



West Michigan Veterinary Service
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Dear Horse Owner,

What follows are our recommendations for how best to manage parasites in your horse(s). The core of these recommendations is spring and fall fecal testing to assess parasite load. These recommendations work to address the following concerns:

- **Resistance:** Deworming Medications are slowly becoming less effective due to parasites developing greater resistance
- **Overtreatment:** Not all horses are infected or shed parasites equally. Some are being over treated.
- **Cost:** Cost can be reduced by evaluating fecal samples and determining when to deworm instead of deworming all horses on the same schedule.
- **Accuracy:** Using fecal exams is a more accurate and scientific way to evaluate your horse's parasite situation

Our deworming recommendations are outlined below:

- **End of February-** Pretreatment fecal to classify all horses. Submit a fresh fecal sample from each horse.
- **March 1-** Deworm all horses with Exodus Paste (pyrantel)
- **April 15-** Deworm only medium and high shedding horses (based on Feb. results) with Panacur (fenbendazole)
- **June 1-** Deworm all horses with Equimax (ivermectin/praziquantal)
- **August 1-** Deworm only medium and high shedders (based on Feb. results) with Exodus Paste (pyrantel)
- **End of September-** Submit a fresh fecal sample from each horse
- **October 1-** Deworm high shedders (based on Sept. results) with Bimectin Paste (ivermectin)
- **December 1-** Deworm all horses with Quest Plus (moxidectin/praziquantal)

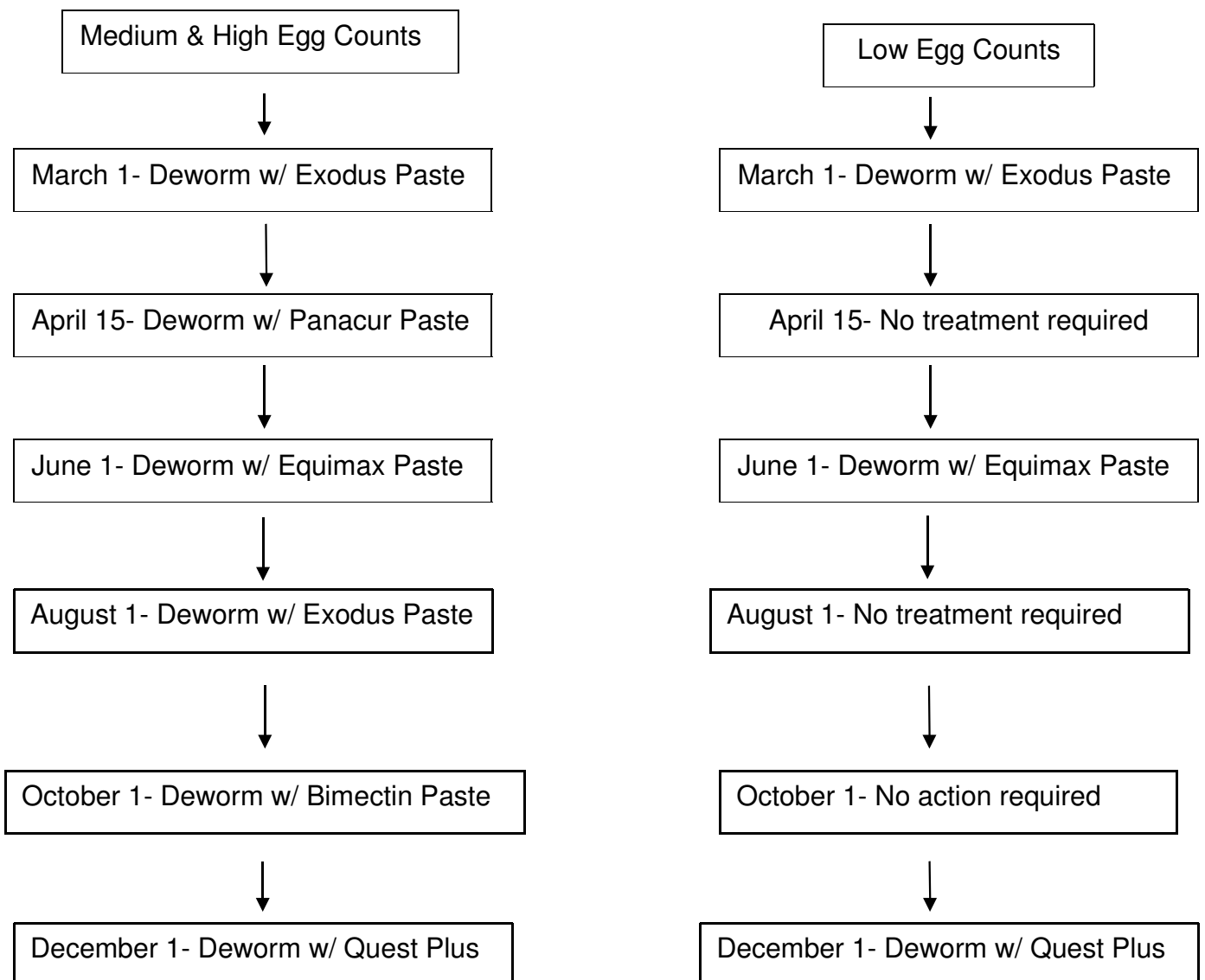
A flow chart outline of this program follows below.

For your convenience and cost savings a Parasite Control Kit can be purchased at our office. This kit includes 2 labeled cups for fecal submission and all of the dewormers needed to treat a low shedder. The dewormer for high shedders can be purchased at discount pricing as an add on to the Parasite Control Kit. Each tube has a label telling when it should be administered. We can also arrange for pickup of fecal samples directly from your barn.

STRATEGIC PARASITE CONTROL

Step 1: Submit a fecal sample for each horse on the farm. Fresh samples should be submitted in an air tight container or bag and refrigerated if they will not arrive at the clinic within 2 hours.

Step 2: Deworm based on results of the Fecal Egg Count:



Step 3: Monitor: Horses that test with medium or high egg counts should be retested after receiving their initial dose of dewormer. The timing of this next fecal egg count is dependent upon what dewormer was last used. Talk to your vet about when to submit the next sample.

All horses need to have a Fecal Egg Count done at least once each year.