

## \*\*\*EVENTS\*\*\*

### Liz Hodge Clinic

**When:** May 12<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 9-12; 1-4

**Where:** Lewis County Fairgrounds

**Cost:** FREE!!

**Description:**

The morning session is ground work and the afternoon session is riding. Liz is Richard Shrake, Resistance-free certified. More information is on the website [www.eastedgeranch.com](http://www.eastedgeranch.com)

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## What to do About Worms??!

Deworming strategies can be really confusing. You look in the catalogues and there are twenty different dewormers- yearly packs, six month packs, and daily dewormers. To make things even more confusing the deworming strategy as a whole is moving toward testing first and deworming based on results.

The goal of deworming horses is not to eliminate worms completely but to decrease the levels to a safe level, and to do this without causing harm to the horse or creating resistance to the dewormers being used. Prevention of spreading parasites from horse to horse is key. When practicing proper prevention it is important to know that worms are spread by ingesting worms (and their hosts) which are passed by a horse through manure. These worms may have larvae which can spread to the grass also.

Prevention can be done with proper horse management. A few key practices are:

- cleaning manure on a weekly basis
- cleaning and disinfecting stalls
- not overstocking pastures or rotating pastures if space is limited
- compost manure piles properly- heat will kill the larvae, this generally takes approximately one month
  - once the manure is heat-killed it can be spread on pastures
- by dragging paddocks during hot weather the worms will be exposed to heat and sun
  - after 3 weeks the worms will be killed and safe for horses
- Deworm incoming horses and quarantine them for at least two weeks to prevent the spread of possible worms they may be harboring.

The most common types of worms in horses are large strongyles, small strongyles, ascarids, tapeworms, bots, and pinworms. There are other types of worms that are occasionally found in horses, but these are the most common.

Large Strongyles (bloodworm) cause damage by attaching to the bowel lining, which can cause hemorrhage, ulcer, irritation, obstruction and anemia with chronic infestation. These worms may even migrate through the arteries and cause thrombus formation which can cause the bowel to move into abnormal positions and result in colic. Large strongyles are killed with ivermectin, moxidectin or double-dose fenbendazole for five days (Panacur PowerPak).

Small Strongyles (cyathostomes) cause damage by burrowing in to the large intestine lining and can remain there for months. The problems occur when the larva develop and release into the intestine which creates inflammation. Signs are similar to large strongyles but not as life-threatening. Encysted small strongyles can be treated with moxidectin or double dose of fenbendazole. The problem with these worms is that they will still create damage if treated once they are encysted in the intestinal lining. It is ideal to kill them before encysting, which can be done with ivermectin.

Ascarids (roundworms) cause damage primarily by blockage of the small intestine (most commonly seen after treatment). They also may migrate to the lungs and create respiratory problems. Roundworms primarily affect horses less than two years of age. Adults actually develop an immune response against them. Ivermectin and moxidectin are the only drugs that kill all stages of roundworms. Benzimidazoles work against the adult stages and pyrantel works against the larval stages. Foal deworming against roundworms should start at 60 days of age and continue every other month until a year of age.

Tapeworms infest approximately 50 percent of horses. The unique aspect of tapeworms is that they need the oribatid mite to perpetuate their life cycle. The mite is ingested in the hay or pasture by the horse. Tapeworms attach to intestinal lining between the small intestine and cecum, where they create ulcerations and inflammation. These horses are eight times more likely to develop spasmodic colic than uninfected horses. They can be treated with an ivermectin plus praziquantel dewormer (Zimecterin Gold)

Bots are flies that lay their eggs on the coat of horses, primarily on legs and mane. The small yellow eggs can be seen on horses during the summer months. They create damage once the eggs are ingested by the horse and they attach to the stomach lining which can create small erosions. Bots can be treated with ivermectin or moxidectin and bot eggs should be removed from their coat.

Deworming protocols can be confusing and vary on environment, climate and individual horse. Ideally horses should have their manure tested to evaluate what worms they have and at what rate they are shedding them. This should be done before and after treatment which can evaluate the effectiveness of treatment and if there is any resistance to the chosen dewormer. This is termed "strategic deworming" and is quite easy.

Strategic Deworming instructions:

- Sample in spring to early summer
- Collect 2-3 fecal balls (less than 2 hours old)
- Put in ziplock bag with minimal air in bag
- Refrigerate until given to vet (3 days at most)
- Aim for first sample should be about 8-12 weeks from last deworming treatment
- Retest after treatment (based on results) 2 weeks later (to verify effectiveness of dewormer)

Some people are distracted by the cost of doing a fecal test. It generally costs around \$80/ per horse/per sample, but when you weigh the benefits, it can easily pay for itself. First of all, it is best for your horse. It ensures proper treatment of worms and decreases the risk of dewormer resistance. Also if you add in the cost of the other recommended option of deworming every other month (whether your horse needs it or not) and rotating dewormer classes this can easily add up. Quite often owners will find they can deworm less often (which costs less).

If you still feel fecal testing is not for you a recommended option is to rotate dewormers. A recommended schedule for an adult horse living in our area that is on adequate pasture is as follows:

- January- Fenbendazole
- March- Moxidectin (must be careful when using this dewormer)
- May- Fenbendazole
- July-Ivermectin
- September- Fenbendazole
- November- Ivermectin with Praziquantel (Zimecterin Gold)

**\*\*this is just a sample and may need to be adjusted for a specific horse in a specific environment\*\***

Remember when deworming without testing, to rotate classes of dewormers (not just brand names). This will aid in preventing resistance. There are unique recommendations for young, debilitated and neglected horses, so it is recommended to consult with your veterinarian before deworming these horses.

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**\*\*\*\*TO PROMOTE STRATEGIC DEWORMING (FECAL TESTING) THERE WILL BE A SPECIAL RUNNING DURING THE MONTHS OF MAY AND JUNE OF \$70 PER SAMPLE\*\*\*\***

- **Simply drop off a sample taken by the instructions above and you will receive the results with a custom deworming protocol for your horse**
- **Remember to contact me for any questions**





## INVITES YOU TO ATTEND A RESISTANCE-FREE TRAINING CLINIC WITH ELIZABETH HODGE-NIER

*Date: May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012*

*Time: 9:00-12:00 and 1:00-4:00*

*Where: Lewis County Fairgrounds*

*Description:* Liz Hodge-Nier will be offering tips on developing confidence, communication and comfort for both horse and rider.

➤ **Morning Session: "Ground Work"**

Improving communication between handler and horse. Focusing on ways to release endorphins to relax your horse.

➤ **Afternoon Session: "Under Saddle"**

Improving communication between horse and rider by using rhythm and timing.

- EVERYONE is invited to watch and participate at **no cost**
- ALL AGES- children to adults are encouraged to come
- All that come will receive a \$10 gift certificate to Roaring Brook Veterinary Service upon registration on the day of the event

For more information:

[www.roaringbrookveterinaryservice.com](http://www.roaringbrookveterinaryservice.com)

315-489-9790

Dr. Lindsey Peck DVM