

# Fact sheet 4. **Drench and drench resistance**

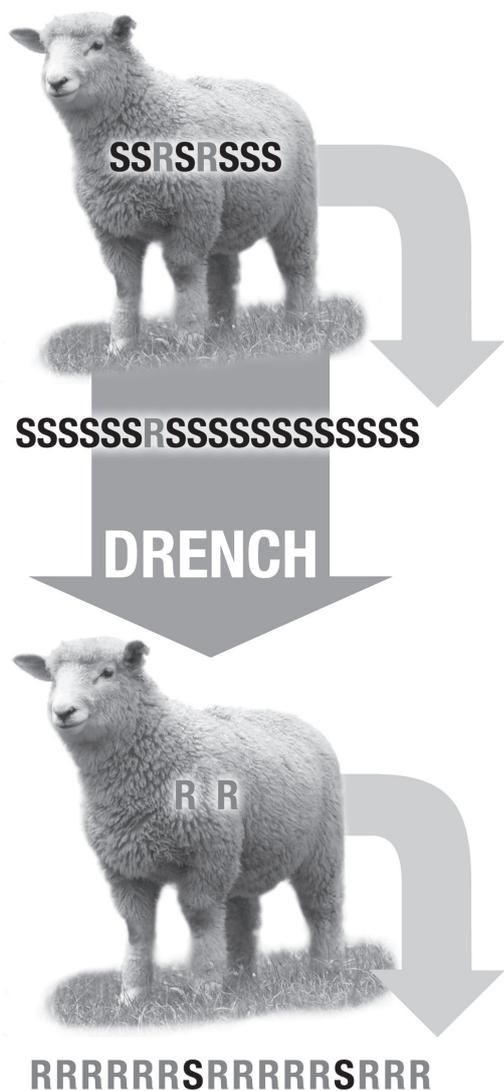
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# wormwise

national worm management strategy

**Drench resistance is common, is increasing in all drench families (and combinations) and poses a real risk to the viability of livestock farming.**

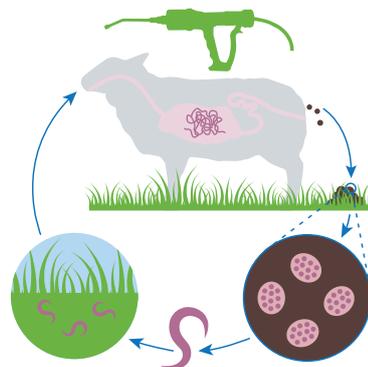
The balance of reducing the risk of drench resistance while still managing worms (internal parasites) so production and animal welfare do not suffer, involves compromise.



How resistant worms become dominant

## The risk of drench resistance development can be evaluated and steps taken to minimise it:

- Knowing what drenches are effective on your farm is essential; poor efficacy means lost productivity.
- Continued use of a drench that is losing its efficacy carries a high risk of accelerating drench resistance development.
- You won't see visual signs of drench failure until a drench is less than 50% effective; testing is essential.
- The concept of refugia refers to a worm population not exposed to drenching.
- Well-fed adult stock should not need drenching and can act as a reservoir of non-resistant worms ('Refugia') as well as 'vacuum cleaners' of larvae deposited by young animals.
- Using undrenched animals of the same species to create refugia will ensure there are still non-resistant worms around and this can be a useful tool in delaying resistance.



**Drenching should be just one small part of a parasite management plan.**