PARASITE MANAGEMENT

2026 CALENDAR

wormwise

Funded by Beef + Lamb New Zealand

beef+lamb new zealand

Deer Industry New Zealand

Front cover image – Courtenay Chenery. Photo location: Banks Peninsula

This calendar is designed to be an educational tool to provide information on:

- Parasite biology.
- The main parasite species of concern in New Zealand.
- Parasite management strategies for your farm.
- Tools for monitoring parasites.
- Risk factors for drench resistance.
- Prompts on what to consider for each month.
  - Due to the variation of farm systems and environments around New Zealand, these prompts are a guide and not hard dates on when to carry out certain tasks.

Thank you to our farmers for generously providing us with amazing images.

Grant Charteris. Photo location: Hawke's Bay

Glossary of terms

Term	Definition
Advisor	An animal health advisor experienced in livestock parasite management.
Anthelmintic(s)	A chemical(s) capable of killing internal parasites – commonly called drench.
BCS	Body Condition Score.
Clean pasture	A paddock assumed to have very few or no worms on it (e.g. a newly sown paddock). Also known as a 'clean paddock'.
Drench check	A check to make sure drench is working by taking FECs 10-12d after drenching.
eBV	Estimated breeding value. A measure of genetic merit for a particular trait (whether directly measurable or not), estimated from performance, pedigree and/or from DNA tests.
FEC	Faecal Egg Count (FEC) shows the number of eggs produced by egg-laying adult worms in an animal's gut, measured from individual or pooled faecal samples.
Knockout drench	Substitution of a routine drench with a highly effective product is used prior to optimal worm survival and development conditions.
Mectin/ML	One of the families of drench. The active ingredients in this family include moxidectin, ivermectin and abamectin.
Novel active	The newest families of drench, monepantel and derquantel. Products on the market containing these actives are: Startect® – A combination drench containing the novel active derquantel as well as the active abamectin, and Zolvix™ Plus – A combination drench containing the novel active monepantel as well as the active abamectin.
Payout period	The length of time the drench or treatment works to kill worms in the animal after drenching/treating.
Quarantine protocol	A process to minimise new stock bringing resistant worms with them onto your property. This protocol includes drenching with a novel active, holding animals off pasture for at least 24 hours, then moving animals to contaminated pasture.
Refugia	Refugia is leaving some worms 'in refuge' or free from drench to maintain worm populations on your farm that are susceptible to drench.
Targeted Selective Treatment	A system that selects animals on an individual basis for drenching using certain criteria, e.g. liveweight gain.

To find out more about these terms and parasite management generally, check out the information on **B+LNZ's Knowledge Hub** – you can search using the standard search bar or get Bella (your Beef + Lamb Assistant powered by AI) to round up answers to your questions.

Amanda Henderson. Photo location: Takaka Hill, Tasman District

Kate Crego-Cudby. Photo location: Whanganui.

Postmortem of tail-end ewes

Less than 20% of tail-end ewes are light because of worms.

Get post-mortems done by your vet to understand the underlying factors on your farm.

You may be treating ewes that are sick with something else.

Faecal egg count (FEC)

Measures the egg output of the adult female worm population in the gut of the animal sampled.

Use as a tool to identify issues early: what animals need drenching and highlight areas of the farm where animals are under greater or lesser worm challenge.

Deer: limited use in deer > 8mths old.

Larval culture

Worm species vary in their impact on your animals.

Different drenches can be more effective for certain species of worms.

Know your worm species to help with your parasite management plan.

MONITORING FOR PARASITE MANAGEMENT

If you don't measure, you can't manage.

Faecal egg count reduction test (FECRT)

Used to identify which drench families are effective. Do this as a test to establish baseline to see which drench is working, in addition to routine drench checks.

Sheep: test a range of drenches at once.

Cattle: may be easier to test 1 or 2 actives at a time.

Deer: not generally performed in deer.

Body condition scoring and liveweight gain

Weight loss and loss of condition can be a sign of worm infection.

Use these measures to gauge how your stock are performing.

Drench check

Check your drench has worked by doing a FEC 10-12 days after drenching.

This should be done at least twice a year.

Deer: can be used in deer under 8 months old, but interpret with caution if pre-drench FECs are not available. Low or zero counts do not always mean 'no worms', especially in the 6-8 month age range.

