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Department of Agriculture, Western Australia

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HOW EFFICIENT IS YOUR DRENCING GUN?

Does it Deliver Sufficient Drench to Kill the Worms?

By THE VETERINARY BRANCH

The drenching gun pictured certainly doesn't. It is set to give two fluid ounces of drench (60 ccs approximately). However, when tested by squirting the fluid into a measuring cylinder, instead of down the sheep's gullet, it delivered only 30 ccs. That is, every sheep drenched with this gun, received only half the quantity of drench required to kill the worms. This amount would kill very few worms so the cost of the drench used would be wasted and the sheep would still have worms causing further economic loss.

The reason in this case was certainly not the fault of the gun's mechanism, but was due to the fact that phenothiazine had collected around the plunger, preventing complete refilling. Once the gun was cleared it worked efficiently.

This is an extreme case but certainly not an isolated one. Of the small number of guns checked on farms very few have delivered the correct dosage.

Automatic drenching guns are very valuable in making the drenching of sheep a relatively easy and quick job, and their use is certainly not to be condemned. They have however a complex working mechanism which is easily interfered with if not cared for and kept clean.

Is your drenching gun dirty and inefficient? Why not check it before you next start drenching your sheep to see if it is delivering the correct amount of drench?
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