

Ask the VMD



Leon Riegel Tim Trayer Edgar Sheaffer

Spring cleaning horse parasites.

A reader asks:

What would constitute a good general Spring worming program for horses?

P. Witmer, Willow Street

Dr. Sheaffer comments:

Spring is one of the most important seasons to treat horses for internal parasites.

Since many horses will be on some sort of pasture, it is beneficial to reduce the numbers of parasites in the horse before it is put out on fresh growing grass.

Spring worming is especially important regarding control of Strongyles, or blood worms, and Bots in horses over 6 months of age, and Ascarids, or large roundworms, in those under two years of age.

Strongyles and Ascarids spend part of their life cycles on the pasture. The infective larvae hide away on the fresh growing forage and move up the blades of grass in order to be eaten first. The parasite's aim is to get back into the host, in this case the horse, as soon as possible.

The adult Bot is a fly that looks like a dusty honey bee. The female fly lays her eggs on the hairs of the horse's front legs, chest, and neck during the Summer and early Fall.

The presence of the eggs causes pruritis, or itching. The eggs are hatched by the warmth and moisture of the horse's breath when it scratches the itch with its teeth.

The larvae then migrate through the tissues of the head and neck, and winter over as imbedded pupae in the mucosa of the stomach.

I recommend worming for Bots in November, January, and then a third time in late March or April. For your own situation, consult with your veterinarian for recommendations on which boticide to use and how.

Several tube-type worming formulas contain a boticide. Be careful to closely follow directions on any over-the-counter preparations.

Fecal smears and flotations of fresh manure

samples give a good indication of the quantity of Strongyle, Ascarid, and Pinworm infestation. Have your local veterinarian or nearby laboratory perform fecal examinations before your Spring worming.

By the way, I recommend treating every horse which will be using your pastures. Mature horses should be wormed every 4-8 weeks during the Spring, Summer, and early Fall. In general, foals, weanlings, and yearlings should be treated more frequently than older horses.

Work with your local veterinarian in setting up a program that is adequate for your stable.

Use many different formulas of worming compounds. It has been shown internal parasites, especially Strongyles, build up an immunity to the phenothiazines and the benzazoles. Therefore, I recommend alternating worming medications.

Here is a sample worming program that you can use year round.

January-February: Botacide paste or granules. Camvet or Telmin paste or granules for Strongyles, Ascarids, and Pinworms.

March-April: Tube worming by veterinarian with Dyres T F or Parvex +.

May-June: Topdress with

Pyrontel Pomoate, Strongid T or Imthal.

July-August: Panocur oral liquid or granules, or any other related benzazole product.

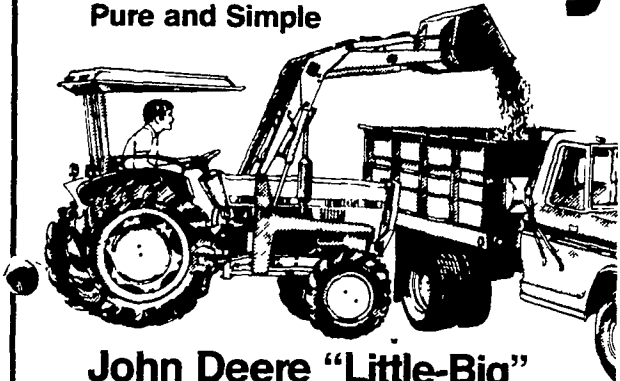
September-October: Topdress with Strongid T or Imthal.

November-December: Tube worming by your veterinarian with a broad spectrum formula that is effective on all types of internal parasites.

Always be sure to follow the drug manufacturer's and your veterinarian's warnings on the administration of any worming medications to pregnant, lactating, sick, or young horses.

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Meat store owner fined, jailed for bait and switch

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Richard M. Cerv, Alexandria, Va., former owner of a chain of freezer meat stores, has been fined \$10,000 and sentenced to six months in jail after pleading guilty in a federal court to three counts of an indictment involving bait and switch operations.

Cerv pleaded guilty to violating an earlier U.S. Department of Agriculture order requiring him to cease and desist from bait and switch sales tactics. He also pleaded guilty to two counts charging wire fraud.

