

Haemonchosis

Haemonchus contortus is a highly pathogenic, blood-feeding nematode of small ruminants, and a significant cause of mortalities worldwide.

Haemonchosis is a particularly significant threat in tropical and subtropical regions, where warm and moist conditions favour the free-living stages.

Severe haemonchosis is associated with severe anaemia and mortality.

It has been estimated that each worm sucks about 0.05 ml of blood per day by ingestion or seepage from lesions.

Predisposing causes for haemonchosis include overcrowding, lush pastures, warm and humid climatic conditions and a low plane of nutrition.

The frequency and severity of the disease largely depends on the rainfall in any particular area. Amongst domestic animals, sheep and Goats suffer more frequently from haemonchosis.

In both sheep and goats, cases of Haemonchosis increase with the rains and peak during rainy season.

Young animals below 9 months old have been found to be affected more. This may be due to the fact that with the advancement of age, vigor of the animal become better and they develop resistance against the parasitic diseases.

The detection of impending haemonchosis relies chiefly on periodic monitoring for anaemia or through faecal worm egg counts and other laboratory procedures.

A range of anthelmintics for use against *H. contortus* is available, but in most endemic situations anthelmintic resistance significantly limits the available treatment options.

Effective preventive programmes should aim to prevent disease outbreaks while maintaining anthelmintic efficacy.

Appropriate strategies include animal management programmes to avoid excessive *H. contortus* challenge, genetic and nutritional approaches to enhance resistance and resilience to infection, and the monitoring of *H. contortus* infection on an individual animal or flock basis.

About Us

Farm Grid is an agricultural organization that promotes One health by offering free services to rural farmers in Africa

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