

Key Targets

- 1** To achieve a worm-free herd



- 2** To improve the growth and efficiency of the growing herd



- 3** To improve animal health and welfare in both short and long term

Regular Worming

Large roundworms (*Ascaris suum*) are endoparasites which cause milk spot liver and are the most prevalent of worms affecting pig productivity.

Worm burden can result in a loss of up to **10%** in daily gain and **13%** in feed conversion in growing/finishing pigs, increasing cost of production by **14.4p/kg** DW through increased food usage and reduced sale weight.

The financial impact of a deterioration of both feed conversion ratio (FCR) and daily liveweight gain (DLWG) by **5%** on slaughter pig production to **76kg** deadweight is a rise in the cost of production (CoP) by up to **6.6p/kg** deadweight.

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MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

- Assess the worm burden on the farm in consultation with your vet. Post-mortem and rejection data from the abattoir will provide an indication of levels
- Develop a suitable control programme appropriate for the level of infection and production system. The aim should be to limit the production of eggs by maturing worms
- Use a suitable wormer to achieve desired outcome
- Adhere strictly to the programme to achieve worm control
- When worm burden is under control, stick to a simple preventive programme to limit the risk of future burdens
- In outdoor production, when moving site, always plan the move with a worming programme to minimise the introduction of eggs to the new environment.

RECORD AND MONITOR

- Record all completed actions with dates, as required in your deworming and worm prevention programme
- Continuously reassess the worm burden and review with your vet
- Monitor progress by reviewing changes in DLWG and FCR that may be linked with your milk spot data from the meat inspectors' rejections at the abattoir.

GENERAL HYGIENE

- Adopt an all-in all-out policy where possible
- Pressure wash using detergent and disinfect at every opportunity. Where it is known a high burden has been present, the use of a horticultural flame gun to heat pen floors is very effective at destroying eggs – taking the appropriate health and safety precautions into account



Pressure washing with detergent and disinfectant helps general hygiene

- Avoid using stone or soil floors often found in straw yards.

BIOSECURITY

- Isolate incoming stock and treat against worms before introduction into herd
- Prevent the spread of eggs into and around the unit by ensuring boots, tools and other such vectors are clean.



PRACTICAL GUIDELINES

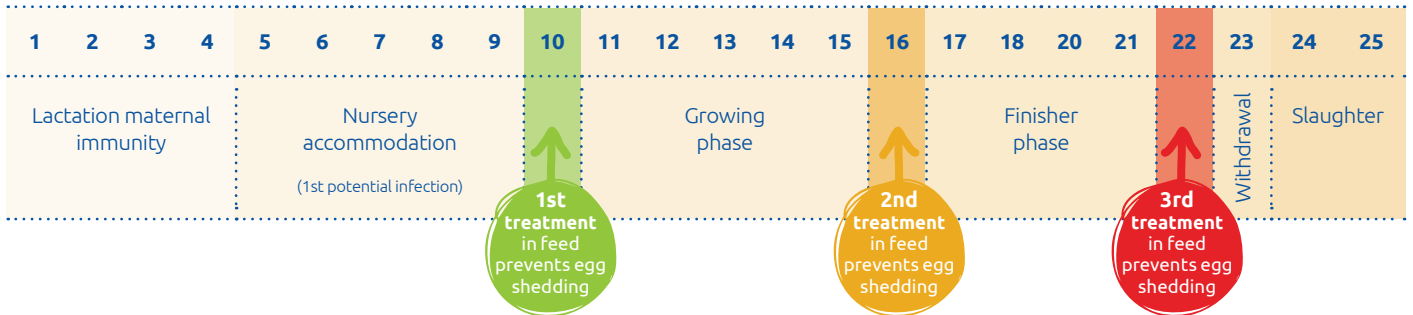
It is almost impossible to achieve a totally worm-free environment (including eggs) but relatively easy to produce a worm-free pig by using appropriate commercially available worming products. *Ascaris suum* eggs are very robust and can persist for seven years in the environment. Therefore, with heavy burdens, where all-in all-out policy is not possible, the emphasis should be on preventing the female worms laying eggs (**250,000/day**), thus reducing the number of eggs in the environment over time.



PROGRAMME FOR DEWORMING GROWING/FINISHING PIGS AND THEIR ENVIRONMENT

Plan to deworm all growers and finishers at 5-week intervals

AGE (weeks)



BENEFITS OF DEWORMING ON GRASS-BASED SYSTEM

- Improves average daily weight gain
- Improves food conversion ratio
- Reduces the number of liver condemnations
- Reduces susceptibility to respiratory disease (ie pneumonia)
- Improves overall health and welfare of pigs
- Minimises the contamination of the pig environment with worm eggs.

PREVENTIVE PROGRAMME WHERE WORMS ARE UNDER CONTROL

Sows and Boars

- Treat the entire herd simultaneously, a minimum of twice per year and preferably three times
- Ensure all lactating sows are treated at the same time as dry sows.

Incoming Gilts and Boars

- Treat on arrival and while in isolation unit
- Re-treat on introduction to the main herd
- Treat when the next routine herd treatment takes place.



Evidence of worms: milk spot liver

ABATTOIR DATA

- If your abattoir data highlights a problem, speak to your vet or AHDB Knowledge Exchange Manager.

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