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 live weight 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.

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.
- 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.

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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)

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<td>Lactation maternal immunity</td>
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<td>Finisher phase</td>
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1st treatment in feed prevents egg shedding
2nd treatment in feed prevents egg shedding
3rd treatment in feed prevents egg shedding

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.

ABATTOIR DATA

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

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