

Pasture Pork—Parasite Control

Internal parasites, especially worms, are a big problem in pigs raised outdoors, causing poor growth, rough hair coat, diarrhea and even death. To control these pests, you can: move animals to different pastures to allow an area to dry, keep feeding areas clean, test manure samples to see how bad the problem may be on your farm and deworm correctly.

Suggestions for deworming swine raised on the ground are listed below.

Sows and Boars:

- Treat with ivermectin, fenbendazole, dichlovos or levamisole at breeding or just after breeding (dichlovos may not be allowed in some certification programs).*
- Treat again when sows are one-to-two weeks from farrowing (giving birth).

Young pigs (30-to-50 pounds):

- Treat 10-to-20 days after weaning, using a product that is effective against many types of swine worms (ivermectin is one example).
- If placed in pastures, paddocks or pens that have housed pigs recently, and you have a worm problem, it may be necessary to add dewormer to the feed more often than usual.

Growing and finishing pigs (50 pounds to market):

- Treat 15-to-30 days after placing them in the pasture, paddock or pen.
- Treat when testing or symptoms indicate it is needed using a product that is effective against many types of swine worms (ivermectin is one example).
- Follow withdrawal times for the dewormer you use.

Most swine dewormers are made so that they can be added to feed or water. Make sure all animals receive the correct dosage. Check your certification-program rules to make sure the drug you choose is allowed before using it. Consider switching dewormers, as needed, based on worm problems you have, rather than using the same one all the time. A common example is using fenbendazole at sow breeding, and switching to ivermectin prior to farrowing.

*Some of the trade names for de-wormers include:

Dichlorvos: Atgard® (an organophosphate)

Fenbendazole: Safe-Guard®

Ivermectin: Ivomec®, Dectomax®, Noromectin®, Agrimectin® and others

Levamisole: Levasole®

As with all drugs and chemicals, use with care as directed on the label and only as needed. Overuse and misuse of dewormers may cause worms to become resistant to the deworming drugs.

For more information, contact your veterinarian or county Cooperative Extension Center.

www.ces.ncsu.edu/local-county-center/



Reference: Deworming Suggestions for Pigs Raised in Dirt Lot Facilities. R.O. Myer. University of Florida Extension. Publication number AS114.

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