The Five Point Check© for targeted selective treatment of internal parasites in small ruminants

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ABSTRACT

Although the principle of targeted selective treatment (TST) has become accepted as avaluable tool in reducing the speed of onset of anthelmintic resistance (AR) and a keypart of sustainable and holistic integrated parasite management (***sh***IPM), the only practicaland proven on-farm method developed to date has been the FAMACHA© system of clinicalanaemia evaluation. This is by its nature limited to use in the few haematophagousparasites that cause anaemia, especially *Haemonchuscontortus*. The principle of TST canbe extended for use against other important internal parasites, provided that the systemdeveloped is practical, economical and reasonably able to identify animals at risk of beingoverwhelmed by current internal or external parasite challenge. Candidates for an extendedTST system have included nasal discharge (for nasal bots), paling of ocular mucous membranesfor anaemia (for haematophagous worms), submandibular oedema or bottle jaw (forhaematophagous worms and conical fluke), body condition score (for worms causing loss ofcondition) and faecal fouling or dag score (for worms causing diarrhoea). The potential usesand limitations of each of these quick, crush-side checks are listed and discussed and datasupporting their implementation is summarised.Apractical, farmer-friendly guide has beendeveloped to enable users to: (i) evaluate small ruminants rapidly for signs of parasitism,(ii) make effective assessments, (iii) identify the likely parasites, (iv) select anthelminticgroups that could be used, (v) use practical systems for temporarily identifying treatedanimals and (vi) know the limitations of the system. This system has been named the FivePoint Check©(5✓) for international, multilingual use and constitutes a further, practical extension of TST. This can make a ueful contribution to ***sh***IPM.