

# The Organic Sprout

MOFGA's Newsletter  
for Organic Producers

## Parasite Control: Preventative Management & Current Approved Products

By Katie Webb, Dairy Certification Specialist

Parasites can pose real challenges for both farmers who are new to organic management and to those who are experienced as well. MOFGA Certification Services staff and inspectors frequently talk with farmers who have questions and misconceptions.

Parasiticides need not be confusing or taboo—our aim here is to make parasite control strategies and allowed synthetic parasiticides plain and simple to understand and to incorporate into your organic farm practices.

The key to organic management of parasites, like many aspects of organic management, is to implement as many strategies as possible. Some will be preventative in nature and are the foundation of your organic management; some will be directed toward existing problems. Multiple efforts work together to improve the overall situation, whether in relation to internal or external parasites.

### External Parasite Management & Control

**Flies.** This time of year, flies are taxing cattle in the pastures and in the barn. It is generally agreed that the best results in fly management arise from implementing as many strategies as possible.

#### *Preventative management:*

- Pasture-based management such as predatory wasps, clipping weeds to encourage dung beetles, chain dragging to spread manure, pasture

- rotation with poultry
- For the barn: barrel-type flytraps, sticky tape, fans, sprayers for natural oils (such as soy, canola, etc.)

#### *Control options:*

- Essential oil/botanical fly sprays (see below)
- Sprayers for natural oils in the parlor or barn entrance (soy, canola, etc.)
- Dry natural powders (field lime, diatomaceous earth, etc.) on the back & shoulders

#### Many have found Diane Schivera's homemade fly spray recipe helpful:

1 cup vegetable oil, 2 cups vinegar, 1 cup water 1 tablespoon essential oil, mix well, put in a spray bottle, need to shake while spraying, it will settle out quickly, for use on animal not equipment or buildings These ingredients do not need to be organic.

**Lice, mites, mange, etc.** Many of the allowed products on the next page can help address external parasites other than flies.

### Internal Parasite Management & Control

Internal parasite infestation can cause losses for livestock producers. However, it may be more feasible to manage for low parasites and parasite resistance in livestock, rather than attempt to maintain a no-parasite strategy on your organic farm. Preventative strategies are required in organic management. (Cont'd on Pg 2)

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## Parasite Control

(Continued from Pg 1)

When synthetic parasiticides become necessary, it is time to review your farm's preventative management plan and address any weaknesses in order to avoid reliance on these products on a routine basis.

### Preventative Management:

- Selective genetics for resistance (especially in small ruminants), and culling
- Grazing plan to decrease exposure to parasites: intensive rotational grazing, low stocking densities, high residual grazing height, allowing refusal areas by avoiding harrowing or chain-dragging pastures
- Multi-species grazing (e.g. cows followed by sheep)
- Complete nutrition: Vitamins A, D, and B complex; Minerals cobalt and iron

### Control options for both internal and external parasites:

Products with plant-based or natural active ingredients

### Allowed Natural & Plant-based Products (August 2013)

- Animax Ltd., Copasure
- Crystal Creek, No-Fly Repellant
- Crystal Creek, Lice & Mange Wash
- Agri-Dynamics, Ecto-Phyte
- Sulfur, FEDCO (powdered)
- Nature's Balance Care, Bare Skin Barrier
- Ark Naturals, Neem "Protect" Spray
- R & R Group, Defy the Fly
- Garlic Research Labs, Garlic Barrier AG+
- Molly's Herbals, Formula #1 Wormwood Worm Combination
- Molly's Herbals, Formula #2 Herbal Weekly Worm Formula & Tonic
- DBC Ag Products, Zyfund A (poultry)
- Pyrethrin-based products may be allowed (please check with staff before use)

Restricted use synthetic parasiticides Ivermectin, Moxidectin, Fenbendazole—**on a non-routine basis**—along with conservative management as outlined above.

### Restricted use\* Synthetic Products (August 2013)

Mineral oil (topically- backs for lice, bellies & shoulders for flies)

\*AgriLabs, Top Line (ivermectin) Pour-on for Cattle

\*Med-Pharmex, Iver-On

\*Merial, IVOMEC Pour-on for Cattle

\*Merial, IVOMEC .08% Sheep Drench

\*Durvet, Injectable 1% (ivermectin)

Injection for Cattle & Swine

\*First Priority, Privermectin

\*Boehringer Ingelheim, Cydectin Oral Sheep Drench

\*Merck, Safe-Guard Dewormer for Goats

### \*Restrictions on allowed synthetic parasiticides: §205.603(a)(18):

\*These products are prohibited in slaughter stock. Meat cannot be sold as organic

\*90 day milk withholding before milk can be sold as organic

\*Treatment in the last 1/3 of gestation will make the offspring ineligible for organic certification

\* Fenbendazole can only be used under the direction of a vet

\* Moxidectin can be used for internal parasites only

Our Livestock Products List (enclosed) is not an exhaustive list of products that are allowed under the organic standards. If there is a product that you would like to use, please let us know and we will be happy to review it and add it to this list, and to your organic system plan, if the ingredients meet the requirements.

### NOTE: Prohibited materials

- IVOMEC Eprinex/Eprinomectin
- Dectomax/Doramectin
- Prohibit Drench/Levasole

Some products have confusing labels. These products are commonly

inquired about but contain prohibited materials. Before using any product, to be sure the product's ingredients meet the organic standards, call or email us at MOFGA Certification. Use of prohibited parasiticides does result in the loss of certification of the treated animals.



### Letter from the MOFGA Certification Service's Director.....

*This issue of the Organic Sprout focuses on livestock. It is appropriate therefore to enclosed an updated livestock material input list. Please replace your old list (January 2013) with this one. If you don't certify your livestock, perhaps this is a tool that may make you reconsider. There are materials available for all aspects of livestock management that also comply with the organic standards.*

*It's been a rough season for making hay, but it seems like most farmers are pulling through alright. Nevertheless, if you find yourself short on hay and need help finding a certified organic source, please give our office a call. Remember that hay or straw for bedding also needs to be certified organic. If you have excess certified organic hay to sell, we could use that information too. We'll try to help farmers get connected over hay.*

*We hope you to see you at the Common Ground Country Fair!*

*Mary Yurlina*