Scan for more information on Wormwise worm diagnostics

January 2026

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
29	30	31 New Year's Eve	1 New Year's Day	2 Day after New Year's Day	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 Wellington Anniversary Day	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 Auckland and Northland Anniversary Day	27	28	29	30	31	1 Feb
2 Nelson Anniversary Day	3	4	5	6 Waitangi Day	7	8

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT THIS MONTH

Sheep

Do you need to drench and when?
Do a FEC test on:
- Lambs 28 days post drench to check for re-infection. If FECs are high at 28d, worm contamination will be high, which limits lamb growth.
- Lambs on summer crops: should not need drenching every 28 days BUT monitor so you don't get caught out!
- Ewe hoggets that have reared a lamb.

Is your lamb drench working?
- Drench check 10 individual lambs.

Are eggs present and if so, what type of worms are they?
- Request larval cultures.

Are your ewes at BCS 3 or better?
- Plan to get your weaned ewes and ewe hoggets that have reared a lamb to BCS 3 or more.

Protect your susceptible worms by using refugia
- Minimise drenching of adult sheep.
- Share lamb grazing areas with undrenched ewes.
- Consider leaving some lambs untreated – seek advice.

Consider your grazing management
- Lambs grow faster on low worm contamination feed.
  - Regular drenching will not reduce the effects of a daily worm challenge.

Cattle

Do you need to drench and when?
Do a FEC test on:
- Calves 28 days post drench to check for re-infection.

Is your calf drench working?
- Drench check on at least 10 individual calves.

Consider your grazing management
- To reduce worm challenge, try to graze young calves on low worm contamination feed and/or share grazing area with adult cattle or sheep.

Deer

Purchase high CARLAeBV stag/Wapiti bulls
- Progeny will have lower FEC and lungworm larval counts and grow better than low CARLA animals when grazing contaminated pasture.

Check grazing
- Ensure adequate quality feed and grazing residuals >1600kgDM/ha to maintain hind lactation and keep BCS >3.5.
- 1st calvers under feed pressure can have poor immunity against parasites. Only drench lactating hinds when coupled with improved nutrition.

The lifecycle of internal parasites

In the gut, L3 larvae moult to L4 (immature worms) and finally mature into adult worms

Female worms are sexually mature and start laying eggs around 21 days after being eaten

The eggs pass out into the dung

In the dung, larvae hatch from the egg and go through 2 moults to become infective L3 larvae

[egg➡L1➡L2 ➡L3 = 1 week in warm, wet conditions, 10+ weeks in cooler conditions. In severe dry spells, few larvae may develop through to L3]

Infective larvae migrate into soil and onto pasture to be eaten by grazing animals

L3 larvae may survive for long periods; months to beyond a year. Grazing with a different species and/or immune adult animals of the same species decrease the population of L3 larvae on pasture

Scan for more information on Wormwise worm life cycle

February 2026

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
26 Auckland and Northland Anniversary Day	27	28	29	30	31	1
2 Nelson Anniversary Day	3	4	5	6 Waitangi Day	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 Valentine's Day	15 National Lamb Day
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	1 Mar
2	3	4	5	6	7	8

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT THIS MONTH

Sheep

Do you need to drench and when?

Do a FEC test on:

- Lambs 28 days post drench to check for re-infection. If FECs are high at 28d, worm contamination will be high, which limits lamb growth.
- Lambs on summer crops should not need drenching every 28 days BUT monitor so you don't get caught out!
- Mixed aged ewes (light and main mobs) and 2-tooth ewes pre-tup.

Are eggs present and if so, what type of worms are they?

- Ask for larval cultures to check for worm species including Barbers Pole.

Use refugia to protect your susceptible worms

- Share lamb grazing areas with undrenched ewes.
- Consider leaving some lambs untreated – seek advice.

Consider your grazing management

- Grow lambs faster by providing feed with low worm contamination.
  - Regular drenching will not reduce the effects of a daily worm challenge.
- Make a feeding and management plan for ewes to have them at BCS 3 or better at lambing, and enough grass to set stock multiples onto pasture covers of 1,400 kgDM/ha.

Cattle

Use refugia to protect your susceptible worms

- Share dairy-beef calf grazing areas with older undrenched cattle.

