



alternate the active ingredients in deworming medication to minimise the risk of worms becoming resistant to a particular active ingredient," says Rowe.

If goats show little improvement after one week of deworming treatment, administer an ultra-broad-spectrum and long-acting (LA) medication, such as Prodose Yellow LA, against liver fluke, conical fluke, nasal worm and roundworm. These medications have a long-acting residual effect against re-infestation, especially against wireworm and hookworm.

TOP:
A goat owner should compile a checklist for internal parasitic worms and inspect all goats once a month.

ABOVE:
Goats should always have access to clean drinking water, and plenty of grazing of the right quality.
PHOTOS: FW ARCHIVE

Essential goat health management products for on-farm use

1. Wound spray containing insecticide against flies and maggots
 2. Hoof trimmer/shears
 3. Antiseptic soap
 4. Soft rope for restraining goats being treated
 5. Elastrator (elastic castration pliers) and latex rubber elastrator rings
 6. Ear tags and ear tag applicator
 7. Burdizo (bloodless castration device)
 8. Box of disposable latex gloves
 9. Scale to weigh animals
 10. Spray dip machine (knapsack sprayer) for dip product application, or sheep/goat dip-tank if more than 50 goats are being dipped
 11. Dip or pour-on product to eliminate external parasites
 12. Oxytetracycline injectable antibiotic
 13. Injection syringes and needles
 14. Goat deworming medication
 15. Dosing gun for treating more than 40 goats at a time
 16. Eye powder to treat infected or irritated eyes, or open wounds on the body
 17. Antiseptic iodine spray
- Information courtesy of Dr Alan Rowe – KwaZulu-Natal agriculture and rural development

FAST FACTS

As a goat farmer, you should be able to identify, diagnose and treat sick animals.

Keep a checklist for common signs of worms and consult it monthly.

Wear disposable gloves when treating abscesses to prevent cross-infection.

"Never use any Ivermectin injectable product that's not registered for use in goats as some can cause huge swelling and even death," Rowe warns.

COCCIDIOSIS

Coccidiosis is caused by unhygienic conditions in goat housing or kraals. Older goats can act as coccidiosis carriers, shedding the parasites in their droppings. As young goats are more susceptible to coccidiosis than older animals, they can become infected through these droppings, especially in wet conditions.

Signs of coccidiosis infection include watery or bloody diarrhoea, dehydration, loss of appetite, and loss of general condition.

"Goats infected with coccidiosis must be separated from the rest and treated with Vecoxan (2ml by mouth for every 5kg liveweight), which should be

repeated after five days. While it's the drug of choice, Vecoxan is expensive and sometimes in short supply. A cheaper alternative is Sulphamezathine 16%. On day one, 14ml should be administered by mouth for every 10kg liveweight. On days two and three, the dosages should be reduced to 7ml/10kg liveweight," Rowe recommends.

Give dehydrated goats a rehydrating solution. These are commercially available, but a homemade solution of half-a-teaspoon of salt and eight teaspoons of sugar mixed thoroughly into 1l of clean water can also be used. Each dehydrated goat should receive 250ml of this solution four times a day for three consecutive days or until you see an improvement.

To reduce the potential of coccidiosis infection, avoid overcrowding the flock in an enclosure. Ideally, the enclosure should have slatted floors to allow droppings to fall through the openings.

MASTITIS

Lactating females diagnosed with mastitis should be administered 10ml of a LA oxytetracycline