



## MIDAMERICA AGRICULTURE RESEARCH MANAGEMENT SERVICE

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### **“A Strategic Deworming Protocol for the Seasonal Control of Gastro-intestinal Parasites in Pastured Dairy Cows”**

One of many deworming protocols developed for use in dairy cows. This is a unique protocol designed with strategically timed dewormings to reduce parasitism both in the animals themselves as well as in the animal’s environment for an entire grazing season. It has been tested under field conditions at a number of locations across the country.

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#### **Treatment Timing:**

- 1). **Fall Deworming Regime:** At the end of the grazing season, drench all pastured cattle on the dairy farm operation with Safe-Guard® liquid drench, Safe-Guard® medicated paste or feed 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%). Safe-Guard® can be mixed in the TMR (total Mixed Ration). If feeding area is limited, spread the dose over several days to makes sure all animals consume the pellets or mix medicated 1.96% flake meal in a weeks-worth of free-choice mineral. No further deworming should be necessary until grass growth in the following spring.
- 2). **Deworming during the grazing season:** Chose the following program that fits your operation.
  - A). **Mid-Spring Strategic Timed Whole Herd Deworming:** feed all grazing dairy cows Safe-Guard® Pellets (Safe-Guard® 0.5% or 1.96%) 5-6 weeks into the grazing season. Safe-Guard® can be mixed in the TMR. If feeding area is limited, spread the dose over several days to makes sure all animals consume the pellets or mix medicated 1.96% flake meal in a weeks-worth of free-choice mineral instead of the pellets.
  - B). **Deworm at Freshening during the Summer Grazing Season.** Beginning in the spring, feed cows Safe-Guard® Pellets (Safe-Guard® 0.5% or 1.96%) as the cows freshens. This protocol is designed to provide optimal benefit to each animal by reducing calving stress through having each dairy cow worm-free at the beginning of her lactation cycle. Safe-Guard® can be also mixed in the TMR if a number of cows are calving around the same time.
- 3). **Fall Deworming:** Repeat fall program listed above.

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\*Safe-Guard® (fenbendazole) is a product of Merck Animal Health. Pour-ons are no longer effective dewormers due to parasite resistance and/or missed parasites such as *Nematodirus* and Whipworms. Use pour-ons for lice and mange control only when signs of the infestation is visible.