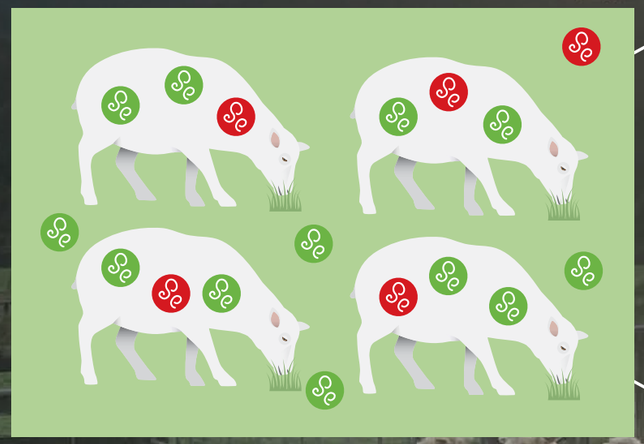
Deer

Get in front of lungworm

- Check for lungworm in fawns. Coughing starts in small numbers and spreads. Use faecal larval counts to diagnose.
- Drench pre-rut weaned fawns with correct product for deer for both lungworm and gut worms.

Refugia

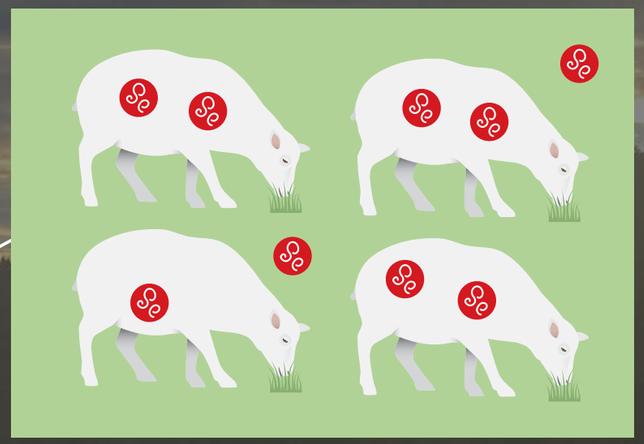
Maintaining worm populations on your farm that are susceptible to drench.



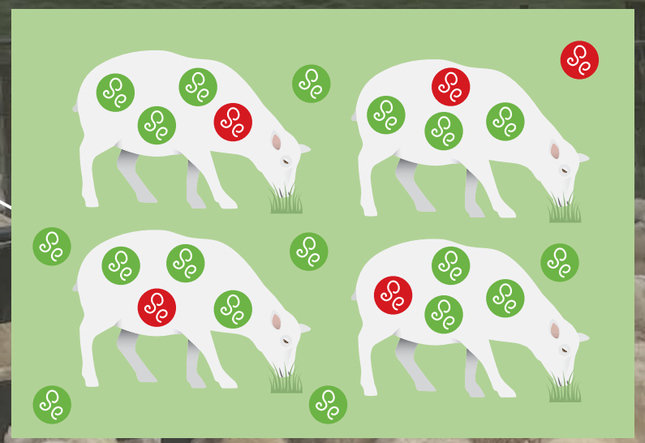
Susceptible worms

Resistant worms

Without refugia



With refugia



WAYS TO INTRODUCE REFUGIA ON YOUR FARM

- Leave some stock undrenched - for young stock, make sure this is safe to do so.
- Leave older animals undrenched unless there is a demonstrated need.
- Put undrenched older animals on pasture previously grazed by drenched young stock.
- Don’t drench animals straight onto new grass or pasture that is likely to have a low level of worm larvae on it.
- Draft out tail-end 2-tooth ewes and graze these with undrenched lambs.
- Keep drench intervals at 28 days or more.

Scan for more information on Wormwise refugia

Scan for more information on Wormwise quarantine best practice

Mikaela Greig. Photo location: Horowhenua

March 2026

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
23	24	25	26	27	28	1 Taranaki Anniversary Day
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 Otago Anniversary Day	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1 Apr	2	3 Good Friday	4	5 Easter Sunday Daylight Savings Time ends

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT THIS MONTH

Sheep

For brought-in trade lambs, use a quarantine protocol to minimise resistant worms coming onto your farm

- Check out Wormwise for up-to-date information on quarantine treatments.
- Your quarantine protocol needs to account for eggs of resistant worms being passed out of treated new stock until the adults are dead. Drench does not kill eggs – only adults and larvae.
- After the 24-hour quarantine period, initial paddocks for new lambs should be older pasture (not 'clean pasture') to 'dilute out' any worms surviving the quarantine protocol.

