SHEEP & GOAT POOLED FECAL TEST

Internal parasites are a significant economic burden to sheep and goat production. Resistance to deworming products is increasingly diagnosed in western Canada. The quantitative McMaster fecal egg count (FEC) determines the number of parasite eggs per gram of feces and provides information regarding the types of internal parasites present in the sample (strongyles such as barberpole worm, tapeworm, whipworm, coccidia etc.). **Pooling a McMaster FEC** with groups of sheep and goats at high risk times is a useful aid in determining approximate worm burden. Knowing your flock herd load allows for appropriate timing of deworming, monitoring pasture contamination and assessing the effectiveness of deworming drugs after treatment.Targeted use of deworming drugs, reduces unnecessary treatments and maintains health and performance in the flock or herd more sustainably.

POOLED McMaster fecal sampling

SELECT 15-20 animals within a production group (e.g. pregnant ewes around lambing, goat kids during the grazing season, etc.). Gather them in a pen or alleyway (with clean ground) and wait until each animal defecates or run them through a chute and gently collect a sample from the rectum. Collect a fresh sample from each animal, do not sample from the same animal repeatedly. At least 10-15 pellets are needed per animal. Pellets on the bottom of the manure pile or old fecal pellets should not be collected because they contain contaminates from the ground. **Place each fecal sample in its own clean, sealable container or twist/zip top bag.**
Complete a PDS Submission form and request "Small Ruminant Pooled Screening". PDS will pool the samples and run a single McMasters fecal egg count.

July 13, 2023

POOLED Fecal Egg Count is an Economical Option

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Monitor:
- **Pasture contamination**
- **Anthelmintic effectiveness**
- **Worm burden in a group of sheep or goats**

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Improve Herd/Flock health programs

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Contact PDS for current pricing

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