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“A Strategic Deworming Protocol Using Safe-Guard® for the Seasonal Control of Gastro-intestinal Parasites in Horses (Equine)”

One of many deworming protocols developed for use in horses. This is a unique protocol designed with strategically timed dewormings to reduce parasitism both in the animals themselves (especially encysted small strongyles) 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. The overall cost for dewormers in this protocol is approximately \$30.00 per year depending upon local purchase prices.

Treatment Timing:

- 1). **Fall Deworming Regime (Includes Bot Control):** At the end of the grazing season (preferably after a hard frost), feed Safe-Guard® Pellets during morning feed 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%) - spread total dose over three days. For example: with 0.5% Safe-Guard® Pellets, feed 1/3 lb. every day for three days. For the 1.96% Safe-Guard® Pellets give 1.3 oz. /day for three days. On the 4th day give Ivermectin paste according to label directions. Note: Multiple days of Safe-Guard® activates encysted larvae which are then killed by ivermectin.
- 2). **Winter Deworming:** Conduct a fecal exam in late February to early March. If positive: repeat fall treatment regime to make sure animals are not shedding worm eggs at the beginning of the new grazing season.
- 3). **Spring-Early Summer Strategic Timed Dewormings:** Begin treatment 30-days after turn out or 30-days after first spring grass growth.

1st deworming = 3-day Safe-Guard® protocol given 30-days after beginning of the grazing season.
2nd deworming = 3-day Safe-Guard® protocol given 30-days after the first treatment.
3rd deworming = 3-day Safe-Guard® protocol (plus ivermectin paste given on the 4th day) given 30-days after the 2nd treatment.
- 4). **Fall Deworming:** Repeat fall program listed above.

*Safe-Guard® pellets are a product of Merck Animal Health. Ivermectin is a generic available from a number of companies. Quest® (moxidectin – Zoetis Animal Health) can be substituted for ivermectin at a considerably higher cost. Don't use moxidectin in severely debilitated or underweight horses or horses under 6-months of age.

