomas

Internal

- The most common internal parasite is Coccidia and various nematodes (worms), particularly Haemonchus.
- Diarrhea is the most consistent sign. Goats become weak, dehydrated and may demonstrate signs of abdominal discomfort. Rapid detection, isolation, and prompt treatment of affected animal is critical.
- Coccidiosis is usually treated with Sulfas or Amprolium.
- Stomach worms cause the majority of problems in most herds. They suck blood and will cause profound anemia, weight loss and weakness in animals severely affected. Lungworms and tapeworms can be seen in some herds.

External

- Cause anemia, weight loss and gradual debilitation.
- 1) Biting lice, 2) Sucking lice, 3) Nose bots, 4) Keds, 5) Blow fly larvae, 6) Mites, and 7) Sticktight fleas.
- Control with insecticide sprays, dusts, or dips. As with deworming goat owners should consult with their veterinarian for specific information on alternative parasite control.

Sanitation

- Control of parasites is nearly impossible without good sanitation. Sanitation is anything that improves the standard of hygiene of the herd.
- Minimizing the contamination of the feed areas with fecal material, as these parasites are transmitted through the manure and by ingestion.
- Once goats have been fed goats should be denied further access to the feeding area until then next feeding time.
- Another effective way of improving the hygiene of the kids' environment is to provide climbing pedestals for the kids to play on. This will encourage them to stay off the ground which may be contaminated.

Treatment

- Drugs commonly used are ivermectin, morantel, levamisole, pyrantel, albendazole, thiabendazole, fenbendazole, oxbendazole, coumaphos and phenothiazine.
- **The full dose of dewormer should always be used to ensure maximum kill, and to prevent resistance from developing.** Weigh goats with weight tape to properly dose.
- If ivermectin is given orally the injectable dose must be doubled.
- Fenbendazole and albendazole are good for treating tapeworms.
- Only a few of the products that are effective against roundworms are licensed for use in goats. Therefore, many products must be used extra-label. This is possible with a veterinarian's prescription.
- For drugs used extra-label, the withdrawal times for meat and milk have to be extrapolated from other species (usually cattle), in which the drug is licensed. To be on the safe side, a longer withdrawal time than those used in cattle is always recommended.

Drug Resistance

- To reduce resistance use the same worming product for an entire year, rather than using a different product each time the goats are dewormed. This ensures that each generation of worms is only exposed to one drug at a time. An example of a good deworming program would be to use ivermectin one year, morantel the next, albenbazole the next; then to return to using ivermectin again.

Information Received from: Meat Goat Herd Health Management <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/VM005> and Common Internal Parasites of Goats in Florida <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/DS164>