



## MIDAMERICA AGRICULTURE RESEARCH MANAGEMENT SERVICE

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### **“A Strategic Deworming Protocol for the Control of Gastro-intestinal Parasites in Pastured (Dry) Dairy Cows Follow by Confinement”**

One of many deworming protocols developed for use in dairy cows. This is a unique protocol designed with strategically timed deworming to remove parasites (acquired during the dry period) prior to freshening. If cows remain in confinement during lactation, no further dewormings are necessary. It has been tested under field conditions at a number of locations across the country. The overall treatment cost for this protocol is less \$4.00 per year depending upon local purchase prices.

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#### **Treatment Timing:**

- 1). **Pre-fresh Deworming:** Prior to freshening, drench with Safe-Guard® liquid drench, Safe-Guard® paste 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%) prior to freshening. If feeding area is limited or a TMR (Total Mixed Ration) is used, 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.
- 2). **Preventative treatment for lice and mange** is seldom successful in dairy cows. Due to parasite resistance, pour-ons are no longer effective dewormers. Use pour-ons for lice and mange control only. Use an endecticide Pour-on for individual animals if mange is detected. If signs for lice are observed, pour the entire herd. Lice seem to thrive in cloudy, cold and raining weather. On most operations, lice and mange control are not necessary on a yearly basis. Since dairy cows are observed at least twice a day, pour for lice or mange control only when the signs of these ecto-parasites are observed.

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\*Safe-Guard® (fenbendazole) is a product of Merck Animal Health.