



Regular Worming

Large roundworms (*Ascaris suum*) are endoparasites which cause milk spot liver and are the most prevalent of worms affecting pig productivity.

Worm burden can result in a loss of up to 10% in daily gain and 13% in feed conversion in growing/finishing pigs, increasing cost of production by 11 p/kg DW through increased food usage and reduced sale weight.

The financial impact of a deterioration of both feed conversion ratio (FCR) and daily liveweight gain (DLWG) by 5% on slaughter pig production to 73 kg deadweight is a rise in the cost of production (CoP) by up to 4.6 p/kg deadweight.



To achieve a worm-free herd

To improve the growth and efficiency of the growing herd

To improve animal health and welfare in both short and long term

Management Guidelines

- Assess the worm burden on the farm in consultation with your vet. The British Pig Health Scheme (BPHS) provides data on milk spot livers.
- Develop a suitable control programme appropriate for the level of infection and production system. The aim should be to limit the production of eggs by maturing worms.
- Use a suitable wormer to achieve desired outcome.
- Adhere strictly to the programme to achieve worm control.
- When worm burden is under control then stick to a simple preventive programme to limit the risk of future burdens.
- In outdoor production, when moving site, always plan the move with a worming programme to minimise the introduction of eggs to the new environment.

Biosecurity

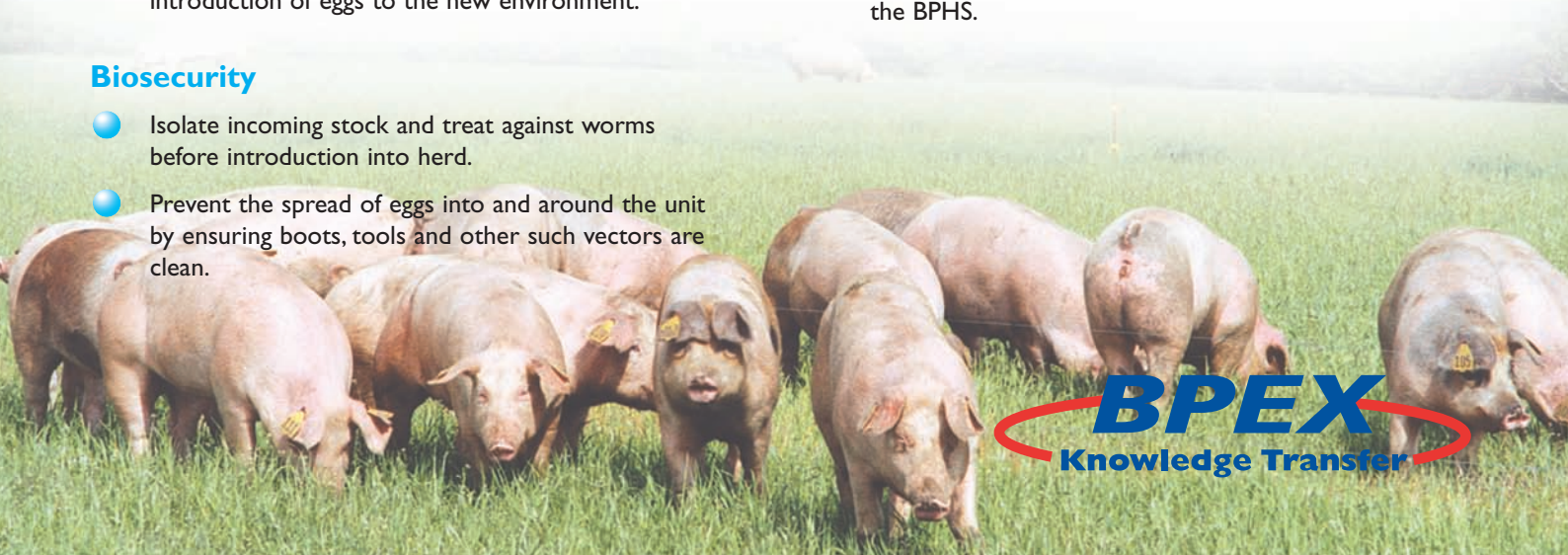
- Isolate incoming stock and treat against worms before introduction into herd.
- Prevent the spread of eggs into and around the unit by ensuring boots, tools and other such vectors are clean.

