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“A Strategic Deworming Protocol for the Seasonal Control of Gastro-intestinal Parasites in Brood Cows and Nursing Calves”

One of many deworming protocols developed for use in beef cows, this is a unique protocol using strategically timed dewormings designed to reduce parasitism both in the animals themselves as well as in the animal's environment for an entire grazing season. Since beef cows are the main source of infection for calves, deworming the brood cow is necessary in order to reduce pasture contamination for their calves. The direct benefit to brood cows has been shown affecting many parameters (improved milk production, improved reproductive efficiency, better body conditions scores, stronger immune system, lower over-wintering feed cost as well as improved weaning weights in their calves). This protocol has been tested under field conditions at a number of locations across the country.

Treatment Timing:

- 1). **Fall Deworming Regime (Includes Grub & Lice Control):** At the end of the grazing season when pastures are dormant (preferably after a hard frost), pour cows with an endecticide pour-on and drench with Safe-Guard® liquid drench or fed cows Safe-Guard® Pellets at the rate of 1.0 lb per 1,000 lb of body weight (Safe-Guard® 0.5%) or 4 oz. per 1,000 lb body weight (Safe-Guard® 1.96%). If feeding area is limited, spread the dose over several days to make sure all animals consume the pellets or mix Safe-Guard® 1.96% flake meal in a week's worth of free-choice mineral. Other non-handling forms of Safe-Guard® can be used such as medicate cubes (or cake) and medicated liquid feed.
- 2). **Mid-Spring-Early Summer Strategic Timed Dewormings:** Using Safe-Guard 1.96% flake meal, mix correct dose (4 oz. per 1,000 lb of cattle treated) in 4 to 6 days of free-choice mineral mix. Begin treatment 5-6 weeks after turn out or 5-6 weeks after first spring grass growth. Repeat treatment 4-6 weeks later if located south of the Mason-Dixon Line. Other Safe-Guard® formulations will also work including Safe-Guard® medicated liquid feed or Safe-Guard medicated cubes or cake mix. The bigger calves will consume the medicated mineral formulation so add additional product to include (250 lb or larger) calf weights in calculation. It is also recommended to deworm calves with Safe-Guard® anytime they are handled such as at branding.
- 3). **Fall Deworming:** Repeat fall program listed above.

*Safe-Guard® (fenbendazole) is a product of Merck Animal Health. Ivermectin is a generic available from a number of companies.