Bait and switch is the common name for the sales practice of luring customers with misleading advertisements of low-priced meat, then disparaging the advertised merchandise and switching the customers to higher priced items, an official with USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service said.

James L. Smith, AMS deputy administrator for the Packers and Stockyards program, said the wire fraud charges were based on use of a telecopier to transmit customer credit information which determined how much

customers could pay for the more expensive meat.

The U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia also placed Cerv under supervised probation for 2-1/2 years, requiring him to report to the court with his probation officer periodically. He was also required to perform 300 hours of community service. Similar sentences were given for each of the three counts, to run concurrently.

Gary A. Young, Mt. Solon, Va., a former manager of Cerv's stores, pleaded guilty to violating the USDA order and was fined \$1,000 and placed on probation.

Among the freezer meat stores operated by Cerv

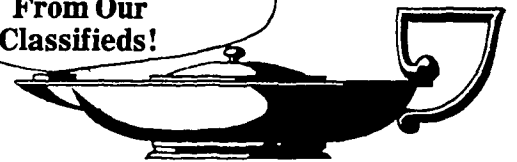
were Dick's Butcher Shop outlets in Virginia and Maryland, Beefland Freezer Meats in the District of Columbia and Shenandoah Valley Meat Co., Elkton, Va.

In the order issued by USDA in 1977, Cerv and Young and their retail outlet, Meat Masters, Inc., were fined \$5,000 and ordered to cease and desist from violating the Packers and Stockyards Act by engaging in bait and switch tactics.

The P&S Act is a fair trade practices law. Smith said the law is designed to promote and maintain fair and open competition in the buying and selling of livestock, meat, and poultry.

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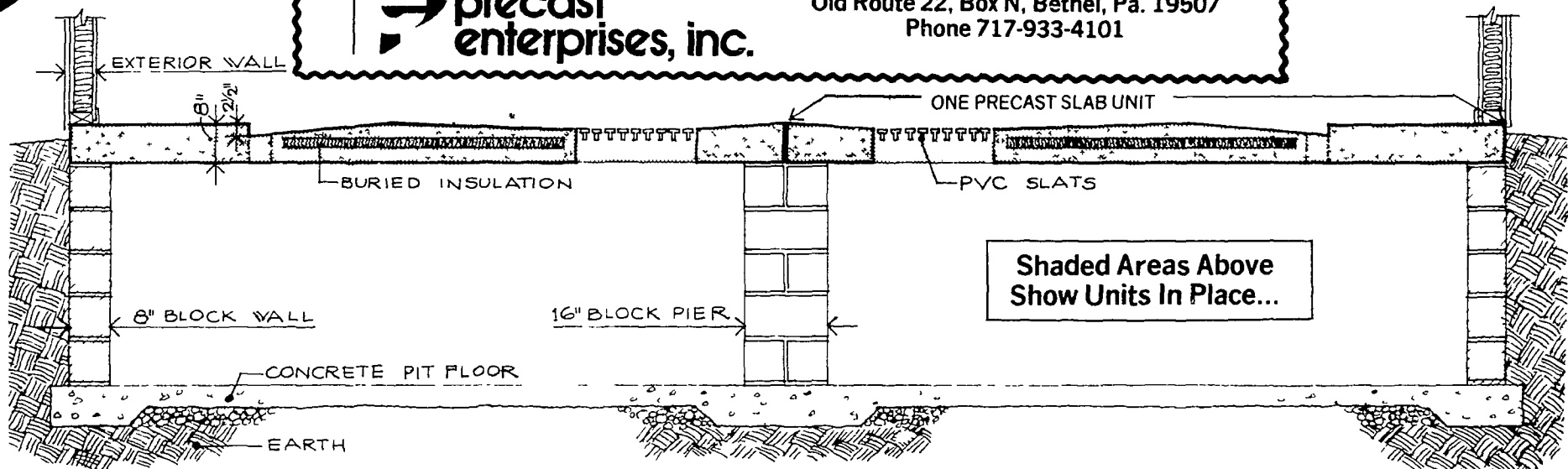
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