

# DRENCH WISE

Do it once,  
Do it right

Careful and accurate drenching is important to ensure that treatments given are safe and effective. Drench use should be part of an internal parasite management plan that includes appropriate policies, planned grazing, good nutrition, monitoring and breeding.

Knowing which drenches will work on your internal parasites and administering products properly ensures that the investment made in drenching is not wasted. Consequences of using an ineffective drench and poor technique can be serious. Underdosing or continued use of an ineffective product can result in poorer animal performance and increase the rate at which drench resistance develops. Some drenches can be toxic when excessive dose rates are used.

Internal parasites may not be the only reason stock may be thin or scouring – know what you are treating.

## Which drench to choose

- Not all drenches work on all internal parasites, use the right drench for the job.
- A faecal egg count reduction test (FECRT), carried out every 2-3 years, will help you select the most useful drenches for your farm.

 Keep monitoring to see how effective your drench, drenching technique, and drenching programme are.

## Stock

- Weigh a random sample of animals (at least 40) and drench to the heaviest weight.
- Estimating weight can lead to underdosing, some internal parasites not being killed and an increased chance of developing drench resistance.

 Animal weights in the mob may vary widely, draft into light and heavy mobs (preferably using scales not by eye), and dose to the heaviest weight in each group.

## Handling drench

- Read the drench label, check and record the expiry date, batch number, withholding period and note any precautions or special instructions.
- Calculate the correct dose based on the heaviest animal weight.
- Shake the drum of drench well before filling the backpack to ensure even mixing.

## Drench equipment

- Regularly service drench guns and have more than one ready to use.
- Check your drench gun for leakages or backflow and replace valves and washers if necessary.
- Check drench gun nozzle for damage and rough edges.
- Calibrate drench guns to check they deliver the correct volume. Use drench not water for calibration.
- After drenching, rinse the drench gun, disassemble, wash with warm water, lubricate all moving parts and re-assemble carefully.

 Fix any equipment that is broken as soon as it happens.

## Delivery technique

Drench can be delivered to livestock orally, by injection, as a pour-on and by controlled release capsules. The ease of use and effectiveness of each method can vary. Drenching is a skilled job and should not be rushed. Check the manufacturer's instructions and review the drenching procedure guidelines on the Wormwise website if you are unsure – [www.wormwise.co.nz](http://www.wormwise.co.nz).

### Oral drenching



#### HEAD HORIZONTAL

Hold the animal firmly with the head horizontal. Carefully introduce the nozzle into the side of the mouth and over the back of the tongue.



#### DRENCH GUN ON TOP OF TONGUE

Administer the drench and withdraw the gun. Release the animal when it has swallowed.



#### HEAD HELD TOO HIGH

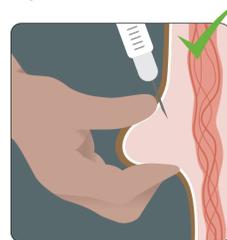
Drench in the lungs can be fatal.



#### DRENCH TOO FAST

Fast drenching means animals may be underdosed. Avoid injury to teeth or throat.

### Injectable treatments



#### INJECT UNDER THE SKIN

Inject under the skin, not into the muscle, with a small gauge needle. Only inject dry and clean animals.



#### CORRECT POSITION

Inject into the front half of the neck.



#### INJECTION TOO LOW

Careless injection can cause infection resulting in carcase damage and downgrading at slaughter.



#### TOO HARD

Pressing too hard means the needle can accidentally go into the muscle and may increase the withholding period.

### Pour-on treatments



#### FROM SHOULDER TO TAIL BASE

Apply along the midline of the back from shoulders to tail-base (unless advised otherwise).



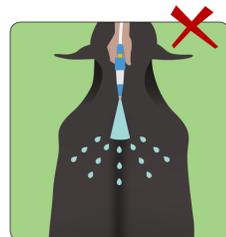
#### TOO SHORT

Short drenching will not give even coverage and will be less effective.



#### NOT IN THE RAIN

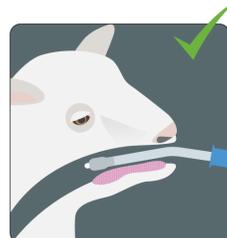
If the drench is not rain-fast, avoid using in the rain or on wet stock.



#### TOO FAST

Drenching too fast means an incorrect dose may be applied and the drench will be less effective.

### Controlled release capsules



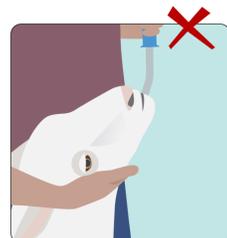
#### MATCH ANGLE OF APPLICATOR

Control the head and neck. Match angle of applicator by lifting chin or extending neck. Insert applicator at the side of the mouth and on to tongue. Avoid the teeth, this may damage the capsule affecting performance.



#### ALLOW SWALLOWING

Swallowing draws capsule and applicator into the back of the throat. When applicator inserted and grip of applicator is at the corner of the mouth, press the release button, hold down and remove the applicator. Make sure animal swallows before releasing.



#### HEAD FORCED UP

Forcing the head up can fatally damage animal's throat. Do not force the applicator down the throat. If there is resistance, remove the applicator and try again.



#### HEAD FACING DOWN

If the head is facing down, the capsule will not be swallowed.