



## SPRING WEANER MANAGEMENT

# Weaner Productivity.

Managing the triple threat  
to young growing stock.



Boehringer  
Ingelheim



## Good weaner management leads to good productivity outcomes

The biggest driver of margin and production in a cattle operation is weaner throughput. Weaner throughput is about increasing the number of weaners produced and the amount of kilograms of product that can be sold off farm. Improving weaner throughput involves:

- achieving target growth rates in weaners
- maximising herd fertility
- balancing feed resources among stock classes

Managing weaners is important because:

- Market price systems reward younger stock that meet targets
- Non breeding females reduce product for sale and increase costs

An effective weaner management program can help improve breeding efficiency, herd fertility, feed utilisation, animal behaviour and stock carcass quality.

- Safeguard your future income
- Improve productivity
- Improve farm profitability

## Ensuring cow and calf profitability

Profitability in cow and calf operations as well as backgrounders is driven by achieving benchmarked growth rates in young stock.

Whether to get to market specifications for sale or slaughter, or achieve joining live weights by 15 months of age, sound management of the health of young animals is critical.

While nutrition is the most important factor in achieving growth rates, parasite challenges in young stock significantly suppress appetite and feed intake and reduce the utilisation of what nutrition is received.

Effective parasite control in young stock at critical times can improve growth rates, reduce time to market as well as ensure heifers reach 15 month joining weights, improving herd fertility.

Carcass Weight in Australia					
Destination	Cattle Weight Range (kg)	Fat Depth (mm P8)	Dentition	Sex	HGP Allowed
Butcher	150 - 210	3 - 8	0 - 2	Steer / Heifer	
MSA graded Beef	200 - 340	5 - 22	Varied	Varied	
Supermarket	200 - 320	4 - 17	0 - 2	Steer / Heifer	Yes
Feeder Steer (Short fed)	280 - 400	-	0 - 2	Steer / Heifer	
Feeder Steer (Med fed)	300 - 400	-	-	Steer / Heifer	
Feeder Steer (Long fed)	420 - 470	-	0 - 2	Steer / Heifer	
Jap Ox / Export Steer	300 - 440	7 - 22	0 - 4	Steer / Heifer	No
European Union	260 - 420	5 - 22	0 - 4	Steer / Heifer	No

Table 1: Target customer specifications for cattle destined for slaughter. Cattle and beef market study – interim report, ACC 2016

# The triple threat to calves at weaning

At weaning time, producers must effectively manage serious health threats from parasites and disease, compounded by three factors:

## 1 Young

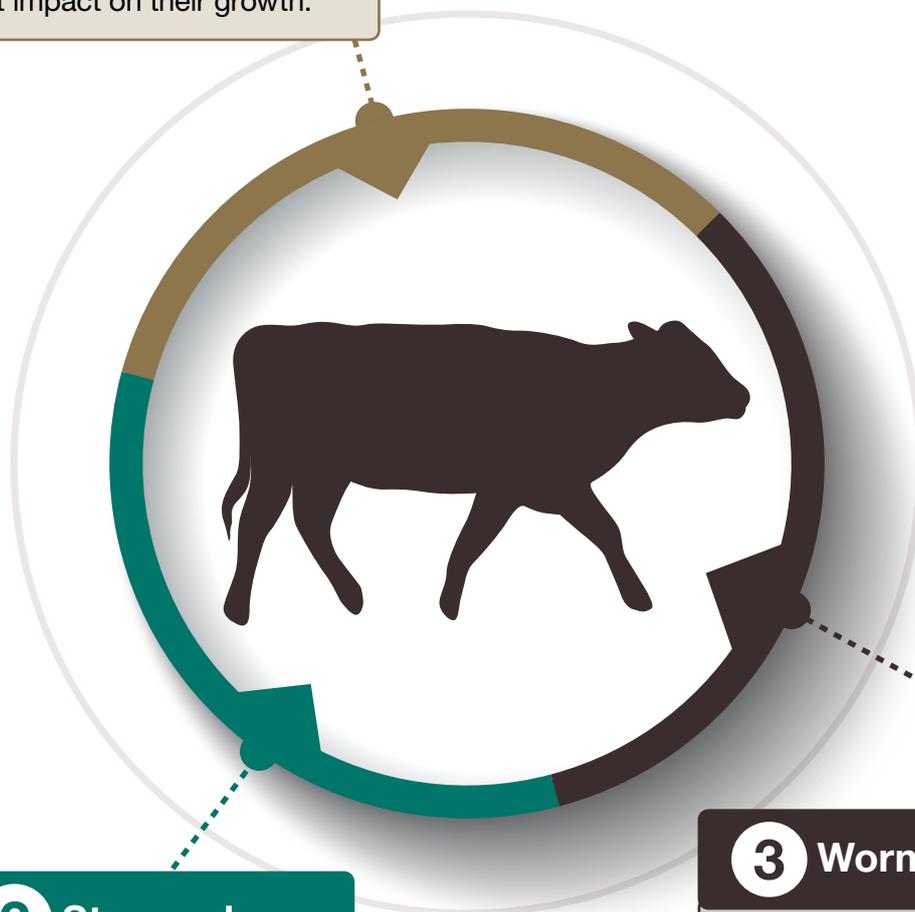
The immune function of the animal has not yet been fully established at this stage, this makes them highly susceptible to disease and parasites including worms - which can have a significant impact on their growth.

## 2 Stressed

The stress response at weaning on cows and calves can result in changes in appetite and growth rate, compromise digestion and rumen function as well as further impact immune function.

## 3 Worm Challenged

Weaning usually coincides with conditions to support worm development. Post-weaning worm control will have lifelong, growth-and-profit consequences.



