Dewormers

Worms are parasites, which are a group of creatures which cannot live on their own but rely on a relationship with another group of animals. There are really two groups of creatures which have this type of relationship. The first group contribute something to the wellbeing of the host, and are beneficial organisms. The other group contribute little or nothing to the host but take away a great deal from them.

If these organisms, known as parasites, are not controlled then the health of the host suffers, their reproductive capability can be curtailed, and ultimately the host dies, often because another disease now has access to the host. Diseases such as bacterial and viral infections are not usually considered as parasites because they cannot be tolerated in the host without some observable symptoms. Parasites in small numbers rarely cause any symptoms, only as they multiply and get out of control do they cause problems.

For this reason, many parasites can be successfully controlled by management processes. Careful management and medication go hand in hand. Medication without preventative management is a waste of money and effort. Careful management may still require some medications to keep the host species, in this case bird species, in optimum health.

Worming Tips

Birds often do not like the bitter taste of many medications. Addition of some sugar in the form of dextrose or castor sugar disguises the bitter taste. 1/2 cup of castor sugar in 20 litres is usually adequate.

Avitrol contains Levamisole and Praxiquantil. Avitrol is suitable for use with birds not for human consumption and not producing eggs for human consumption. It is at present the only medication which removes tape worm. It is a broad spectrum wormer, which treats most worms. Dose is one tablet per bantam, 2 tablets for large birds. Repeat 6 monthly or if worms are suspected. Avitrol comes 100 tablets per bottle.

Avitrol can be effectively used as a diagnostic tool, to determine the level of worm burden being carried by sample birds. Isolate a suspect bird in a cage with a wire floor. Under the floor place a sheet of cardboard, or heavy paper. Treat the bird with a full dose of Avitrol, that is 1 tablet for a bantam, 2 tablets for a medium fowls, 3 tablets for a very large fowl. By next morning the droppings of the bird should contain any worms the fowl was carrying. Flat segmented worms are tape worm, round smooth worms are round worm.

Remember some worms are very small only 1-2mm long. These worms are made easy to see by placing the droppings into a long test tube with a filter screen halfway down. The small worms can be seen wiggling through the screen. If no worms are detected in the droppings, then treatment of the whole flock is not likely to be required. However more than 2-3 round worms and any tape worm requires whole

flock treatment. If tape worms are found repeat treatment after 14 days may be required.

Levamisole Hydrochloride
Used for treatment of large round worm (Ascaridia), Caecal worm (Heterakis), and Hair worm (Capillaria) in chickens, turkeys, pigeons, etc. Requires only one dose. Usual Use Rate 40 grams concentrate per 1000 birds, mixed in 6 litres water. Withholding is nil for egg layers, do not use later than 7 days before slaughter. Levamisole 100gm or 500gm.

Piperazine
For use with Poultry and Pigs. Used for the treatment of large round worm in chickens and turkeys. To be effective Piperazine should be administered twice 21 days apart. Piperazine has no with holding period so it can be used while the birds are in lay and immediately before slaughter. Usual use rate Powder 1 gram per kg body weight in 8 hours water. Liquid 10 ml per litre per 8 birds.
Piperazine comes in two forms: 250ml, 500ml liquid and bulk 1kg pack.

Molodri is a blend of fresh water Diatomaceous earth and Molasses. It has been used for many years as a conditioner for racehorses, and in recent times was trialled with specialty sheep. In those trials, faecal parasite counts were taken as one of the experimental parameters for the trials. It was noticed that the coccidiosis and worm egg counts were greatly reduced in the animals fed Molodri. The trials were then conducted with chickens with the same results.

This is not a treatment, but as a part of a prevention program. Inclusion of Molodri in the diet at 1-2 grams per kg of feed reduces the excretion of coccidiosis eggs, reducing the level in the environment, thus reducing, over time the total coccidiosis challenge to the birds.

Another method of use has been free choice, where the Molodri is in a small container and the birds can eat what they require. Actual consumption proves to be highly variable, as the birds seem to require more at different times.