

## DEWORMING AGENTS

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There are only three approved dewormers for sheep, Valbazen, Ivomec Drench, Prohibit or Tramisol Drench. Many other cattle deworming agents are used in sheep production as extra-label medications. Medications that are not given as described on that medication's label are considered an Extra-label medication. If the medication is given to an animal or at a different dose, a different route, or for a condition that is not written on the label, that medication is being given in an extra-label manner. It is illegal to use medications in an extra-label fashion unless prescribed by a veterinarian. The veterinarian needs to be familiar with the animals being treated, the conditions that the animals may have, and must give an appropriate withdraw time to avoid the occurrence of meat and milk residues.

### **Valbazen:**

**Chemical name:** albendazole

**Class:** benzimidazole

**Approved drug for sheep**

**Dosage:** 7.5 mg/kg or 0.75ml/25 lbs body weight, given orally

Note: this is not the same dosage as for cattle.

**Withdraw:** do not slaughter for 7 days after the last treatment.

**Warning:** do not administer to ewes during the breeding season or for 30 days after removal of the ram.

**Comments:** Valbazen will kill flukes and tapeworms where as the other dewormers will not. If there is resistance to any other benzimidazole, such as Safeguard or Panacur, there will be resistance to Valbazen as well.

### **Ivomec Drench:**

**Chemical name:** Ivermectin

**Class:** avermectin

**Approved drug for sheep**

**Dosage:** 200mcg/kg or 3 ml/26 lbs body weight, given orally

**Withdraw:** do not slaughter for 11 days after the last treatment.

### **Warning:**

**Comments:** Use of injectable Ivomec in sheep is extra-label usage. The withdraw time for slaughter if injected is recommended to be 49 days. The use of pour – on products is not recommended because studies have shown that this route is not effective in sheep and there are no approved pour-on products for sheep. If there is resistance to Ivomec, the worms will also be resistant to Dectomax.

### **Prohibit or Tramisol, Levamisole Drench**

**Chemical name:** Levamisole hydrochloride

**Class:** nicotinic

**Approved drug for sheep**

**Dosage:** see package label for mixing directions and give according to label.

**Withdraw:** do not slaughter for 72 hours or 3 days after the last treatment.

**Warning:** Overdosing may result in side effects.

**Comments:** Muzzle foam may be observed. In studies looking at resistance to deworming agents, levamisole has the least reported resistance.

### **Deworming agents reported to be used in sheep in an extra-label manner.**

#### **Cydectin:**

**Chemical name:** Moxidectin

**Class:** milbemycin

**Non-Approved drug for sheep**

**Dosage:** Dosages have been reported to be 5 to 7.5 ml /100 lbs body weight given orally.

**Withdraw:** 6 months

The withdrawal period for cattle is 0 days. However, Cydectin is a pour-on product. I know personally of a residue violation occurring in a lamb that was slaughtered 75 days after the last oral administration of the product. The extension veterinarian at Ohio State University says that he has heard residue violations occurring out to 6 months after the use of cydectin in some lambs. Lambs are being checked for this compound at slaughter.

**Comments:** If resistance to Ivomec exists, development to resistance to Cydectin is not far off. Moxidectin, the chemical in Cydectin is also in Quest, a dewormer for horses.

#### **Dectomax injection:**

**Chemical name:** Doramectin

**Class:** avermectin

**Non-Approved drug for sheep**

**Dosage:** Dosages have been reported to be 1 ml /110 lbs body weight given orally or subcutaneously.

**Withdraw:** 35 days

**Comments:** This product, in my opinion, is no better than the Ivomec drench. Although some people may use this product to treat for lice, I have found that the avermectins have not been very effective in controlling lice in sheep. If there is resistance to Ivomec, the worms will also be resistant to Dectomax.

#### **Panacur, Safeguard:**

**Chemical name:** Fenbendazole

**Class:** benzimidazole

**Non-Approved drug for sheep**

**Dosage:** Dosages have been reported to be 5 – 10 mg/kg or 2.5 to 5 ml /100 lbs body weight of the oral suspension given orally.

**Withdraw:** 8 days

**Comments:** The sheep dose is the same to 2 times more than the horse dose. At the 10 mg/kg or 5 ml/100lbs of body weight, Panacur is effective against tapeworms.