



Targeted Parasite Control

FOR CHICKENS & POULTRY

A parasite problem in your flock can lead to unthrifty birds, lower egg production and potentially life threatening diseases if not dealt with properly. However with only one licenced wormer for domestic birds, repeated exposure will only speed the development of drug resistance.

Evidence based control

Regular worm egg counts monitor birds for signs of parasite infection. Only when the test indicates sufficient parasites are present do we step in with a treatment. Testing the flock in this way will give you peace of mind that your birds aren't carrying unwelcome parasites that will impact their health, while reducing the need for regular worming doses.

As an added benefit you aren't putting unnecessary chemicals into animals that might eventually end up in the food chain through their meat or eggs. Using fewer chemicals is also better for the environment.

Using worm counts

Test individual birds or a composite sample from groups that are housed together. We advise submitting one sample for every 10-15 birds if using this method with a larger flock.

When can a worm count be useful?

- Test late in the year during or after the moult, to ensure birds are going into the winter worm free.
- Test January - March ready for the breeding season or to ensure good Spring egg production.
- Test newly acquired stock so you know what they might be bringing into the coop.
- Test an individual you are concerned about.
- As a general check during the laying season.

Good Husbandry

Will also help to break the lifecycle of any parasites mechanically, reducing your reliance on chemicals.

Which worms are covered by the test?

Three types of internal parasite effect poultry that can be detected on a worm egg count. These include:

1. Gastrointestinal worms; such as Ascaridia (roundworms), Amidostomum anseris (gizzard worm), Capillaria (hair or threadworm), Heterakis (caecal worm) etc.
2. Syngamustrachea (gape worm) found in the windpipe.
3. Eimeria (coccidiosis), a microscopic parasitic organism called a protozoa.

Note that tapeworm eggs may not show up in a worm count because of the way they are expelled.

TARGETED WORM CONTROL
for chickens and poultry

SPRING	Worm egg count
SUMMER	Worm egg count
AUTUMN	Worm egg count
WINTER	Worm egg count

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Worm Egg Counts

TAKING & SENDING SAMPLES

With only a few hens in your flock you may like to test individually. Collect a sample from each chicken and fill the containers provided. Label the container.

Otherwise to collect a composite sample:

1. Collect fresh droppings from several places in the hen house, using the large plastic bag provided.
2. Mix together well by squeezing the bag. Fill the sample container using the mixed droppings sample.
3. Label with your own name and the sample name/number.
4. Place inside the small plastic bag.
5. Fill in the Sample Return Checklist on the back of the envelope, making sure to add the date you collected the sample please.

Samples are tested in the lab on the day they arrive and your results reported the same day.



One.



Two.



Three.



Four.



Five.

What does my result mean?

Your result will say which type of worms were seen in the sample and the number reported as e.p.g. or 'eggs per gram'. Whether you need to worm or not will depend on the number and type of eggs seen.

-  The sign < means 'less than', so a result of **<50 epg** means no eggs seen in the sample.
-  Up to **200 epg** means a LOW count. Healthy birds can generally deal well with a low level of parasite infection, there is no need to worm at this level unless Capillaria Heterakis or Tapeworm is seen, in which case treatment is advised. (Although Heterakis itself is harmless it can be a carrier for the parasite that causes Blackhead.)
-  Between **200 epg** and **1200 epg** is a MEDIUM count and the bird needs worming.
-  Over **1200 epg** means a HIGH count, the birds need worming and the programme/husbandry needs attention.

Coccidial Oocysts

The poultry keeper's aim is to ensure that birds are exposed to low levels of coccidiosis to enable them to build up natural immunity but not so many that they succumb to disease. While the number of coccidial oocysts relates to burden of infection, relatively high levels may be seen in dung samples without disease being present. Monitor infection levels, look out for symptoms of disease and consult your vet where necessary.

-  **<5000 e.p.g.** no need to treat
-  **5000 – 50000 e.p.g.** worth consulting with your vet and looking out for loose droppings and other symptoms.
-  **>50000 e.p.g.** disease usually present, consult your vet



Questions? Please get in touch!

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