

## **Horse Worming Recommendations.**

The following horse worming recommendations are based on the following:

1) The latest Australian research into horse worms (2014) has identified a changing population of parasites that infest horse's bowels. The old villain Strongyle Vulgaris is now not very common, being present on less than 15% of surveyed horse farms. Tape worm similarly is now rare being present on less than 5% of surveyed farms.

However, Cyathostomes (Small Strongyles) were present on 100% of surveyed Australian farms and represents your horse's main parasitic threat.

2) The damage caused by Cyathostomes is carried out by immature Cyathostomes. These immature forms do not lay eggs that can be tested on a faecal egg count (FEC). It is therefore entirely possible that your horse can be suffering from a Cyathostome infestation and still have a zero FEC.

3) It is now well recognised that approximately 80% of the horse worms on a property will be carried in only 20% of the horses on that property. In a nutshell, most of your horses are not carrying most of your worms. We have to identify which horses are "prone" to carrying large worm burdens and worm accordingly (i.e. more). The other side of this point is that we also need to recognise the horses that do not carry many worms and worm them accordingly (i.e. Less). The way we do this is to use routine FEC. It has limitations, see above, however we can manage around these limitations.

## Recommendations

1) All horses should have a FEC done at the start of every season. If just starting these recommendations, a FEC should be done as soon as possible after an 8 week period from last worming. Please note if your horses was last wormed with Equest, please allow 14 weeks.

2) Regardless of FEC, all horses are to be wormed with either a single dose of Equest or 5 consecutive days with Fenbendazole (e.g. Panacur 100) in Early Spring and Early Autumn. Ideally, this worming will be after the Start of Spring and start of Autumn FEC's.

3) Based of FEC results during the year, horses are to be wormed as required, with a minimum of one of these wormers carrying a Tape wormer active ingredient.