Goats and Worms

Goats are affected by the same parasites as other production animals
All Goat owners (1-1000) share common problems in dealing with worms in stock:

- Limited useful drenches for goats
- Limited useful amounts these are sold in (smaller owners)
- Where to obtain useful information

**IMPORTANCE OF INTERNAL PARASITES**

- Can affect general animal health.
- Can affect wool, meat, milk output and quality (profit).
- Can affect weight gain and maintenance of a healthy weight.
- Can allow animals to be affected by other secondary infections.
- Can affect reproduction rate.
- Can affect the survival and development rate of kids.
- Affects profit (if you are producer of goat products).
- Worms are seasonal and dominant species on a property will change throughout the year.
- Not all worms cause scouring.

**INTERNAL PARASITE MANAGEMENT CONTROL**

- Do you know if your stock is wormy? Most worm problems occur during the wetter months (autumn, spring and winter).
- Do you know if your drenches are effective? Use knowledge, planning and monitoring.
- Good farm management practices are essential in controlling levels of internal parasites.
- Control of Internal Parasites is usually done by drenching and rotation of stock.
- Quarantine new stock and drench.
- Have a plan to change drenches and minimise resistance forming on the property.
- Know how effective the drench groups are on the property.
- Worm testing regularly.

**Some commonly found parasites that affect sheep and goats**

In Tasmania sheep and goats are affected by a number of Roundworm species. The most common ones include black scour worms (*Trichstrongylus* sp.), small brown stomach worm (*Ostertagia* sp.) large mouth bowel worm (*Oesphagostomum* sp.), and thin necked intestinal worm (*Nematodirus* sp.). These are especially important in younger animals. Also barbers pole worm (*Haemonchus contortus*), in localised pockets across Tasmania.

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**Useful Contact Information:**

- Animal Health Laboratory - (03) 6777 2111
- General Enquires - 1300 368 550 (bh)
- www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au
- www.wormboss.com.au