



# Elite Ground Products Information Note 2

## Horse Manure and Worm Control

### General guidance

An all-year round worming programme is essential for every horse and pony, whatever their age. You should follow a strategic worm control programme which recommends worming at the correct time interval with the most appropriate wormer<sup>1</sup>.

### Pasture management

Good pasture management is an essential part of an effective worm control programme and will enhance the effectiveness of the worming programme. The 5 key strategies to effective pasture management are:

- To avoid over stocking i.e. heavily grazed pastures;
- To remove faeces (contamination) daily or every second day in the spring and summer and weekly in the winter, where feasible;
- Rotate pasture to allow infective eggs and larvae to die before they can infect another horse;
- Where droppings are not removed, harrowing prior to resting will help expose infective eggs and larvae frosts and hot/dry conditions;
- Graze horses with cattle and sheep, as they act as 'biological vacuum cleaners', eating eggs and larvae which cannot survive in species other than the horse.

### The use of the Rotary Muck Spreader

The rotary muck spreader provides an effective way of applying fresh horse manure to pastures, ensuring that the droppings are broken up and evenly spread across the paddock. This has the following advantages:

- It ensures that nutrients in the manure are returned to the soil across the whole of the paddock and helps avoid a build up of nutrients in the latrine areas (where horses dung and urinate);
- It will result in more even grazing, improved utilisation and appearance of the paddock;
- It will more effectively expose any worm eggs and larvae present to frost, sunlight and dehydration and can therefore be part of an effective pasture management programme.

### When to use the Rotary Muck Spreader

The spreader can most effectively be used to spread manure following grazing and prior to resting.

Harsh frosts and hot/dry conditions will kill infective larvae on the pasture but mild/wet weather will increase survival rates.

### Further advice

Worm control in horses is complex and you are advised to obtain expert advice from a veterinary surgeon who can recommend a worm control programme tailored to suit your individual circumstances.

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<sup>1</sup> The Best of Care (British Equine Veterinary Association)