

Extract from trials done at Aberdeen University. Using Homoeopathic preparation from Blue Merle
See http://www.abdn.ac.uk/organic/organic_34.php for full details.

3 . Homoeopathy compounds, *Blue Merle 62* or *Teucrium marum* (cat thyme) (**Lowman, 1990**) could be administered monthly over the summer grazing period to control infestations of stomach worms.

Homoeopathy does not eliminate all the worms, allowing the host to continue developing resistance. Homeopathy may therefore be useful for maintaining satisfactory welfare and health status of the animals in terms of preventive medicine, rather than being used as a treatment for clinically ill animals. **Note:** *There is no information available on the homoeopathy treatment used due to legal reasons and therefore further discussion is limited.*

After consultation with Blue Merle, it was advised to give a second dose of the treatment after 2 weeks, however, this was not printed on the product label. The UK has laws on what can and cannot be claimed on labelling and advertising of treatments that have not been tested to the satisfaction of the Veterinary Medicines Directorate. Totally prohibited are claims implying that a treatment is capable of preventing, treating or curing any specific injury, ailment or any conditions of the mind or body unless licensed as a medicine. Homoeopathy labelling can only state recommendations and the information given is often limited. Until changes occur in the legislation surrounding labelling of non-conventional medicine, it will be difficult for farmers to observe significant changes in their animals if the correct usage of the treatment is not marked on the label.

Homoeopathy is reputed to having spectacular and rapid effects, but also some subtle and long term. Remedies may hold the situation stable, while not curing it, but this may be far more than could be hoped for with allopathic medicine, where agents to treat disease are totally unrelated to the target disease organism. Homoeopathy has its limits, but a major impediment to use is the current lack of scientific knowledge.

"Summary of Recommendations for Study Farm

- Emphasis should be on the whole system rather than dependence on external inputs.
- Diagnosis before treatment is of high importance.
- The administration of organic mineral supplements will help to increase host health and immunity in the short term.
- To achieve long term control, underlying problems such as soil imbalance need to be rectified in order to eliminate trace element deficiencies.
- Implementation of a practical clean grazing system.
- Inclusion of plants with natural vermifuge qualities, e.g. garlic into grazing pastures.

Conclusion Controlling internal parasites in sheep needs integrated animal health care, combining prevention and disease diagnosis with treatment. In order to achieve long term control the inter-dependence between soil, plant and animal should be considered. An animal's health and it's ability to resist parasites depends on the quality of what it eats, and the quality of what is eaten results from how the soil is managed.

Homeopathy can play an important role in achieving parasite control through stimulating nature to work more effectively both at farm and animal level.

Parasite burdens in the sheep treated with a homoeopathy compound were reduced by 81 per cent.

However, the amount of material available on the subject of homoeopathy is extremely limited. More research is required before any definite conclusions can be reached. Further investigations could elucidate the effect homoeopathy has on parasites. To date, few of the many researchers in veterinary homoeopathy have addressed the issue of such treatment on parasites."

Thoughts from Chris Lees. HAWL has tried to follow this research up and so far got not very far. Blue Merle are not able to tell us exactly what was in the preparation and the trials coincided with the previous FandM outbreak and so results were not finalized.

Research institutions always suggest further research because that's what funds their salaries. That investigation into what effect homoeopathic remedies have on parasites is of interest academically but unnecessary practically. That it would be very useful if some of our former students began to use Teuc to see what effect it has.

BUT remembering that Redesdale research suggested that optimum nutrition indicated that while foecal egg count suggested a very large parasite population, weight gain was not affected.

Do we throw out the babies when we get rid of the bathwater? ALL PARASITES ARE NOT PATHOLOGICAL. THERE ARE GOODIES AND BADDIES. IF THE TERROIRE IS HEALTHY DO THE GOODIES OUTWEIGH THE BADDIES? CAN ANIMALS LIVE WITHOUT PARASITES? PROBABLY NOT. Have we gone down the worming route because they are available and profitable for the manufacturers? How much do we know about animals which are not wormed? As far as I have read, not a great deal.