

A few extra things I wanted to say at presentation, but no time

1. It's a really good idea to create a calendar for your farm re parasites .Each property is unique in the way it is managed, which pastures are grown, and its micro environment. If you can start to collect data on FEC's on a monthly basis, this will give you a good idea when parasite levels peak and trough on your farm. Ideally try to categorise into paddocks as well as time.
2. IN SW WA, the common parasites that we see must have ideal temperature conditions for 4-10 days between 8 degrees and 32 degrees, with > 10-15mm rainfall in order to produce significant numbers of worm eggs hatching to infective larvae.
outside of that range(<18 degrees for barbers pole worm), then up to 90 percent of infective larvae on the pasture will die between 2 weeks and 4 months.
The eggs of these parasites can last 5-21 days waiting for suitable hatching conditions. When the eggs hatch, the first two larval stages live in the faecal pellet/pat, feeding on bacteria until the moult into the this infective larval stage. This 3rd stage or infective larval stage, will only venture outside the protection of the faecal pellet if there is optimum conditions. i.e moisture and warmth.
There are of course exceptions to these generalities, and for more specific variations, head to Worm boss and look for the page that is titled:
[Factors contributing to paddock contamination with worms](#)

The average time to complete the life cycle is 18 days for most of the common worms, and the hot dry summer is the best way of cleansing the paddocks if being rested.

3. A really good anecdote I read was, " you wouldn't go and blanket treat all your sheep with antibiotics every 3-6 months in case of a respiratory infection outbreak , so why are we blanket drenching all our animals all the time"
4. Another good reference, one I use as an easy step guide to to FEC procedure is
<http://goatdocs.ansci.cornell.edu/CSGSymposium/BasicQuantitativeFecalExaminationMethod.pdf>

The best learning videos to watch are <https://youtu.be/awA8W2SfU0c>

and

<https://youtu.be/ZZQymZKe hs>

The first one is a crash course on microscopy, and the second all about FEC which is very thorough and easy to follow.

5. If you want to purchase a universal whitlock slide , the 4 chambered slide photographed on the presentation ,contact Perth Scientific or Whitlock directly or a price.

6. If you buy a microscope, it is worth spending the extra money on a “binocular” microscope- meaning it has two eye lenses to look down(it’s a lot less tiring) and a moveable slide mount- if you have to manually move the slide around, it’s a lot harder and more jerky and takes longer to do as well. Perth scientific is a supplier to universities and schools in the WA area, and are very helpful and also can do repairs. This model below is \$885.00

7.



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