



Getting equine deworming right

Brought to you by Merck Animal Health

The goal of a strategic deworming program is not to eradicate all parasites from all horses on the farm. It is to reduce the parasite burden in each horse so that they remain healthy. The best way to effectively accomplish this goal using the deworming products available is to employ the help of a veterinarian and take a science-based approach to identify the “right horse” and give him the “right dewormer” at the “right time.”

1. **The right horse.** Each horse’s age, exposure and environment must be taken into consideration in determining his parasite risk and deworming protocol.
2. **The right time.** Ideally, deworming should be conducted at the “right time” based on a horse’s parasite egg shedding level. Horses that are low egg shedders (based on their fecal egg count) may need to be treated 2 times a year, whereas a high shedder may need 3 or 4 treatments a year.
3. **The right dewormer.** Some level of parasite resistance has been documented for every dewormer on the market and that resistance varies greatly by geographic location, as well as by parasite.¹ The only way to know for certain if there is parasitic resistance to a dewormer on your farm is to have your veterinarian perform a fecal egg count reduction test.

There are a lot of options out there when it comes to selecting an equine dewormer. You want a product that’s effective against the most significant and potentially dangerous internal parasites yet is also safe for your horse.

SAFE-GUARD® (fenbendazole) has a unique mode of action that makes it both safe for your horse and effective against the most dangerous parasites of the horse.^{2,3,4}

By employing your veterinarian’s guidance, you can take a scientific approach to making sure you are deworming the right horse at the right time with the right product.

For more information, visit <https://www.merck-animal-health-equine.com/safe-guard-moa>

¹ AAEP Parasite Control Guidelines ([revised 2021](#))

² Kellar QA., Gokbulut C., Muzandu K., Benchaoui H. Fenbendazole Pharmacokinetics, Metabolism, and Potentiation in Horses. Drug Metabolism and Disposition. Vol. 30, No. 11: 1230-1239, 2002.

³ Lacey E. Mode of Action of Benzimidazoles. Parasitology Today, vol. 6, no. 4, 1990.

⁴ SAFE-GUARD® (fenbendazole) Paste 10% equine dewormer product label

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION: Consult your veterinarian for the diagnosis, treatment, and control of parasitism. Do not use in horses intended for human consumption.