Keep focused on ewe condition

- Ensure the percent of light ewes is minimised and feed levels are optimal during and after mating.

Cattle

Use refugia to protect your susceptible worms

- Consider targeted selective treatment for dairy-beef calves as they get bigger and more robust.
  - Leaving a small percentage of the best-performing calves untreated for one drench can help maintain refugia in their grazing area.
  - Use individual ID's and carefully monitor visually.

Considerations for drenching

- Ideally, drench beef calves with an oral combination drench at weaning. Avoid pour-on.

Deer

Drench right

- Don't second drench pre-rut weaned fawns within 28 days of last drench. Use management to extend intervals and FEC along with lungworm faecal larvae counts to decide whether to drench.
- Use effective drench for deer for lungworm and gut worms.

“Think ‘FARMED’ when making decisions about worms – Feeding, Avoiding the worms, Refugia, Monitoring and Effective Drench. Feeding is first because nutrition is so important. If we get it right, we get so many things right.”

Ginny Dodunski, Wormwise Programme Manager

Fee White. Photo location: Gladstone, Wairarapa

April 2026

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
30	31	1	2	3 Good Friday	4	5 Easter Sunday Daylight Savings Time ends
6 Easter Monday	7 Southland Anniversary Day	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 ANZAC Day	26
27 ANZAC Day (observed)	28	29	30	1 May	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 Mother's Day

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT THIS MONTH

Sheep

Consider a 'knockout' drench for lambs

- At the 4th to 5th drench, a 'knockout' drench can remove worms that have survived routine combination drenches. The 'knockout' drench should contain a novel active (Monepantel (in Zolvix™) or Derquantel (in Startect®)).

Consider your grazing management

- Is your farm on track to hit pre-winter pasture cover targets? What will you change if not?

Cattle

Is your calf weaning drench working?

- Drench check 10 individual beef calves.

Considerations for drenching

- Ideally, drench beef calves with an oral combination drench at weaning. Avoid pour-on products.

Deer

Look after stags and weaners

- Light condition stags after rut may need drenching. Use effective product for deer lungworms and gut worms. Take care to remove accumulated worms from Wapiti bulls – they can be more susceptible to parasites.
- Keep weaners and light stags on high quality diet. Post-grazing residuals above 1600kgDM/ha are ideal.
- Create refugia for weaners – avoid keeping them on their own rotations all autumn without stock integration to vacuum up worms.

Scan for more information about drenching cattle including calves.

Generalised seasonal pattern of infective larval species on the pasture arising from untreated livestock

Ostertagia (Teladorsagia) circumcincta

Nematodirus species

Barber's pole worm *(Haemonchus contortus)*

Trichostrongylus species *(Trichs)*

Cooperia species

Ostertagia ostertagi

Strongyloides

Mikaela Greig. Photo location: Horowhenua

May 2026

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
27 ANZAC Day (observed)	28	29	30	1	2 Opening weekend of duck hunting season	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 Mother's Day
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
1 Jun King's Birthday	2	3	4	5	6	7

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT THIS MONTH

Sheep

Do you need to drench and when?

Do a FEC test on:

- Light ewes at ram removal.
- Ewes prior to scanning.
- Trade lambs and ewe replacements 28 days post drench to check for re-infection.
  - Strict drench intervals may not be needed over winter as the lambs' immunity to worms is developing BUT keep monitoring.

Consider your grazing management

- Draft ewes on BCS when rams are removed.
- Do your feed budget to ensure the percent of light ewes is minimised and feed levels are optimal.

If killing tail-end ewes for dogs, check ewe livers for fluke.

Cattle

Considerations for drenching

A drench pre-winter may benefit:

- R2 cattle and light beef cows that are behind target for autumn liveweight gain.
- Cows that have weaned in poor condition and are not gaining weight.
  - Worms are not the only cause of reduced liveweight gain, seek advice.
- Use a product containing a 'mectin'/ML if drenching R2 cattle or light beef cows.

