

South East Local Land Services

Recovering Our Regions - Free worm tests for livestock

Warm + wet weather = worms!

For a limited time, Local Land Services is offering **free test kits for 'WormTest Basic with Worm Typing'** (normally \$63.56 incl GST) for eligible livestock managers in the Quenbeyan-Palerang region.

Now's the perfect the time to check your livestock for worms. The current environmental conditions are setting up 'perfectly' for worms to thrive and cause havoc now and again in Autumn next year. Essentially, "wet + warm = worms!" The region has received enough rain and we are now in a temperature range which promotes worm eggs hatching and developing to infective larvae.

Nasty blood-sucking intestinal worms, like Barbers pole, can cause collapse and death in sheep, goats and camelids. And it can happen fast. First it causes reduced appetite resulting in slow growth or weight loss. Then some animals will also show a "bottle-jaw" – a fluid build-up below the chin. The situation progresses rapidly to severe anaemia, with animals unable to tolerate exercise or stress. At this advanced stage death can occur even if treatment with anthelmintics (worm-killing chemicals) is attempted.

Good worm control takes an integrated approach of grazing management, nutrition, breeding selection and chemicals. Over-use of chemicals leads to drench resistance.

So how do you balance out judicious chemical use against the need to control these deadly parasites, if waiting for obvious symptoms is too risky?

That's where WormTests come in. A [WormTest](#) is a laboratory test that counts the number of worm eggs in a sample of dung. In sheep, goats and camelids, this number correlates well with the burden of worms in the animal.

If you've never done a WormTest this is a fantastic opportunity to give one a go and see the benefits for yourself. Our District Vet, Dr Lou Baskind, can guide you through the process from start to finish. If 'WormTest Basic' is not the right worm test for your circumstances, we can tailor the subsidy for you. Just get in touch with LLS to discuss your situation and to find out if more details about eligibility.

The WormTests are available on a first come first served basis for eligible landholders with a limit of one per holding.



Call now to register or find out more information:

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Local Land Services

We help secure the future of agriculture and the environment for NSW communities.

www.lls.nsw.gov.au