

Deworming Program:

The following resources are for informational purposes only. Please consult your personal veterinarian to determine the best program for you & your horse in your geographical location.

Implementing A Horse Worming Schedule

Taken From Alpha Horse

It is surprising how many horsemen do not incorporate any form of horse worming schedule in their routine, seemingly just choosing a box of horse wormer at random and thinking that will do the trick. While it is true that there are many fine horse worming products available to horse owners, ultimately if you wish to keep your equine friend as protected against the multitude of parasites just dying to infest your horse you will need to draw out an effective plan of action.

Yes, this means you must incorporate the various forms of horse wormers into an organized horse worming schedule that targets the various parasite groups during the times of year they are most a threat.

As a quick side note, technically the terms we should use are de-worming and de-wormers, but since most horsemen remove the "de" when discussing this topic we will do the same.

Before jumping straight into the actual recommended horse worming schedule I would like to put out this caution: if your horse is already seriously infested with parasites you should be very careful about giving him a dose of paste wormer. A paste horse wormer could conceivably kill too many parasites at once, thereby

causing them to bunch up in the horse's veins, intestines and colon. While this can kill a horse, more often than not it will just cause significant discomfort... but do we really want to cause discomfort to our equine friends?

In such cases I would start the worming process with a pellet wormer such as Strongid C2X. Since pellet-based wormers are mixed with a horse's feed daily, the potency is far lower than actual pastes. This lower potency allows for a slower and healthier parasite kill and removal rate. I advise putting a parasite-infested horse on a pellet-based wormer for at least one week before advancing to the standard paste regimen.

You must be careful to apply the recommended dose of horse wormer with each session, because parasites possess the ability to build a resistance towards agents designed to kill them when the agents are not applied in doses strong enough to kill the parasites outright. This is why it is also important to rotate the various types of horse wormers – not only does it increase the spectrum of targeted parasites, it makes it difficult for parasites to build up any sort of resistance or immunity.

Following is a solid horse worming schedule that we recommend:

Horse Worming Schedule

Month One - A fenbendazole-based product such as Safe Guard.

Month Three - An ivermectin-based product such as Zimecterin Gold.

Month Five - A pyrantel pamoate-based product such as Strongid.

Month Seven - An oxibendazole-based product such as Anthelcide EQ.

Month Nine - A moxidectin-based product such as Quest.
Repeat Rotation

Please note that Moxidectin is **NOT** recommended for foals or weak horses since an overdose can be very dangerous to them.

The above horse worming schedule will suit most standard horse needs very well, but if your horse is one that grazes frequently you may want to modify it a bit to include a five-day double-dose schedule of a Fenbendazole-based wormer in October and February. This purges your horse's system of encysted larvae that are picked up easily during regular grazing. Since encysted larvae are very difficult to nail without the use of Moxidectin, the five-day regimen is necessary; you won't be able to purge a horse's system of this parasite with just one or two doses.

Note: Under no circumstance should you provide a double dose of Moxidectin. Although effective against larvae and bots with just one dose, multiple doses can be a danger to your horse.

Sample Paste Wormer Rotation Schedule

6 times per year, every other month recommended worming
Taken from Horse Health USA
adapted from John Lyons

January/February

- Anthelcide EQ Paste or oxibendazole
- Panacur Paste or fenbendazole
- Safe-Guard Paste fenbendazole

March/April

ComboCare or 2% moxidectin & 12.5% praziquantel
Equell Paste or 1.87% ivermectin
EquiMax Paste or 1.87% ivermectin &
14.03% praziquantel
Equimectrin Paste or 1.87% ivermectin
Horse Health Ivermectin Paste or 1.87% ivermectin
IverCare Paste or 1.87% ivermectin
Quest Gel or moxidectin
Rotectin 1.87% Paste or 1.87% ivermectin
Zimecterin Paste or 1.87% ivermectin
Zimecterin Gold Paste 1.55% ivermectin & 7.75% praziquantel

May/June

Equi-Cide Paste or pyrantel pamoate
Rotectin P Paste or pyrantel pamoate
Strongid Paste or pyrantel pamoate
Strongylecare Paste or pyrantel pamoate
TapeCare Plus Paste pyrantel pamoate

July/August

Anthelcide EQ Paste or oxibendazole
Panacur Paste or fenbendazole
Safe-Guard Paste fenbendazole

September/October

ComboCare or 2% moxidectin & 12.5% praziquantel
Equell Paste or 1.87% ivermectin
EquiMax Paste or 1.87% ivermectin & 14.03% praziquantel
Equimectrin Paste or 1.87% ivermectin
Horse Health Ivermectin Paste or 1.87% ivermectin
IverCare Paste or 1.87% ivermectin
Quest Gel or moxidectin
Rotectin 1.87% Paste or 1.87% ivermectin
Zimecterin Paste or 1.87% ivermectin

Zimecterin Gold Paste 1.55% ivermectin & 7.75% praziquantel

November/December

Equi-Cide Paste or pyrantel pamoate

Rotectin P Paste or pyrantel pamoate

Strongid Paste or pyrantel pamoate

Strongylecare Paste or pyrantel pamoate

TapeCare Plus Paste pyrantel pamoate

Dewormers with different active ingredients are effective against different types of worms. See our Paste/Gel Dewormer Comparison Chart for a side-by-side comparison of which dewormers are effective against which parasites. To keep your horse in tip-top shape, it is important to rotate dewormers to prevent dewormer resistance from developing.

This schedule is a very basic dewormer rotation program. If you suspect your horses may have tapeworms or would like a deworming program customized to your region or conditions, consult your veterinarian for a course of treatment.

If you feed a daily dewormer, such as Strongid C or Strongid C 2X, be aware that it is not effective against bots, so you should deworm once in the fall and once in the spring using a 1.87% equine ivermectin paste dewormer to control bot infestations.