# Better treated weaners = a better bottom line

Weaning is an ideal time to ensure optimum lifelong performance for young cattle by managing the threat of worms that can reduce growth rates and threaten long term product quality.

### Best practice at weaning:

- Select a suitable drench with maximum efficacy to minimise production loss and resistance development
- Ensure other animal health treatments such as vaccination programs are on schedule
- Manage nutrition available to reach market and joining targets

### Best practice post-weaning:

- Regularly weigh (and condition score heifers) to monitor performance against expected growth rates
- In beef enterprises, worms need to be managed in steers up to 18 months of age and in heifers up to their second calf
- In dairy systems, worms need to be managed in heifers up to their second calf and may need ongoing management.

## Seasonal worm control

As weaners do not develop full immunity to worms, it is important to monitor their progress and treat according to the season. This guide indicates the most appropriate times that weaners should be treated up to 12 months of age. Where fluke treatments are required, treatments that control all three stages of liver fluke should be prioritised in autumn and summer.

Treatment guide for autumn calves using ML treatments*												
Autumn Calving	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
South and Central Coast NSW	✓ Weaning				✓			✓				
	(Fi)				Fi					F		
Southern and Central Slopes and Tablelands NSW	✓ Weaning				✓			✓				
	(Fi)				Fi					F		
Northern Tablelands NSW	✓				✓			✓				
	(Fi)					Fi		F				
South-Western WA	✓	✓				(✓)						
Central Victoria & Tasmania	✓ Weaning				✓			✓				
	(Fi)				Fi					F		
Western Victoria & South Australia	✓ Weaning				✓							
	(Fi)				Fi					F		

✓ Strategic worm treatment given each year

(✓) Not a routine treatment. Indicators for treatment include scouring, sudden loss of condition and a condition score of 2 or less. Treatment will be more effective if combined with a change to 'low-risk' pastures, especially for young stock.

Using a non ML treatment may increase the need for additional treatments. F - Treat for adult Liver Fluke, Fi - Treat for all three stages of Liver Fluke, (Fi) - Additional three stage Liver Fluke treatment may be required.

\*The cattle parasite atlas - a regional guide to cattle parasite control in Australia, MLA, 2005



# Choosing the right weaner drench is easy

Boehringer Ingelheim has great experience across Australia in drench treatments. We believe that choosing the right drench for your weaners comes down to the following three criteria:

**1 Target Market Needs**

**2 Breadth of Parasite Control**

**3 Drench Efficacy**

Use the flow chart below to determine your optimal drench choice





### Eprinex® Pour-On

Dose rate: 1mL/10kg  
Pack sizes<sup>^</sup>: 1L, 2.5L, 5L, 12.5L, 15L, 20L, 22.5L

#### Withholding periods:

Milk: Nil  
Meat: Nil  
ESI (Export Slaughter Interval): Nil



#### Key features & benefits<sup>\*</sup>:

- Convenient broad spectrum pour on
- Kills more species and stages of worms than any other ML pour on
- Nil milk or meat withholding period
- Nil ESI
- Completely weatherproof

<sup>^</sup>12.5L pack size contains 2 x 5L plus 1 x 2.5L  
15L pack size contains 3 x 5L  
22.5L pack size contains 1 x 2.5L plus 1 x 20L

### Eclipse® Pour-On

Dose rate: 1mL/20kg  
Pack sizes<sup>\*</sup>: 1L, 2.5L, 5L, 10L, 17.5L

#### Withholding periods:

Milk: DO NOT USE in lactating cows or within 60 days of calving where milk may be used or processed for human consumption  
Meat: 56 days  
ESI (Export Slaughter Interval): 70 days



#### Key features & benefits<sup>\*</sup>:

- Combined power of Abamectin and Levamisole
- Broad spectrum dual action pour on
- The only pour on with a claim to control resistant worms
- Concentrated formula with a convenient low 1mL per 20kg dose rate

<sup>^</sup>17.5L pack size contains 1 x 2.5L plus 3 x 5L

### Ivomec® Plus Injection

Dose rate: 1mL/50kg  
Pack sizes<sup>^</sup>: 200mL, 500mL, 1L, 3L

#### Withholding periods:

Milk: Nil  
Meat: 28 days  
ESI (Export Slaughter Interval): 42 days



#### Key features & benefits<sup>\*</sup>:

- Broad spectrum antiparasitic injection including liver fluke
- Wide safety profile
- Low volume dosage, convenient injection
- Nil milk withholding period

<sup>^</sup>3L pack contains 3 x 1L packs

### Avomec® Plus Pour-On

Dose rate: 1mL/10kg  
Pack sizes: 2.5L, 5L, 15L

#### Withholding periods:

Milk: DO NOT USE in dairy animals producing or which will in the future be producing milk for human consumption  
Meat: 49 days  
ESI (Export Slaughter Interval): 140 days



#### Key features & benefits<sup>\*</sup>:

- Convenient pour on formulation
- Controls all 3 stages of liver fluke – early immature, immature, adult
- Internal and external parasite control - worms, lice and liver fluke
- Aids in control of cattle tick and buffalo fly
- Simple, reliable and rainfast

## Protect your weaners with only the best

Contact your local Boehringer Ingelheim Territory Manager or local rural store.  
For further information, call Boehringer Ingelheim Customer Solutions on 1800 808 691  
or visit [www.merial.com.au](http://www.merial.com.au)



<sup>\*</sup>See product label for full claim details and directions for use. Merial Australia Pty Ltd, Level 1, 78 Waterloo Road, North Ryde, NSW 2113 ABN 53 071 187 285. ECLIPSE, EPRINEX, IVOMECE and AVOMECE are registered trademarks of Merial Limited. 2016 Merial Limited. All rights reserved. Merial is now part of Boehringer Ingelheim. GENC.17.05.0162