

Don't Let Worms Take Advantage This Rearing Season

Spring article

Now that the shooting season is behind us, the attention can turn to producing next year's birds. Whether next year's poults are sourced externally or produced from home reared stock, breeding hens will need to be in optimum condition in order to produce the best quality chicks. Pheasants and partridge must maintain good health throughout the winter and spring months to ensure optimum hatchability and production, but how can this be achieved? A key factor to consider is parasite control.

Release

As the released poults increase in age they will begin to wander further from the release pen, as a result their parasitic challenge often reduces due to reduced infection pressure. However, as birds come in to lay, their stocking density increases again and the resulting increased worm burden can suppress the bird's immune response to infection.^{1,2}



Internal parasites are widespread in reared pheasants, with the most common types being: gape worm, caecal worm and hair worm.¹ Consequences of these worms being present can include weight loss and significant mortality in heavily infected released pheasants.² In addition, worm burden and concurrent disease may prove particularly damaging during breeding season,^{1,2} with reduced hatchability, egg quality and number.

When considering parasite control, it is important to kill all life stages of worms, including the eggs. Eggs remain in the environment and pose a threat to future populations, with older pens having higher parasitic burdens.² Flubenvet remains the only licensed product to control gape worm, as well all life stages of the major worm species that affect game birds,³ including worm eggs. Flubenvet is an in feed wormer, which is beneficial as it is easier to ensure birds receive the correct dosage of active ingredient. Evidence has proven that pheasants treated with Flubenvet can improve breeding success significantly, as the environmental parasite burden is reduced.¹ To find out more, contact your feed merchant or medicines provider.

Worming Routine

A planned, routine worming schedule incorporating Flubenvet™ in-feed for 7 days will mean that poults have ready access to medication, allowing all poults to receive the correct dose of active ingredient. Only Flubenvet treats all life stages of all the major worm species, which no other in-water or in-feed wormer can claim to treat.³

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References 1. Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust, 2003. Pheasant Parasites [online]. Fordingbridge: GWCT. Available from: <https://www.gwct.org.uk/research/species/birds/common-pheasant/pheasant-parasites/> [Accessed 09/01/2020]. 2. Madden, JR. et al., 2018. Why do many pheasants released in the UK die, and how can we best reduce their natural mortality? European Journal of Wildlife Research, [online], 64. (40) pg. 1-13. 3. Flubenvet SPC

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