Deer

Tips for grazing management

- Winter drenching for young deer depends on level of nutrition and worm contamination of pasture.
- Avoid accumulating worm contamination and exposure cycles by moving weaners off grazing areas that they spent a lot of time on in the autumn.
- Aim for post-grazing residuals above 1600kgDM/ha and use refugia if grazing pasture.
- When wintered on crop, weaners should not need ongoing treatment but do a FEC and lungworm faecal larval count after 4-5 weeks to make sure they are not re-infected.

“Young cattle eating L3 larvae have a lower appetite and don’t eat as much. We often forget about the impact of this. The more L3 larvae they eat, the greater the impact on weight gain.”

Trevor Cook, veterinarian and farm advisor, former Wormwise National Spokesperson

Mikayla Simpson. Photo location: Te Anau

June 2026

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1 King's Birthday	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 Loving the calendar? Let us know!
29	30	1 Jul	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 Matariki	11	12

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT THIS MONTH

Sheep

Do you need to drench and when?
Do a FEC test on:
- Ewes prior to scanning.
- Early lambers prior to pre-lamb vaccinations.

Consider your grazing management
- Take out ewes < BCS 3 and preferentially feed.
- Separate triplets at scanning to prevent weight loss in the last trimester.

If killing tail-end ewes for dogs, check ewe livers for fluke.

Cattle

Consider your grazing management
- Ensure all cattle on winter crops are being fed adequately. Insufficient intake is the biggest cause of poor performance on crops.

Considerations for drenching
- Drench R1 cattle prior to going onto winter crop.
- R2 cattle that have been performing below average may benefit from a drench prior to going onto winter crop.
  - Parasites are not the only cause of reduced liveweight gain, seek advice.
- Injectable products are a better choice than pour-ons for treating *Ostertagia* in R2 and older cattle.

Deer

- Improve pasture quality, hind nutrition, fawn growth and improve resilience to parasite challenge through better feeding.
- Split hinds into early and late fawners at pregnancy scanning so that early fawning mobs can start rotational/shuffle grazing once fawns are up and running.

Calendar feedback
Your feedback helps make the calendar better. Are you loving it? Are you using it? Thanks for taking the time to let us know.

Mikaela Greig. Photo location: Horowhenua

High risk factors for increasing drench resistance

Activity	Management
Using long-acting products pre-lambing	Long-term: Look to good-practice feeding and ewe body condition to eliminate the need for these products. Short-term: Identify individuals in each mob that can most safely be left untreated, to provide refugia. Try to avoid weaning lambs back onto areas grazed by treated ewes.
Preventative lamb drenching from weaning (low – high risk)	Consider the interval between drenches – 28 days should be the minimum. While drenching lambs on demand based on FEC is likely to reduce selection for drench resistance, careful monitoring needs to be performed to achieve this successfully. It is much easier to do on 'clean' feed (see below).
Drenching onto 'low-contamination /clean' pasture	Drenching sheep onto 'clean' feed like newly sown pasture, can strongly select for drench resistance. Leave a small proportion of the heaviest lambs undrenched or use undrenched older sheep as leaders or followers.
Buying stock with resistant worms	Follow a strict quarantine protocol for incoming stock including holding them off pasture for 24 hours after an effective treatment. Double and triple combinations are not effective quarantine drenches. Alternatively, buy stock from farms able to document a low drench resistance status to avoid the need for this protocol.
Continued use of ineffective product	Use regular drench checks and FECRT to determine drench efficacy on farm.

July 2026

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 Matariki	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1 Aug	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT THIS MONTH

Sheep

Do you need to drench and when?
Do a FEC test on:
- Ewes prior to scanning
- Hoggets

Consider your grazing management
- Separate triplets and preferentially feed so they don't lose weight in the last trimester.
- At ram removal/scanning take out ewes < BCS 3 and preferentially feed.

Deer

Get ahead of lungworm
- The correlation between lungworm larval counts/FEC in deer and the number of parasites inside the animals starts to become poor after 8mths of age. Use liveweight gain, visual appearance and signs of coughing to assess parasitism in R1's after 8 months.

