Drenches for treatment and control of worms in sheep: 1969: efficiency, cost and safety

W A. Halhead
G. de Chaneet

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Drenches for treatment and control of worms in sheep: 1969: efficiency, cost and safety

Cover Page Footnote
This is a revision of an article in the March 1968, issue of the "Journal of Agriculture," which described anthelmintics for use in sheep. Since the original article was published several new drenches have been marketed and some prices have changed. This revised edition gives an up-to-date account of the drenches that may be used in sheep. Other articles on worm control appeared in the Journal of Agriculture in July, 1966 and February and October, 1967. They described the species of worms affecting sheep in Western Australia, their life histories and the factors which lead to the seasonal rise and fall in worm burdens. A programme of strategic (preventative) drenching based on a knowledge of these seasonal changes in worm burdens was outlined. These articles are reprinted as Department of Agriculture bulletins 3438, 3484 and 3533.
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DRENCHES FOR TREATMENT AND CONTROL OF WORMS IN SHEEP—1969

— Efficiency, cost and safety

By W. A. HALHEAD

Revised by G. de CHANEET

There is a wide variation in the efficiency and cost of drugs for worm control in sheep. Generally, the higher the efficiency, the greater the cost. Prices are subject to change, and may vary with the amount of drench purchased.

It is convenient to divide these drenches into three groups:

Group I.—Broad spectrum drugs, including “Banminth II,” “Microphene,” “Nilvern,” “Ripercol,” “Thibenzole” and “Wormguard 33.”

Products in this group have a high efficiency against a wide variety of species, are safe to use and generally easy to administer. They have a high efficiency against parasitic immature worms. There is little difference in price between these drenches.

Since the efficiency and costs are similar, the choice becomes a matter of availability and personal preference.

Group II.—Organo-phosphorus drenches. “Co-ral,” “Kempak,” “Rametin” and “Summer Drench”.

Drenches in Group II are efficient, but have a lower safety margin than those in Group I. Several (“Rametin H. Instant” and “Summer Drench”) are reformulations of drugs within the organo-phosphorus group that are designed primarily for use against Barber’s Pole worm.

Generally, drenches in Group II have a limited action against parasitic immature worms, and no effect against parasites of the large intestine. They are, however, cheaper than those in Group I.

When using the reformulated compounds, a standard dose is given to all sheep, regardless of weight. The efficiency varies—depending on the weight of the animal. These drenches are used specifically for controlling Barber’s Pole worm in areas where frequent tactical drenching is necessary, and where the use of a broad spectrum drench is a needless expense.

This is a revision of an article in the March 1968, issue of the “Journal of Agriculture,” which described anthelmintics for use in sheep.

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# Anthelmintics for Sheep—Efficiency and Costs

