Importance of Deworming in Livestock Animals

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ABSTRACT

Livestock farming is an important part of agriculture and provides food, income, and employment for many rural families. Goats are especially valuable because they adapt well to different environments and provide milk, meat, fiber, and manure. However, livestock animals are often affected by parasitic infections, which reduce growth, milk production, and overall health. These parasites spread through contaminated pasture, feed, and water. Regular deworming and the use of anthelmintic drugs help control these parasites and improve animal productivity. Proper management practices such as balanced nutrition, sanitation, and health monitoring are also important. Effective parasite control is necessary for healthy livestock and sustainable farming.

INTRODUCTION

Livestock farming plays an important role in agriculture and supports the livelihood of many farmers. Animals such as cattle, sheep, and goats provide important products like milk, meat, and manure. Goats are especially useful for small farmers because they can survive in different climates and require relatively low maintenance (Singh and Sharma, 2016a).

Goat milk is nutritious and easier to digest than cow milk. It contains important minerals such as calcium, phosphorus, and potassium (Singh and Sharma, 2015; Singh *et al*., 2024b). However, livestock animals are often affected by parasitic infections, especially gastrointestinal parasites. These parasites reduce growth, milk production, and overall animal health (Cabaret *et al*., 2002).

Parasites spread through contaminated pasture, soil, and water. Grazing animals easily become infected while feeding. Therefore, proper management practices such as good nutrition, vaccination, and regular deworming are necessary to keep animals healthy and productive (Lee *et al*., 2010).

Parasitic Infections in Livestock

Parasitic infections are common in livestock and can seriously affect animal health and productivity. Internal parasites such as gastrointestinal worms infect the digestive system and reduce the ability of animals to absorb nutrients (Cabaret *et al*., 2002).

Infected animals may show symptoms such as weight loss, diarrhea, anemia, and reduced milk production. In severe cases, parasitic infections can lead to death and economic losses for farmers (Taylor *et al*., 2016).

Parasites spread mainly through eggs and larvae that are passed in the feces of infected animals. These contaminate pasture, soil, and water sources, allowing the infection to spread to other animals (Nunn *et al*., 2011).

Importance of Regular Deworming in Livestock

Regular deworming is an important practice to control parasitic infections in livestock. Deworming helps reduce the number of parasites in animals and improves their growth, health, and productivity (Cabaret *et al*., 2002).

Young animals are more vulnerable to parasite infections because their immune systems are not fully developed. Without treatment, infected animals may suffer from poor growth, reduced milk production, and weakness (Taylor *et al*., 2016).

Regular deworming also helps prevent contamination of pasture and reduces the spread of parasites within the herd. Therefore, farmers should follow proper deworming schedules and good management practices.

Anthelmintic Drugs Used in Livestock

Anthelmintic drugs are medicines used to treat parasitic worm infections in animals. These drugs help remove parasites from the body and improve animal health (Taylor *et al*., 2016).

Common anthelmintic drugs used in livestock include albendazole, fenbendazole, levamisole, and ivermectin. These drugs work by affecting the nervous system or metabolism of parasites, causing them to die or be expelled from the body (Bowman, 2020). However, improper use of these drugs may lead to drug resistance in parasites. Therefore, farmers should use the correct dose and follow veterinary advice when treating animals.

CONCLUSION

Livestock farming is important for food production, rural income, and agricultural development. However, parasitic infections are a major problem that can reduce animal productivity and cause economic losses. Regular deworming and proper use of anthelmintic drugs help control parasitic infections and improve animal health. Good management practices such as proper feeding, sanitation, and pasture management are also necessary. Overall, effective parasite control and proper livestock management are essential for maintaining healthy animals and ensuring sustainable livestock farming.

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