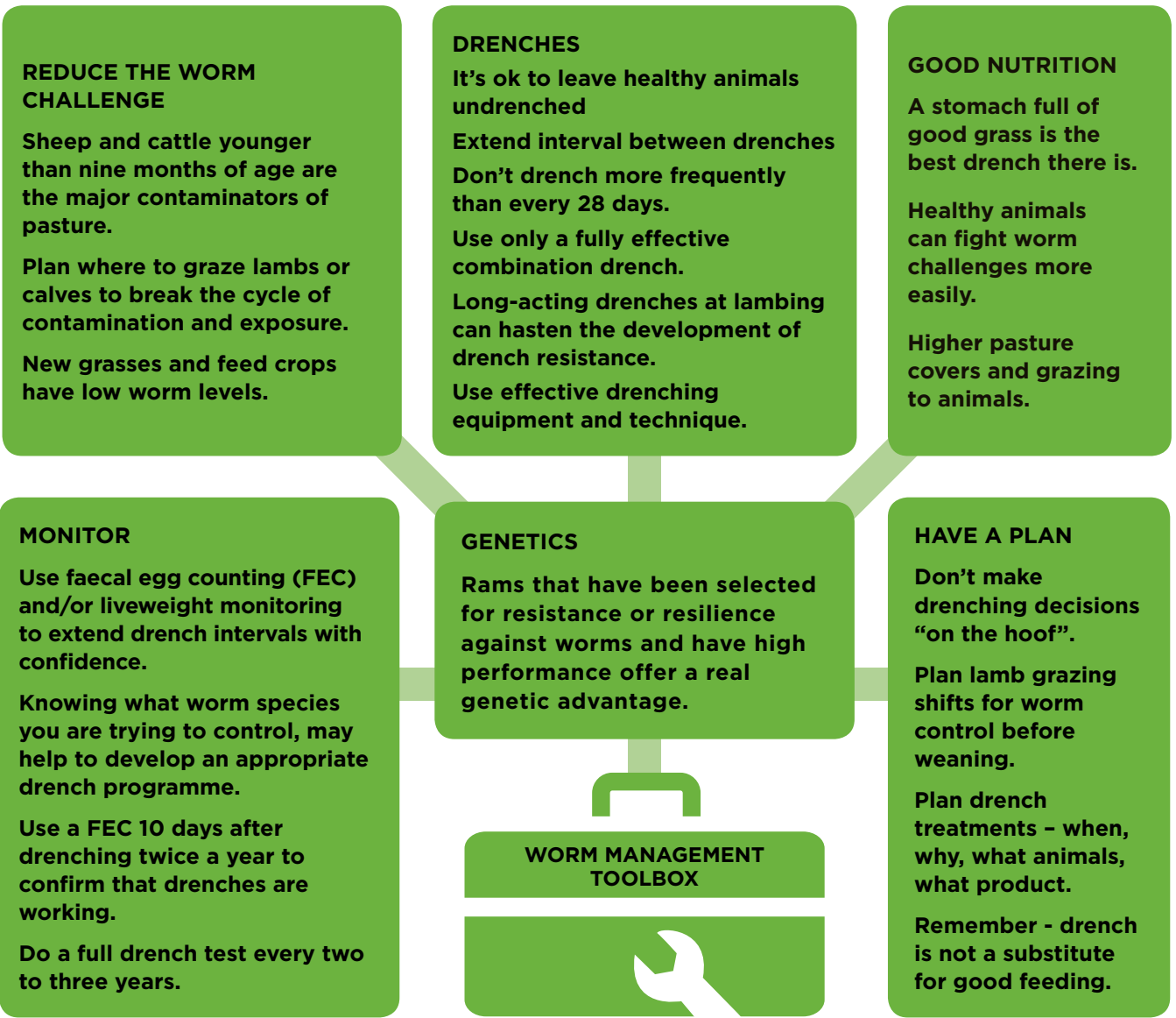


## WORM MANAGEMENT

The objective of worm management is to minimise the impact of worms on animal performance while minimising the selection for drench resistance.



## POINTS TO REMEMBER

- Well-fed adult sheep and cattle can withstand higher worm burdens.
- Drench resistance is a problem in today's worm control.
- Evidence shows that long acting drenches can increase selection for drench resistance.
- Cooperia are now resistant to endectocides in many intensive beef finishing systems.
- If you have to drench stock often, you are probably suffering a major production loss.
- The practices used to minimise drenching are the same practices that will maximise animal production.
- 95% of worm population live **outside** the animal. Managing that population is an under-utilised tool.

## MANAGING THE WORM CHALLENGE

Young stock are the major contributor to internal parasite populations. For breeding properties, the number of lambs carried into the autumn and where they graze sets the risk of future worm burdens.

However, even with a 70:30 sheep to cattle ratio, it is possible to avoid grazing lambs during the summer and autumn on country that ewes will be lambing on the following spring.

Systems that are dominated by animals less than nine months of age are very susceptible to high worm challenges. To prevent the build up of large worm populations, these properties can use new pastures, feed crops, hay/silage aftermath and the integrated grazing of other stock classes.

## THE GENETIC TOOL

Real progress has been made by some sheep breeders who have been selecting for either low Faecal Egg Count (FEC) levels (resistance) or time to first drench (resilience), along with high animal performance. It appears that resistance or resilience don't necessarily have to come at the cost of animal production. The CARLA saliva test is a tool to help select sheep for these traits

## SELECTIVE DRENCHING

It's desirable to leave the healthiest ewes or lambs in a mob undrenched. This helps to maintain a reservoir of "susceptible" worms in the population to dilute down any resistant worms.

## GOOD DRENCH PRACTICE

Do an FEC test 10 days after drenching to check that the drench is working. The first drench after weaning and the first autumn drench are good times to make the check. A full drench test should follow if the FEC test is not zero.

Use a derquantel/abamectin or monepantel drench for quarantine drenching sheep and a triple combination for cattle

Hold stock for 24 hours after quarantine drenching and then let them out onto a "wormy" paddock so that any resistant survivors are quickly diluted down.

Where possible, extend the drench interval to help preserve drench effectiveness. This must be done with care after consideration of the level of worm challenge, FEC's and/or LWG's.

Do not drench at less than 28 day intervals.

## ANIMAL HEALTH PROGRAMME PLANNING

An animal health plan should schedule where the contaminating animals need to graze, and how you will be making decisions about what stock need treating, with what and when.

For example, planning pre-lamb treatments of ewes needs to begin in the winter with monitoring pregnancy status, ewe condition and maybe some FEC's. This is then added to data such as ewe age and feed covers at lambing in making the final decision.

Don't use drench as a prop for poor management.

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For more information contact Beef + Lamb New Zealand on 0800 233 352 or visit [www.beeflambnz.com](http://www.beeflambnz.com)

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