The purpose of any worm management programme is to maintain or enhance profitability by minimising the effects parasites have on animal performance and welfare.

This is achieved by reducing the uptake of infective larvae by susceptible stock and monitoring the success of worm management strategies.

Every farmer should carefully consider all the available strategies for worm management and how best to integrate them on their property.

Worm management strategies may include:

- Manipulation of pasture and stock management plans to reduce exposure of susceptible animals to worms at key times.
- Ensuring animals are well fed and have adequate mineral status.
- Minimising stress and attending to disease prevention.
- Breeding resistant/resilient animals.
- Use appropriate drenching strategies on the most susceptible stock classes that bear in mind the risk of drench resistance.

The tools to monitor effectiveness include faecal egg counts (FEC) and the identification of worms’ present using faecal larval cultures.

Monitoring production measures, such as weight gain, gives information about the effects of worms on stock.

The effect of four x monthly drenches from weaning on (a) the faecal egg output of lambs and (b) the pattern of larval availability on pasture.

A key factor in any strategy is knowing what is happening with worms on the farm. Many tools are available but the mix will vary from farm to farm.