



# EIP WALES

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Collaborating for rural success

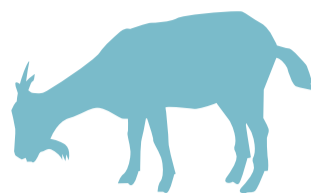


## menter a busnes



## Improving worm control in goats

Kate Hovers, MRCVS an independent veterinary surgeon, responds to some common myths and misconceptions surrounding worm control in goats.



### **Giving mineral supplements is better for the goats in the long term than always assuming it's a worm problem.**

It's only a solution if you have a deficiency. There is no evidence that providing supplements will cure an existing worm challenge. In the long term it's usually cheaper to pay for advice than guess and pay for treatments that are not needed.



### **You start with the clear drenches and work your way through the colours when you see signs that they are not working.**

The change of colour from clear to vibrant orange is not an indicator of strength or order in which to use them. Using different drenches at different times (taking veterinary advice) but not sticking to the same type can extend the useful life of all of them.

### **I have the dates when I need to drench written up on my calendar from last year. Nothing has changed so I'll do the same again.**

All sorts of factors influence the exposure of your goats and the herd as a whole to a worm burden including soil and air temperature, length of sward, gestation and stress levels (transport, handling etc.). Plus any new arrivals to the herd can bring in new worm populations.

### **Adult goats are more resilient to worms than youngstock.**

Unlike sheep, goats rarely develop resilience as they get older.

### **My goats are treated like pets, they don't meet any other animals to catch worms from.**

Unless they are permanently housed, they will have the opportunity to 'pick up' worms from pasture.



### **Goats are like sheep, they have the same gut parasites so we should use the same drenches to treat them.**

Very few products are licensed for use in goats. Some drenches that are effective and safe for sheep are toxic to goats. It is essential to plan parasite control with the help of your vet. They will be able to provide bespoke information for your goat herd.

### **If I dose them when they don't need it, does it really matter? It's only a few pounds wasted.**

If they don't need it don't treat them. Every exposure of gut parasites to treatment creates the potential for some to survive - speeding up the establishment of a resistant worm population which costs a lot more in the longer term.

### **All the drenches treat all the worms so I don't need to waste money asking my vet or even testing what worms they have.**

The aim is to remove the worm burden without compromising the future efficacy of the drenches available to you and other goat and sheep keepers.



A group of goat keepers from across mid and south Wales is working with Kate Hovers, MRCVS in an EIP Wales project which is investigating the best options for worm control in goats. You can follow their progress here: <https://businesswales.gov.wales/farmingconnect/business/european-innovation-partnership-eip-wales/approved-eip-wales-projects/improve>