

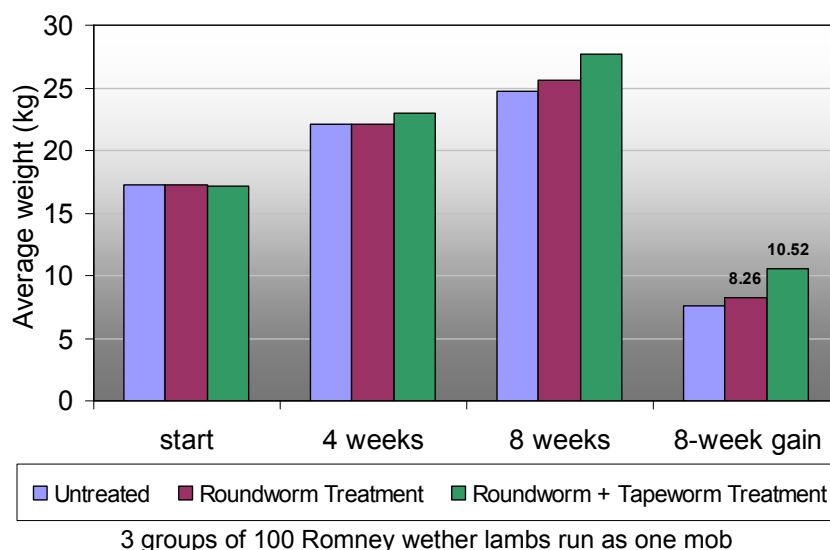
Genesis™ Tape

Oral Abamectin/Praziquantel Drench for Sheep and Lambs

Tapeworm Control in Sheep

The tapeworms of sheep are parasitic flatworms that live, as adults, within the small intestine. They grow up to 2m long and are formed of replicated segments that are detached when full of eggs. These segments appear like grains of rice in the faeces of infected animals and appear from about six weeks after infection. The eggs, which can survive several months in the environment, are ingested by a pasture mite intermediate host that is essential for completion of the life-cycle. The infective larva takes about 10 weeks to develop within the mite and is eaten along with the mite as the sheep feeds.

Tapeworms absorb nutrients from the gut contents rather than feeding on blood or other host tissues. Their impact is therefore restricted to the effect that their presence has on the flow of the gut contents and the ability of the sheep to absorb the nutrients. Adult sheep generally develop resistance to infection and rarely suffer any major problems even when infected. In contrast, lambs and weaners have no resistance and their size makes them vulnerable to reduced feed efficiency and gut blockage.



Tapeworm control programmes should focus on the most vulnerable animals, particularly where weight gains are critical (e.g. fat lamb production). Strategic programmes must, however, also consider methods for minimising pasture contamination, including pasture rotation and treatment of older animals, particularly ewes. Thought should also be given to how tapeworm control can be integrated with other worming activities. Care should be taken in selecting a product where tapeworm control is required since many of the broad spectrum wormers (e.g. 'mectins') have no activity against tapeworms. The potential benefits of treating young sheep for tapeworms is clearly demonstrated in the trial results presented above. In that instance, a 27% increase in weight gains was achieved where lambs were treated for tapeworms in addition to roundworm control.

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