Moderate risk factors for increasing drench resistance

Activity	Management
Ewe drenching at docking/ tailing	In NZ, ewes usually gain immunity to worms by docking/tailing time. Not drenching will ensure both resistant and susceptible eggs are deposited onto pasture and should not result in production losses if animals are well-fed.
Ewe drenching at other times	Do you actually need to drench ewes? Or can other management practices improve ewe performance? Assess the 3 F's: FECs, Feed, and Fatness and consider treating only part of a flock based on risk (e.g. pregnancy rank, age or condition score). 2-tooth ewes can be more prone to parasitism and may need to be considered separately.

Matt Ponsonby. Photo location: Lawrence, South Otago

August 2026

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
27	28	29	30	31	**1**	**2**
3	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**
10	**11**	**12**	**13**	**14**	**15**	**16**
17	**18**	**19**	**20**	**21**	**22**	**23**
24	**25**	**26**	**27**	**28**	**29**	**30**
31	1 Sep	2	3	4	5	6 Father's Day

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT THIS MONTH

Sheep

Do you need to drench and when?
Do a FEC test on:
- Ewes prior to lambing.

Are your ewes at BCS 3 or better?
- Multiple ewes >BCS 3 should be lambed in safter paddocks.

Consider your grazing management
- Reduce the risk of drench resistance by minimising the need for long-acting treatment in ewes through nutrition.
  - Provide great nutrition pre-lamb and early lactation by set-stocking onto target covers of 1400+kgDM/ha.

Cattle

Considerations for drenching
- It is often not necessary to drench all R2 cattle coming out of winter. Parasites can still cause poor performance in some individuals. Consider treating only the tail end.
- A spring drench in R1 cattle that have the best live weight gain may not be required.
- Use a product containing a 'mectin'/ML if drenching R1 or R2 cattle to target *Ostertagia.*
- Cattle coming off winter crops may have lost some parasite immunity. Wait 1-3 weeks after they have been back on pasture before treating if needed.

“You’re farming worms, you’re not farming anything else first. Once you figure out your worms, then you farm accordingly.”

Nico Butler, farm manager, Wairarapa

Amanda Henderson. Photo location: Tasman District

September 2026

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
31	1	2	3	4	5	6 Father's Day
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 Daylight Saving Time
28 South Canterbury Anniversary Day	29	30	1 Oct	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT THIS MONTH

Sheep

Do you need to drench and when?

- Do a FEC test on ewe hoggets prior to lambing.

Considerations for drenching at docking/tailing?

- To reduce the risk of drench resistance avoid whole-flock docking/tailing drench as an annual policy.
  - Whole-flock ewe drenching is unlikely help production. Targeted drenching of tail end ewes may give faster recovery.

Consider your grazing management

- Reduce the risk of drench resistance by minimising the need for long-acting treatment in ewes through nutrition.
  - Provide great nutrition pre-lamb and early lactation by set-stocking onto target covers of 1400+kgDM/ha.
- Monitor pasture covers to ensure sufficient feed for ewes over lambing through to docking/tailing. Plan for options to increase feed to mobs if needed.

Cattle

Do you need to drench out of winter?

- Well-fed, well-conditioned cattle coming out of the winter may not need a drench. Monitor BCS, rule out other diseases, and interpret FECs with advice before routine drenching.
- Check for coccidiosis before drenching artificially-reared calves on pasture. Don't assume worms.

Deer

- Drench R1 deer based on likely contamination of grazing area, conditions for larval development, and development of parasite immunity in the animals.
- Big, well-grown, well conditioned R1's are likely to have better immunity and are less likely to require treatment.
- Monitor live weight gain in R1's to target drench for animals that are not achieving expected weight gains.

“For deer, like other livestock, feeding them well with high protein forage helps them cope with parasite challenges.”

Lorna Humm, veterinarian, Wormwise Trainer and deer farmer

Ella Hole. Photo location: Geraldine

October 2026

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
28 South Canterbury Anniversary Day	29	30	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 Hawke's Bay Anniversary Day	24	25
26 Labour Day	27	28	29	30	31	1 Nov
2 Marlborough Anniversary Day	3	4	5	6	7	8

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT THIS MONTH

Sheep

Do you need to drench and when?

