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STOMACH AND INTESTINAL WORMS IN OREGON SHEEP

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The purpose of this paper is to describe a low-cost sheep worm remedy against the internal parasites that cause most of our trouble in Oregon sheep. This remedy is tetrachlorethylene.

When tetrachlorethylene is purchased in bulk and mixed with oil, it can be used at a cost of somewhat more than 1¢ per dose. This cost is only slightly higher than that of the well-known useless copper sulfate or blue-stone. Tetrachlorethylene can be purchased in bulk for about 30¢ per pound and several of the farmers' cooperatives have this remedy for sale. The use of this remedy in bulk did not originate in this country. It was first used by the British people, either in Australia or New Zealand. When it is mixed with oil, the possibilities for strangulation are practically overcome. Of course, it is entirely possible by careless use to put almost any remedy into the lungs of a sheep.

When used in bulk, tetrachlorethylene is mixed with a light mineral oil. By light, we mean an oil that flows freely. The mixture should contain one part of tetrachlorethylene to three parts of mineral oil, but 50-50 mixtures have been used with satisfaction. The dose for this mixture should be 20 cc., or 2/3 of an ounce, half as much for lambs, and a bottle for measuring out these doses can be obtained from your local druggist. The remedy is best applied by the use of a spray gun such as is used by mechanics in oiling springs or other parts of automobiles. Such an instrument can be purchased at some of our hardware stores for as little as \$1.50. The container is made of parchment and should be thoroughly cleaned after each use so that the medicine will not cause its destruction.

The nozzle of this instrument should be placed in between the cheek and the teeth. The head should not be held except on a level. Some material might be lost in dosing, but usually a sufficient amount will be swallowed by the animal to cause at least a partial destruction of parasites present.

This remedy can be repeated as often as every four days, but usually when repeated in animals showing clinical symptoms every ten days will give desirable results. It should be remembered that the chemical mixed with the oil will be exactly the same as that found in the soft gelatin capsules sold on the market, and will have exactly the same effect on the worms present in the animal as the chemical would that is administered by the capsule, the oil being used, as stated above, to prevent the possibility of strangulation which would occur if the chemical were used alone.

Tetrachlorethylene has been placed on the priority list and as a result is difficult to obtain. It is hoped that the farmers' cooperatives have supplies on hand and it can be purchased in one-gallon cans with directions for its use.

It is recommended that this remedy be prepared in the following way for use in large numbers of animals: Mineral oil is purchased in five-gallon lots, when it should cost in the neighborhood of 75¢-85¢ per gallon. Two gallons of the oil are removed from the five-gallon can, the gallon of tetrachlorethylene is poured into the three remaining gallons, and when this is thoroughly shaken and stoppered it can be used when needed. If kept thoroughly stoppered it will not lose its efficiency.

This method of administering the remedy works equally well with goats.