## I. Broad Spectrum Drenches

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drench</th>
<th>Fourth Stomach</th>
<th>Small Intestine</th>
<th>Large Intestine</th>
<th>Lung</th>
<th>Cost per Head (cents)</th>
<th>Cost per Thousand</th>
<th>Safety</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Banminth II</td>
<td>+   +   +   +   +</td>
<td>+   +   +   +</td>
<td>+   +   +   +</td>
<td>5-1</td>
<td>6-8</td>
<td>$51 $58</td>
<td>Very</td>
<td>Highly efficient. Easy to administer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microphene</td>
<td>+   +   +   +   +</td>
<td>+   +   +   +</td>
<td>+   +   +   +</td>
<td>5-5</td>
<td>7-4</td>
<td>$35 $59</td>
<td>Fairly</td>
<td>Efficient, but action on immatures not as good as other broad spectrum drugs. Can stain wool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nilvern GL</td>
<td>+   +   +   +   +</td>
<td>+   +   +   +</td>
<td>+   +   +   +</td>
<td>5-5</td>
<td>7-4</td>
<td>$55 $74</td>
<td>Safe</td>
<td>Highly efficient. Easy to administer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ripercol</td>
<td>+   +   +   +   +</td>
<td>+   +   +   +</td>
<td>+   +   +   +</td>
<td>5-5</td>
<td>7-4</td>
<td>$55 $74</td>
<td>Safe</td>
<td>Highly efficient. Easy to administer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thibenzoie</td>
<td>+   +   +   +   +</td>
<td>+   +   +   +</td>
<td>+   +   +   +</td>
<td>5-5</td>
<td>7-4</td>
<td>$55 $74</td>
<td>Safe</td>
<td>Highly efficient. Some activity against Lung Worm using double dose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wormguard 33</td>
<td>+   +   +   +   +</td>
<td>+   +   +   +</td>
<td>+   +   +   +</td>
<td>5-0</td>
<td>6-7</td>
<td>$50 $67</td>
<td>Very</td>
<td>Highly efficient</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## II.—Organophosphorus Compounds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drench</th>
<th>Fourth Stomach</th>
<th>Small Intestine</th>
<th>Large Intestine</th>
<th>Lung</th>
<th>Cost per Head (cents)</th>
<th>Cost per Thousand</th>
<th>Safety</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Co-Ral</td>
<td>+   +   +   +   +</td>
<td>+   +   +   +</td>
<td>+   +   +   +</td>
<td>1-8</td>
<td>2-3</td>
<td>$18 $23</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>Cheap, No action against immatures. Requires care in use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kempak</td>
<td>+   +   +   +   +</td>
<td>+   +   +   +</td>
<td>+   +   +   +</td>
<td>3-0</td>
<td>5-0</td>
<td>$30 $50</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>Poor activity against immatures. Requires care in use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rametin Instant</td>
<td>+   +   +   +   +</td>
<td>+   +   +   +</td>
<td>+   +   +   +</td>
<td>4-0</td>
<td>5-3</td>
<td>$40 $53</td>
<td>Safe</td>
<td>Efficient. Requires care in use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rametin H Instant</td>
<td>+   +   +   +   +</td>
<td>+   +   +   +</td>
<td>+   +   +   +</td>
<td>1-8</td>
<td>1-8</td>
<td>$18 $18</td>
<td>Safe</td>
<td>Controls haemonchus. Efficiency varies with weight of sheep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Drench</td>
<td>+   +   +   +   +</td>
<td>+   +   +   +</td>
<td>+   +   +   +</td>
<td>2-7</td>
<td>2-7</td>
<td>$27 $27</td>
<td>Safe</td>
<td>Controls haemonchus. Efficiency varies with weight of sheep</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Journal of Agriculture, Vol 10 No 8, 1969*
Remarks

EFFICIENCY RELIABILITY

Efficiency relies on drench reaching abomasum. Not recommended in lupin areas, or for repeated drenching.

Precautions when drenching

Whatever drench is being used, there are several basic precautions which should be taken.

- Follow the manufacturers instructions exactly.
- Check the drenching gun for accuracy of the dose delivered before starting the work. Recheck the volume setting at fairly frequent intervals. Use the correct type of gun.
- Do not add other medicaments to the drench unless recommended by the manufacturer.
- If an organo-phosphorus compound is being used do not jet or dip with another organo-phosphate before or after drenching.
- Do not drench on very hot or cold, wet days.
- Use the drenching gun as gently as possible. Severe or fatal injuries to the back of the throat can occur, particularly in weaners, if the gun is used roughly. Make sure that the nozzle of the gun has no rough edges. If the gun is old and worn—throw it away and buy a new one. It’s cheaper in the long run.

Although there are many factors which contribute to a build up of the worm burdens in a flock, the only practical, proven method of control available at present is to kill the worms in the sheep. This involves a recurring expenditure which, in the interests of economy, should be kept to a minimum. This can be done by drenching at the right time with a product which is effective for the purpose for which it is required.

The purpose of drenching is to prevent or treat outbreaks of disease; it is not an economic method of lifting growth rate or wool production in flocks which are carrying only sub-clinical worm burdens.
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