Do a FEC test on:

- Ewes given a long-acting treatment pre-lamb during the payout period.
  - If eggs are present in treated ewe samples, request a larval culture. This will show which worm species are surviving. Seek management advice.

Considerations for drenching

- Lambs do not require a docking/tailing drench except in extreme situations of low feed and poor ewe milk production.
- Drenching all ewes at docking/tailing time is unlikely to result in positive production responses but may help to dry up dags.
  - The window of opportunity for fast lamb growth, and high or extended lactation from ewes is largely closed.

Consider your grazing management

- Look at all options to improve feed quality and quantity from docking/tailing onwards. Lambs are now functioning ruminants and consume more pasture. They grow best with high ratios of legume-dominant feed.

Deer

Grazing management

- Hinds set stocked for fawning. Cattle grazed with fawning mobs can reduce larval challenge and help pasture quality.
- Summer crops/better nutrition can help cut down larval challenge and improve parasite immunity.

“Ask your ram breeder if they are recording WormFEC, CARLA, Dag Score, or parasite Resilience, and ask to see their genetic trend graphs for these. Your breeder should be able to describe a clear direction for where they are trying to head with these traits. Genetics are a key long-term tool for managing parasites”

Ginny Dodunski, Wormwise Programme Manager

Matt Holden. Photo location: Hawke’s Bay

November 2026

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
26 Labour Day	27	28	29	30	31	1
2 Marlborough Anniversary Day	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 Canterbury Anniversary Day	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 Loving the calendar? Let us know!
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 Chatham Islands, and Westland Anniversary Day	1 Dec	2	3	4	5	6

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT THIS MONTH

Sheep

Do you need to drench? Test livestock and drenches.

- FEC test several lamb mobs to understand worm challenge level.
- Drench check 10 individual lambs.
- Book summer FECRT with your advisor. FEC tests tell you when there are enough eggs to start FECRT.
- Get the latest advice on pre-weaning/ weaning lamb drenches before going ahead. Usual drenches may no longer be appropriate.

Buying rams?

- Ask your ram breeder about traits for resilience and resistance.

Cattle

Considerations for drenching

- Dairy beef calves should not need drenching until after weaning.
  - Ensure you know what you are treating. FEC testing can help determine if dirty backsides are a result of worms, coccidiosis or other diseases.

Deer

- Summer crops can reduce larval challenge and improve immunity through better nutrition if you are summer-dry.
- Set stock early and late fawning hinds separately for better nutrition and improved resilience to worms.

Scan to find out more about breeding for resilience and resistance or **AskBella.co.nz** (your on-farm AI powered assistant).

Calendar feedback
Your feedback helps make the calendar better. Are you loving it? Are you using it? Thanks for taking the time to let us know.

“Farming with parasites is tough. You can’t eliminate them, just plan and find a way foward. There’s only one you and you have to look after after yourself.”

Ashleigh Dobson, veterinarian and farmer

Sam Peffer. Photo location: Havelock North

December 2026

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
30 Chatham Islands and Westland Anniversary Day	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26 Boxing Day	27
28 Boxing Day (observed)	29	30	31 New Year's Eve	1 Jan New Year's Day	2 Day after New Year's Day	3
4 Day after New Year's Day (observed)	5	6	7	8	9	10

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT THIS MONTH

Sheep

Is your weaning drench working?

- FEC test and larval culture pre- and post-treatment at weaning. This helps understand current worm species that are challenging lambs and gives an idea of drench efficacy.

Considerations for pre-weaning/weaning lamb drench

- Get the latest advice on pre-weaning/weaning lamb drenches before going ahead. Usual drenches may no longer be appropriate.

Cattle

Get ahead of lungworm

- Lungworm can cause unexpected disease in artificially-reared calves. Talk to your vet about faecal testing for lungworm.

Deer

Select good stags/bulls

- Select high CARLAeBV animals when purchasing sire stags/Wapiti bulls. Progeny have lower faecal egg and lungworm larval counts and grow better than low CARLA animals when grazing contaminated pasture.

Feed well

- Better nutrition supports resilience to parasites. Start rotational/shuffle grazing once fawns are up and running to improve pasture quality, hind nutrition, fawn growth and resilience to parasites.

Use integration to reduce parasite challenge

- Graze sheep or cattle in paddocks cleared of deer to drop deer parasite numbers.

wormwise

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