



## **Internal parasites threaten herd performance**

*Brought to you by Merck Animal Health*

Internal parasites can wreak havoc on your herd. That's why an effective deworming program is an essential cornerstone of your herd health plan. Strategic deworming starts with understanding the life cycle of these pesky parasites and the effects they can have on cattle.

### **How cattle get parasites**

It's important to understand that a parasite lives two lives: one inside your cattle and one outside. Adult parasites in cattle produce eggs that are passed in the feces. The eggs hatch, producing larvae that develop and move up onto the pasture grasses where cattle consume them. Once inside a new host, the process starts over again.

### **Effects of parasites in cattle**

Internal parasites affect the animal in multiple ways:

- Reduced feed intake<sup>1, 2</sup>
- Decreased nutrient absorption
- Increased nutrient requirements of the animal

Cattle with severe worm burdens can show signs of diarrhea, anorexia, and lethargy. A mild-to-moderate worm burden can also cause disease and stress the immune system, making the animal more prone to other diseases.

### **Choosing the right dewormer**

Effective deworming does not have to be difficult. The good news is that you have several deworming options to suit your operation's needs.

SAFE-GUARD® (fenbendazole), for example, offers plenty of formulations that can be used chute side including drenches and paste, or on the pasture including blocks, pellets, free-choice mineral and range cubes. It's proven to be safe and goes straight to the gut, killing worms where they live, ultimately reducing pasture contamination. SAFE-GUARD® features broad-spectrum activity and is effective against the key internal parasites of cattle.

For more information, visit, <http://www.safe-guardcattle.com/>.

**IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION:** Consult your veterinarian for the diagnosis, treatment, and control of parasitism. Do not use in beef calves less than 2 months old, dairy calves and veal calves. A withdrawal period has not been established for this product in pre-ruminating calves.

Additionally, the following meat withdrawal and milk discard times apply:

**SAFE-GUARD® Paste:** Cattle must not be slaughtered for 8 days. For dairy cattle, the milk discard time is 96 hours.

**SAFE-GUARD® Suspension:** Cattle must not be slaughtered for 8 days. For dairy cattle, the milk discard time is 48 hours.

**SAFE-GUARD® ENPROAL® Type C Medicated Block:** Cattle must not be slaughtered for 11 days. For use in beef cattle only.

**SAFE-GUARD® 20% Protein Type C Medicated Block:** Cattle must not be slaughtered for 16 days. For use in beef cattle only.

**SAFE-GUARD® Type A and other medicated feed products** (pellets, cubes, free-choice mineral, or free-choice liquid): Cattle must not be slaughtered for 13 days. For dairy cattle, the milk discard time is 60 hours.

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<sup>1</sup> Smith, R. A., K. C. Rogers, S. Husae, M. I. Wray, R. T. Brandt, J. P. Hutcheson, W. T. Nichols, R. F. Taylor, J. R. Rains, and C. T. McCauley. 2000. Pasture deworming and (or) subsequent feedlot deworming with fenbendazole. I. Effects on grazing performance, feedlot performance and carcass traits in yearling steers. *Bovine Pract.* 34:104–114.

<sup>2</sup> Taylor, R. F., D. H. Bliss, R. T. Brandt, Jr., W. T. Nichols, J. R. Rains, J. P. Hutcheson, and R. A. Smith. 2000. Pasture deworming and (or) subsequent feedlot deworming with fenbendazole. II. Effects on abomasal worm counts and abomasal pathology of yearling steers. *Bovine Pract.* 34:115–123.