

EXTERNAL PARASITES

Overview

There are four main external parasites to watch out for in cattle in New Zealand. Lice, mites, ticks and ringworm.

Symptoms

Lice, Mites & Ticks



- **Lice** are more prevalent in winter
- **Ticks** are more common in summer, when grass is longer
- **Visible** – often found around base of tail, ears, armpits, groin, across the top line and around the neck
- Cattle will often appear ill thrifty with a patchy coat
- Animals can be itchy – rubbing hair off on fence posts
- Heavy burdens can affect weight gain

Ringworm

- Fungal infection
- Causes small grey, ash-like circular lesions, usually around the face and neck of calves
- Often spreads through the group



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- Can cause skin infections on humans, so be careful when children handle infected calves
- Calves usually recover spontaneously without treatment in 3-4 months

Management/ Prevention/ Treatment

- Ensure correct and accurate dosing when treating
 - Weigh animals and dose to the heaviest in a mob
 - Make sure drench guns are delivering the correct dose
- New animals arriving on property:
 - Keep separate from other animals for a week (allows you to monitor general health too)

- When using pour-on treatments:
 - Animals need to be dry prior to treatment
 - Ideally should not be rained on for several hours after treatment

Refer to table below for Treatment & Prevention.

When to call

- If you notice sudden weight loss or poor body condition
- Lethargy, reluctance to move or excessive lying down
- Skin lesions, redness or crustiness and excessive itching.

Parasite	Product/s	Product Usage
Lice	Dectomax injectable	
	Lypor (lice only)	Can cause temporary hair-loss after application, do not use prior to showing
Mange (mite)	Eprinex®	
Ticks	Eprinex®	
Ringworm	Copper Spray	Often resolves without treatment



INTERNAL PARASITES

Overview

Adult cattle are at lower risk of parasite related health issues, as they develop immunity to internal parasites, which prevents severe infection. Therefore, they DO NOT need regular drenching.

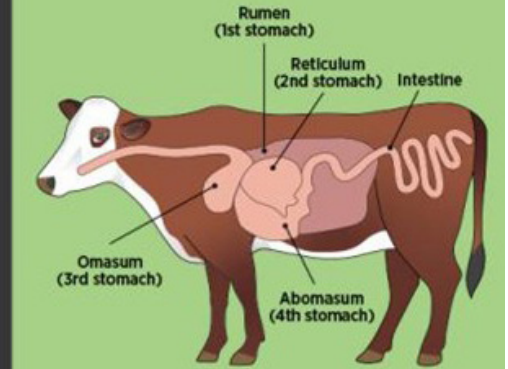
- On lifestyle blocks, where calves are often grazing the same pasture year-in, year-out and worm burdens on pasture are high, calves need to be drenched regularly from weaning until 18 months.
- If animals are going onto pasture that hasn't been grazed by cattle for 12 months, or has been well grazed by sheep, drenching intervals can be extended.
- Reducing the stock density (number of animals of the farm) can help reduce the challenge of parasites on pasture.

Liver fluke



- Different species of stock will help reduce the challenge from parasites on pasture. Cattle will help 'mop up' sheep and horse parasites and vice versa.

Common worms in cattle



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- Internal parasites reduce appetite and divert energy away from growing and producing milk.

Management/ Prevention/ Treatment

- Ensure correct and accurate dosing when drenching
- New animals arriving on property:
 - Keep separate from other animals for a week (allows you to monitor general health too)
 - Give quarantine drench, (such as Eclipse Pour-On), regardless of drench history.

Repeated drenching will speed up the time that parasites develop resistance to drenches. Minimise the risk of drench resistance by accurate dosing (not under dosing to weight), using combination drenches, drenching when required and grazing multiple species of livestock on property.

When to use

- Calves- from 4 weeks post weaning until 18 months of age.
- Adult cattle - prior to calving

See table below for treatment & prevention.

Animal age	Product/s	Product Usage
< 15 months old	Triple oral every 4-6 wks	Oral is the preferred option in calves.
	Combination pour-on every 6-8 wks	Pour on for ease of use and combination drench to slow parasite resistance development.
> 15 months old <i>These drenches should only be used for adult cattle > 15 months as they are less effective against parasites that affect younger calves.</i>	Reflex F pour-on	Effective against internal & external parasites as well as liver fluke
	Eprinex® pour-on	Effective against internal & external parasites (biting lice & sucking lice) on cattle.

*Updated Nov 25