



## Are my animals infected by worms?

Easy protocol to diagnose your animals and prevent possible production-limitations.

### Why Should I check for worms?

Worm infections are a significant cause of disease and represent one of the most substantial production-limiting factors in ruminants.

### How can I check for worms?

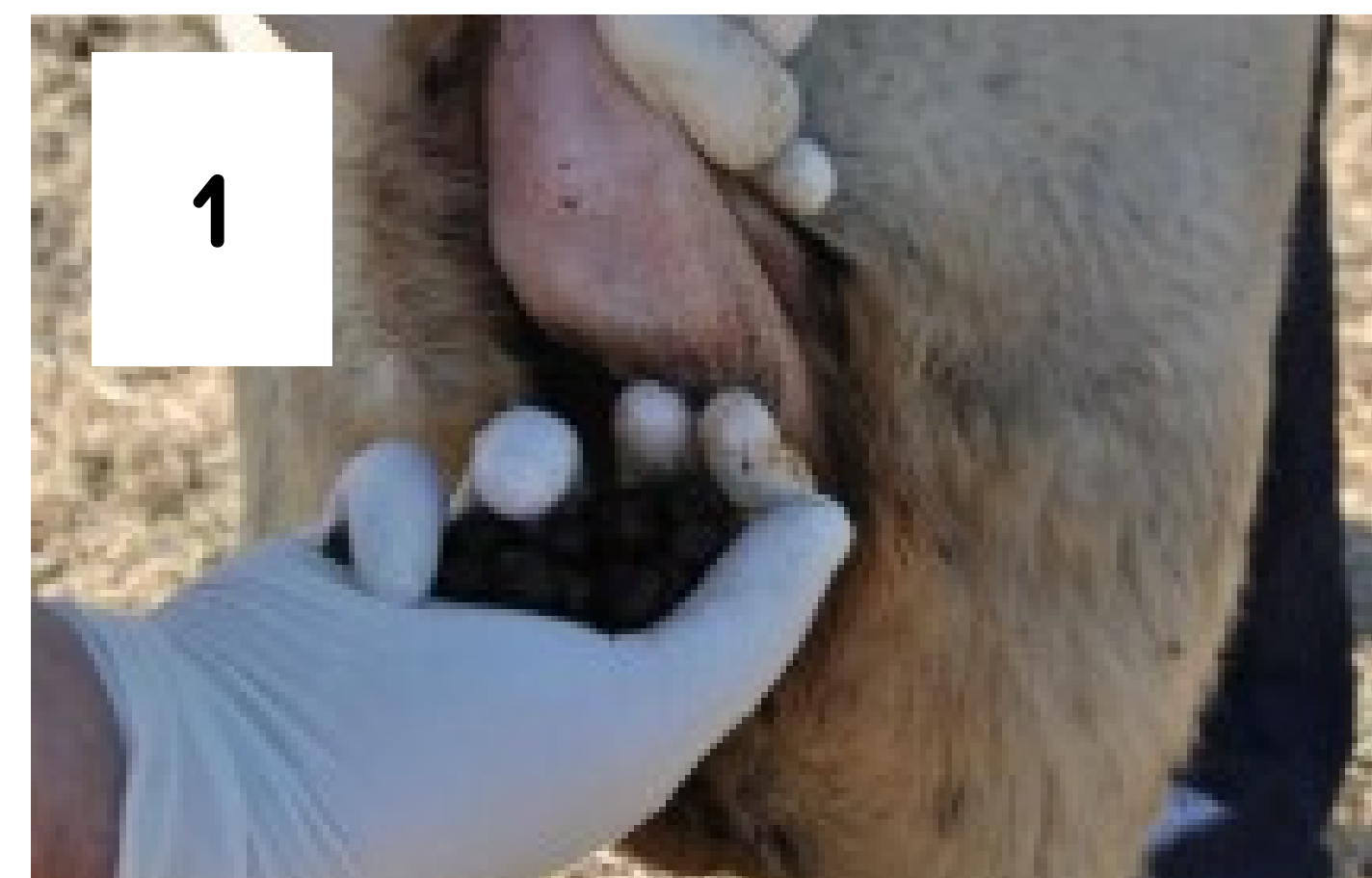
To assess the possible presence of worms in your farm, you and/or your vet can perform a diagnosis by collecting your animals faeces and sending them for parasitological analysis to a laboratory. To collect the animal faeces, specific protocols have been developed from Kaplan, 2023:

### Faecal sample collection

- Wear a pair of clean gloves
- Take a container (bag or a glove) and collect the samples
- Individual faecal samples should be collected directly from the rectal ampulla in sheep and goats or through the rectal exploration in cattle.
- Irrespective of the total number of animals present on the farm, 20 samples must be taken: 15 from adult animals and 5 from younger animals.
- Each rectal faecal sample should weigh a minimum of 5g, with 10g being preferable.
- Samples should be placed into separate containers (bags or gloves) to ensure that an identical weight is obtained from each animal when the samples arrive at the laboratory (1,2,3,4).
- It is important to avoid collecting faeces in direct contact with soil, as the latter may contain eggs or larvae from free-living nematodes.

### Faecal sample storage

- Samples should be delivered to the laboratory on the same day they are collected, with transport conditions ensuring that the temperature remains below 10°C.
- If immediate analysis is not possible, samples can be stored at refrigeration temperature (+4–8°C) for up to five days (6).
- If analysis is delayed beyond five days, the faecal samples should be vacuum packed in plastic bags or stored anaerobically (5) and kept in the refrigerator (6) for up to three weeks to prevent fungal growth.
- Faecal samples must be accompanied by a fact sheet containing relevant farm information (such as management practices, grazing patterns and anthelmintic treatments), which will assist the veterinarian in interpreting the parasitological report



### Why do I have to follow a protocol?

- Without the correct application of these protocols, the diagnosis may be distorted and the result may be incorrect.

### What are the advantages/benefits ?

- Diagnosis is easy
- By following the developed protocols, you can collect the animal faeces yourself in an inexpensive way. You can then discuss the analysis results with your veterinarian to define an adequate treatment for your animals if necessary.
- Diagnosis is the best way to treat animals correctly; sample collection is the basis for a good diagnosis.