Correct Drenching Procedures
If a job’s worth doing it’s worth doing right!

Good drenching techniques are extremely important. No matter how good a drench is it won’t work if it’s not used properly. The consequences can be serious.

- Stock could become ill and even die
- Growth rates or other production will suffer
- Drench resistance becomes a higher risk

So do it once and do it right!

Following a few simple guidelines outlined on this poster will help you do the job of drenching properly. Your future profits could depend on it!

More detail on drenching procedures can be found in wormwise newsletter number 3

BEFORE DRENCHING

DRENCH GUN
- Check for leaks
  - Put your finger over nozzle and squeeze trigger
  - Replace valves and washers if required
- Check dose delivery
  - Calibrate with measuring cylinder (eg. 10 X 10ml doses = 100ML)
  - Use actual drench being used
- Check nozzle for damage and rough edges
- Keep more than one gun maintained
- Have guns serviced regularly
- Check accuracy of equipment regularly during use (at least every 200 animals)

FILLING THE BACKPACK
- Shake drench drum before filling backpack
- Check gun dose setting

PREPARING STOCK
- Drench to weight of heaviest animal
- Weigh a sample of mob
- Estimating can lead to under-dosing
- If weights vary widely draft into heavy and light mobs and dose to heaviest weight in each.

READ THE DRENCH LABEL!
- Precautions or special instructions
- Dose rate
- Method of administration eg. pour-on, injection etc.

AFTER DRENCHING
- Return unused drench to original container because light can degrade some chemicals and reduce their effectiveness.
- Clean all equipment, including the backpack, following the manufacturer’s instructions. In some cases, rinsing with water will not be sufficient. Replace any damaged items.
- Record drench usage in appropriate documentation system.

DRENCH GUN CLEANING INSTRUCTIONS
1. Wash out/squirt through tubing and drench guns.
2. Dismantle guns and carefully wash barrel with warm water and detergent.
3. Rinse thoroughly.
4. Check valves for foreign material.
5. Lubricate barrel using recommended oil.
6. Reassemble gun carefully ensuring washers are not damaged and valves are correct way around (springs always face nozzle end).
7. If anything is obviously broken - GET IT FIXED NOW.

ORAL DRENCHING
- Head horizontal
- Gun nozzle over back of tongue
- Avoid injuries to mouth or throat (be gentle)
- Ensure swallowing before release
- Don’t rush
- Drench in the lungs can be fatal

INJECTABLE TREATMENTS
- Poor technique can cause infection or carcase downgrade
- Only inject dry and clean animals
- Use sharp needles (bevel facing outwards)
- Inject under skin in front half of neck (not in muscle)
- Size of needle
  - Smallest gauge possible
  - Just long enough to inject product under skin

POUR-ON TREATMENTS
- Apply along midline of back from shoulders to tail base (unless label instructions say otherwise)
- Check label whether rain-fast

CONTROLLED RELEASE CAPSULES
- Incorrect angle or force can fatally damage animal’s throat
- Use correct capsule size and applicator
- Control head and neck
  - Straddle neck or use appropriate handling device eg. conveyer
  - Match angle of applicator by lifting chin or extending neck
- Insert at side of mouth and onto tongue avoiding teeth
- Allow swallowing to draw capsule and applicator into back of throat
- Press release button when applicator inserted to hilt:
  - Observe to ensure swallowing before releasing animal

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