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NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY
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CONTROL WORMS *and* OTHER INTERNAL PARASITES *of* SHEEP

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Year Around Program

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NDAC *Extension Service, Fargo*
NORTH DAKOTA AGRICULTU COLLEGE

Control Sheep Parasites

Practically all sheep have worms. The large build-up of parasite numbers does the damage. Recognizing sheep that are infested is relatively easy.

Internal parasites cause lambs to be unthrifty and stunted, often resulting in death

Wormy Sheep Can Be Detected By:

1. Unthrifty appearance, usually thin, humped-up. Droppings are loose and watery.

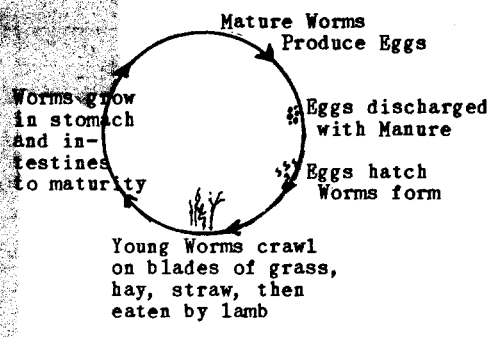
2. Analysis of manure sample by local veterinarian or NDAC Veterinary Department. In taking a manure sample follow these suggestions:

   (a) Collect fresh sample. Old droppings may have eggs hatched and worms gone.

   (b) Freeze sample, if possible. This prevents the eggs from hatching so proper diagnosis can be made at the laboratory.

   (c) Send to Veterinary Department, NDAC, Fargo

LIFE CYCLE OF WORMS
FOUND IN SHEEP



HOW TO CONTROL PARASITES:

(1) Feed a good ration, Provide enough grass so it isn't grazed into the ground. Close grazing increased chances of sheep becoming re-infested with worms found on blades of grass.

SYRINGE FOR DRENCHING

(2) Drench in spring and fall.
The following mixture can be made up at most drug stores---

Alkaline Anthelmintic Mixture

(Poisonous)

	Grams for one gallon of drench
Copper sulfate $Cu\ SO_4 \cdot 5H_2O$	54
Sodium arsenate $Na_2HAsO_4 \cdot 7H_2O$	26
Ammonium carbonate $(NH_4)_2\ CO_3$	20
Sodium bicarbonate $Na\ HCO_3$	450
Nicotine sulfate 40% solution	20
Caprylic alcohol	1
Wettable phenothiazine may be added	
	450

DOSAGE: 4 ounces (120cc) to mature sheep.
One cc per pound body weight for lambs and thin or weak sheep. This means approximately

3 ounces to 90 pound ewe
2 ounces to 60 pound lamb
1 ounce to 30 pound lamb

Or, use a commercial sheep drench or capsule containing a combination of lead, arsenate and phenothiazine. Follow directions both for dosage and administration. Use a dose syringe or a capsule gun to administer drench. These can be purchased at drug stores or wool pools.

Crowd sheep into cutting-chute or pen for dosing. If you use a syringe, place the left hand on lower jaw, hold head so nostrils are not above level of sheep's eye. Force mouth open with thumb, administer drench inside of mouth with syringe, well back in mouth, gradually bring down plunger.

Sheep should be drenched with a syringe. Care should be taken that the head is not held too high.

Do not force sheep to swallow faster than natural. This might cause drench to go down windpipe instead of gullet.

CAPSULE GUN

If you are using a capsule gun, use care to place it properly in the back of the sheep's mouth. Otherwise, the capsule may lodge and choke sheep or sheep may spit it out.

Mark each sheep drenched with marking chalk to avoid skips or duplicates.

(3) Mix powdered phenothiazine and salt 1 to 10. For each 100 pounds of salt, add 10 pounds of phenothiazine and mix well. You can buy phenothiazine at most drug stores, feed stores or wool pools. Feed free-choice in a box protected from rain. Keep mixture before sheep at all times. Phenothiazine causes the urine to become red and causes some brown stains on the wool.

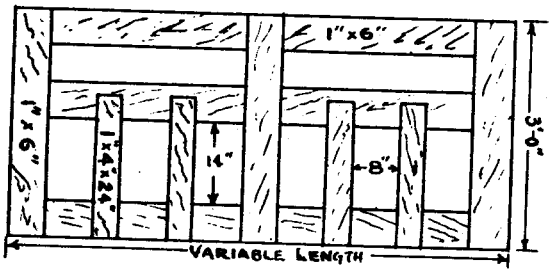
Salt blocks containing phenothiazine are handy to feed but are not as satisfactory in getting enough salt or phenothiazine to the sheep. Blocks may also cause broken teeth.

(4) Good management practices---

- Provide clean water.
- Rotate pastures.
- Do not spread manure back on pastures being grazed by sheep.
- Fence off low, wet stagnant areas that are especially favorable for parasite production.
- Practice sanitation at all times.

CREEP FEED LAMBS:

A Desirable Creep Entrance



A creep is a pen with openings large enough to permit lambs to enter but keeps out the adult sheep.

(1) Place creep where sheep usually get together, such as shade areas or other protected areas. Place feed in creep when lambs are 2 weeks old. Oats is the best starter. After 1 month, add barley to the mixture and gradually increase until the ration is 1/2 barley and 1/2 oats.

(2) Corn or wheat may be used to replace barley or to replace part of the barley.

(3) Creep feed is most important when pasture becomes dry and ewes milk less.

(4) Creep feeding helps lambs keep ahead of parasites.

EXTENSION SERVICE
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