



The Hidden Costs: Over-Deworming or Skipping Deworming in Dairy Farming

Description

In dairy farming, **animal health equals milk productivity**. One of the most overlooked pillars of maintaining herd health is a **proper deworming routine**. While many farmers understand the importance of deworming, few realize the serious consequences of **either overdoing it or neglecting it**.

Let's break down both scenarios:

1. Over-Deworming: The Silent Saboteur

Giving more dewormers than needed, or using them too frequently, might seem like extra protection, but it actually harms your livestock and profits.

Effects of Over-Deworming:

- **Resistance Build-Up:** Parasites develop immunity to the drugs, making future treatments less effective.
 - **Nutrient Interference:** Frequent deworming can affect gut flora, reducing digestion and nutrient absorption.
 - **Residue in Milk:** Excess use without observing withdrawal periods can lead to drug residues in milk, bad for consumers and your market reputation.
 - **Unnecessary Costs:** Repeated, unnecessary purchases of dewormers increase operational costs without improving yield.
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2. Skipping Deworming or Irregular Schedules: A Risky Gamble

Failure to follow a consistent deworming plan opens the door for **parasites to thrive**, and the damage is often slow but massive.

Effects of Irregular or Missed Deworming:

- **Internal Parasite Load Increases:** Worms consume nutrients meant for the cow, leading to poor body condition.
 - **Reduced Milk Yield:** A cow battling parasites cannot produce optimal milk.
 - **Poor Feed Conversion:** You'll notice high feed costs with low performance, worms steal the gains.
 - **Fertility Issues:** Parasitic infestations can delay heat cycles and reduce conception rates.
 - **Higher Disease Vulnerability:** Weak cows are more prone to infections and require more vet interventions.
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The Ideal Way Forward: Deworming Done Right

- **Follow a vetted deworming calendar** – typically 2 to 4 times a year, depending on region and exposure.
 - **Rotate dewormers** to prevent resistance (e.g., albendazole, ivermectin, closantel).
 - **Deworm calves** at the right intervals, they are the most vulnerable.
 - **Monitor parasite load** through fecal tests, especially in high-risk seasons like the rainy period.
 - **Always follow dosage instructions** based on weight, and observe withdrawal periods.
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Final Word

In dairy farming, it's not just about doing the right thing, it's about doing it at the **right time, in the right amount**. Both overdoing and neglecting deworming affect cow health, milk production, and long-term farm sustainability. **A disciplined, informed deworming plan pays off in milk, money, and peace of mind.**

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