

Ask the VMD



Leon Riegel Tim Trayer Edgar Sheaffer

If you have a question you would like answered by the team from Valley Animal Hospital, send it to Ask the VMD, Box 366, Lititz, Pa. 17543. Questions will be kept anonymous on request.

Is June tapeworm month?

A reader asks:
Why can I only worm sheep in June for tapeworm? I have read on the worming medications label that the time to worm is from June 1-10. And, I was told to worm between June 10-20. I guess if I worm on the 10th of June I'll be safe. Please explain these recommendations.

Dr. Sheaffer comments:

Contrary to what you've been told, you may worm your sheep at times other than between June 1-20 for tapeworms.

The newer thiabendazole compounds have a wider margin of safety than previous medications and can be used on young lambs and on pregnant ewes in the

later stages of pregnancy.

But, remember—do not use any worming medications on sheep during the first two months of pregnancy.

To understand the reasoning behind the June recommendation, keep in mind the oribatid mites are the intermediate hosts for sheep tapeworm species.

Worming in early June may disrupt the cycle between this intermediate host and the tapeworms. This would result in a greater decrease of live tapeworms in the pasture during the Summer and Fall.

The Merck manual lists four medications that are effective against tapeworms in sheep, cattle, and goats. They are lead arsenate, niclosamide, cambendazole, and albendazole. The latter two have a wider margin of safety and may be used several times yearly.

Follow dosage recommendations carefully on any

wormer you may choose. And be sure to consult your veterinarian for specific recommendations for your flocks.

An effective worming program should be included as part of the flushing process before breeding your ewes.

Another time to treat ewes for tapeworms is about one month after lambing in Spring.

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State egg output zooms 15%

HARRISBURG — April 1980 egg production in Pennsylvania totaled 353 million, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service. The April production was 15 percent above the 308 million eggs produced in April 1979.

The April average of 16.3 million layers was 12 percent higher than a year ago. Egg production per 100 layers was 2,167 compared with 2,109 in April 1979.

The nation's laying flocks produced 5.70 billion eggs during April 1980; slightly below the 5.72 billion produced a year ago. The number of layers during April averaged 282 million

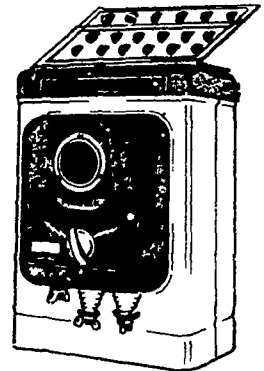
compared with 287 million a year earlier.
Egg production per 100

layers during the month was 2018 compared with 1994 a year ago.



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