

Worming in Chickens

Why is it important?

As with other species, chickens can become infected with worms. Internal worms that a chicken can become infected with include, roundworm (*Ascaridia dissimilis*), gapeworm (*Syngamus trachea*), tapeworm (cestodes), hairworm (*Caplaria contorta*) and a caecal worm (*Heterakis gallinarum*). The caecal worm can also carry *Histomonas meleagridis*, which is another parasite that causes black head in turkeys.

How do I know if my chicken is infected with worms?

Clinical signs of poultry infected with worms include:

- Weight loss
- Loss of condition
- Dull and depressed
- Death

What else can I do to help control worms?

In addition to regular worming, runs and paddocks should not be over stocked in order to prevent parasite build up. Resting areas of land that chickens 'roam' will also prevent buildup of parasites.

Finally, if you think you have a serious problem within your flock we can test the droppings for evidence of worms.

What should I use to eradicate worms?

Routine worming with flubendazole is advised for the control of internal parasites. Flubenvet, is the product stocked by Drove Farm Vets and it is the only licensed wormer for use in chickens. It has activity against adult worms, larvae and eggs. Unlike other animals, chickens need to be wormed for 7 consecutive days and the product is fed to the chickens. Withdrawal times are 7 days for meat and zero days for eggs.

Please discuss worming your chickens with your vet in order to establish the best protocol for your flock.

Call Drove Farm Vets for more information or with any concerns:

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