

FAMACHA

FOR INTERNAL PARASITE MANAGEMENT IN SMALL RUMINANTS



WHAT IS FAMACHA ?

FAMACHA IS A SCORING SYSTEM THAT CAN BE UTILIZED AS A TOOL IN DETERMINING BARBER POLE WORM (*H. CONTORTUS*) PRESSURES IN THE STOMACH OF GOATS AND SHEEP. THE BARBER POLE WORM ATTACHES TO THE ABOMASUM STOMACH WALL AND FEEDS ON THE ANIMALS BLOOD. INCREASED AMOUNTS OF BARBER POLE WORM



FAMACHA Score Card

THE CARD MATCHES THE COLOR OF THE EYE MUCOUS MEMBRANES OF SMALL RUMINANTS WITH A COLOR SYSTEM RANKED FROM 1-5. CATEGORY 1 (RED) INDICATES THE ANIMAL IS NOT ANEMIC, WHILE CATEGORY 5 (PALE TAN) INDICATES THE ANIMAL IS SEVERLY ANEMIC

HOW TO USE A FAMACHA CARD

PROPER TECHNIQUE DESCRIBED BELOW WILL ALLOW THE USER TO MATCH UP THE LOWER EYE MUCOUS MEMBRANES TO THE EQUIVALENT COLOR ON THE SCORE CARD

STEP #1:

COVER THE EYE BY ROLLING THE UPPER EYELID DOWN OVER THE EYEBALL

STEP #2:

PUSH DOWN ON THE EYEBALL. YOU SHOULD SEE THE EYELASHES OF THE UPPER EYELID CURL OVER YOUR THUMB

STEP #3:

PULL THE LOWER EYELID DOWN

STEP #4:

POP! THE MUCOUS MEMBRANES WILL POP INTO VIEW. HOLD THE SCORE CARD WITH COLOR CATEGORIES CLOSE TO THE EYE TO COMPARE



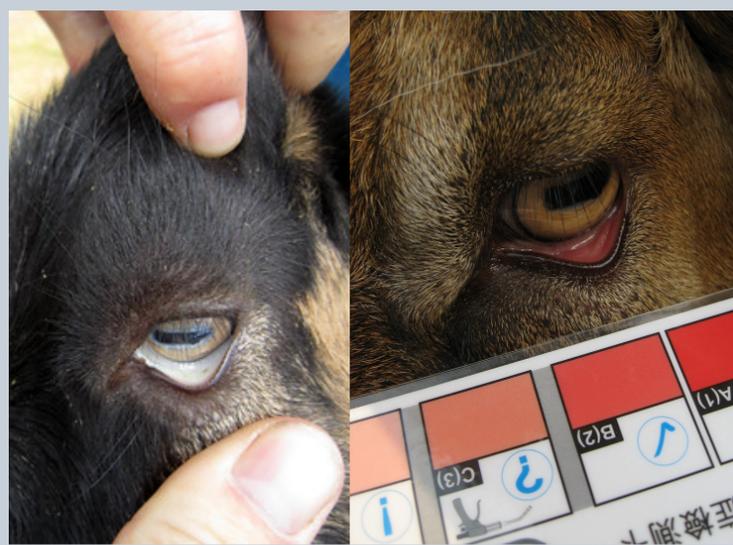
Following the steps for readings a FAMACHA card properly

WHAT NEXT?

CATEGORY 1 OR 2: NO DEWORMING IS NEEDED AT THIS TIME FOR THAT ANIMAL UNLESS OTHER CONDITIONS INDICATE PARASITIC PRESSURES, SUCH AS POOR BCS, DIARRHEA, BOTTLE JAW, OR OTHER INDICATORS

CATEGORY 3: CONSIDER DEWORMING IF: (1) GREATER THAN 10% OF THE HERD SCORES A 4 OR 5 (2) LAMBS AND KIDS (3) PREGNANT OR LACTATING EWES/DOES (4) ANIMAL WITH POOR BCS

CATEGORY 4 OR 5: ALWAYS DEWORM



Comparing two different FAMACHA scores. Right photo would be classified as Category 2. Right photo would be classified as Category 5 and deworming would be needed

TIPS FOR USING THE FAMACHA CARDS

- FAMACHA IS ONLY APPLICABLE WHERE BARBER POLE WORM IS THE PARASITE CAUSING ANEMIA
- ALWAYS CHECK OUTSIDE IN DIRECT, NATURAL LIGHT
- BE QUICK AND MAKE YOUR DECISION BASED ON THE COLOR
- THERE ARE NO HALF NUMBERS. CHOOSE A CATEGORY FOR FOLLOW THE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THAT NUMBER
- DO NOT STORE CARD IN DIRECT SUNLIGHT AS THE COLORS MAY FADE
- REPEAT THIS PROCESS EVERY TWO WEEKS DURING THE GRAZING SEASON