General Hygiene

- Adopt an all-in all-out policy where possible.
- Pressure wash using detergent and disinfect at every opportunity. Where it is known a high burden has been present the use of a horticultural flame gun to heat pen floors is very effective at destroying eggs - taking the appropriate Health and Safety precautions into account.
- Avoid using stone or soil floors often found in straw yards.

Record and Monitor

- Record all completed actions with dates, as required in your de-worming and worm prevention programme. Continuously re-assess the worm burden and review with your vet.
- Monitor progress by reviewing changes in DLWG and FCR that may be linked with your milk spot data from the BPHS.

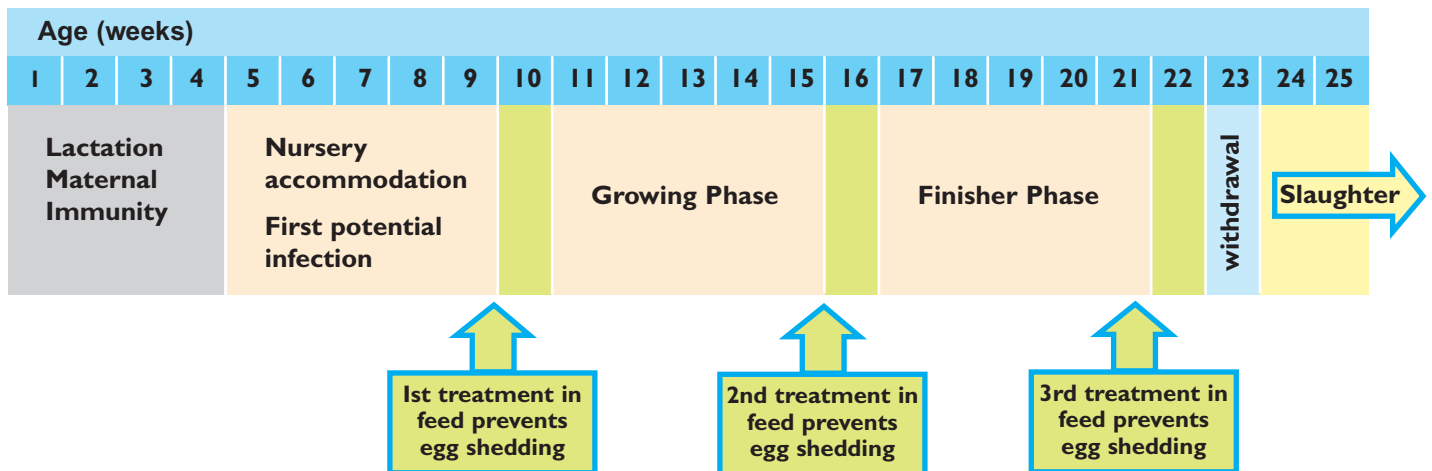


Practical Guidelines

It is almost impossible to achieve a totally worm (worm egg) free environment but relatively easy to produce a worm-free pig by using appropriate commercially available worming products. *Ascaris suum* eggs are very robust and can persist for 7 years in the environment. Therefore with heavy burdens where all-in all-out policy is not possible the emphasis should be on preventing the female worms laying eggs (250,000/day) thus reducing the number of eggs in the environment over time.

Programme for de-worming growing/finishing pigs and their environment

Plan to de-worm all growers and finishers at 5-week intervals



Benefits of De-worming

- Improves average daily weight gain
- Improves food conversion ratio
- Reduces the number of liver condemnations
- Reduces susceptibility to respiratory disease (ie pneumonia)
- Improves overall health and welfare of pigs
- Minimises the contamination of the pig environment with worm eggs

Preventive programme where worms are under control

Sows and Boars

- Treat the entire herd simultaneously a minimum of twice per year and preferably three times.
- Ensure all lactating sows are treated at the same time as dry sows.

Incoming Gilts and Boars

- Treat on arrival and while in isolation unit.
- Re-treat on introduction to the main herd.
- Treat when the next routine herd treatment takes place.

BPBS Scores

What were your recent BPBS Milk Spot scores?

“Blank or 0”: continue with the current worming policy and continue to monitor your BPBS results.

“1”: discuss an appropriate strategy for the whole herd with your vet and continue to monitor your BPBS results.

Not a BPBS member or need more information about the scheme? Call SAC administration on 01463 233184.



Evidence of worms: milk spot liver