

MINKA FARM

Minka Farm is primarily a certified grass-fed beef operation. They also have pasture-based ducks, goats, pigs, equids and chickens. The farm was started in 2007 with a herd of 25 pregnant beef cows. Before that, it was multiuse including sheep and cattle, was over-grazed, and Ivermectin pour-on was used to deworm. The former owner used Lyme on the pasture but had minimal pasture management. From 1940-1980, the land was used for a dairy. Currently, they have approximately one hundred head of cattle raised from birth to slaughter. They are primarily Angus with some Senepol cross. The cattle are rotated according to grass height through 18, 3-4 acre fields. NRCS helped put in extra fences to allow sectioning of these pastures. The fields are treated with Lyme and Triple 17. The amount of treatment is based on soil testing. The fields are a mixture of clover and endophyte-(+) fescue. One field was planted with rye but it did not come up well this year. The only supplement the cattle receive is a mineral mix. The farm is animal welfare approved. Xylazine and lidocaine are used with an open castration procedures if the calves are not banded in the first week of life. The cattle are vaccinated twice yearly against blackleg in the fall/spring and upper respiratory infections in the spring only.

Pasture 12 is used for calving from February to April as calving is seasonal in the spring. There are two live cover bulls allowed in from May 15-Aug 15 but it is otherwise a closed herd. In 2014, there were 21 calves with a high percentage of bull calves. This year they moved onto grass early on April 2nd (the earliest yet) and overwintered in field 18 south. There is a concrete pad available for the hay rings. Pasture 18 is then rested after the cattle are moved until the grass (or pigweed) comes back. The pregnant cows are then moved to 12 and given hay.

While there are other animals on the farm, they do not graze behind or share pastures with the cattle. Eventually, Minka Farm would like to rotate the goats but currently have problems with coyotes. Two new goats were added in 2013. There are two 7 year old goats, three dairy goats, two 2 year olds and their kids. There is one positive for Caseous Lymphadenitis and potentially Johnes (possibly a false positive for Johnes due to the positive CLA result). The goats are vaccinated for CDT but not always yearly. Deer do graze with the cattle and the farm has reported a tick problem.

Previous deworming schedules have been seasonal, using Valvosin and Omeprazole, twice yearly. Currently, the cattle have only been dewormed once in the past year. The goats on the farm have had issues with *Haemonchus contortus*. Kiko goats were added to help with the worm problem. They have tried previously natural fly repellent such as permethrin from chrysanthemums, but it does not last long. For two years, they released predator flies and currently have much fewer flies. The farm is currently working on a grant for soldier fly larva and sunflowers to use as pig and duck feed.

Samples collected today were from a pasture onto which the herd of cows and calves were moved the previous day:

Fecal Sample Results:

ID	<i>Strongyle Type Eggs (EPG)</i>	<i>Coccidia</i>	<i>Strongyloides</i>	<i>Monezia</i>	<i>Capillaria</i>
B56	11	Negative	Positive	Negative	Negative
B71	2.5	Negative	Positive	Negative	Negative
B85	0	Negative	Positive	Negative	Negative
X6	4.5	Positive	Negative	Negative	Negative
X10	1	Negative	Positive	Negative	Negative
X14	1.5	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative
Y2	1	Negative	Positive	Negative	Negative
Y4	1	Positive	Negative	Negative	Negative
Y9	0	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative
Y10	0	Positive	Negative	Negative	Negative
Y16	0	Positive	Negative	Negative	Negative
Z2	1	Positive	Positive	Negative	Negative
Z6	0.5	Positive	Positive	Negative	Negative
Z7	3.5	Positive	Positive	Negative	Negative
Z15	0	Positive	Negative	Negative	Negative
Z18	5	Positive	Negative	Negative	Negative
Z20	0	Positive	Negative	Negative	Negative
Z22	1	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative
Z36	12.5	Positive	Positive	Negative	Negative
No Tag - White Face	2.5	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative

Random Pasture Samples					
1	11	Negative	Positive	Negative	Positive
2	1	Positive	Positive	Negative	Negative
3	0	Positive	Negative	Negative	Negative
4	1	Negative	Positive	Positive	Negative
5	0.5	Positive	Negative	Negative	Negative
6	3.5	Negative	Positive	Positive	Negative
7	0	Positive	Negative	Negative	Negative
8	0	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative
9	0.5	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative
10	0	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative
11	1	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative
12	1.5	Positive	Negative	Negative	Negative
13	5.5	Positive	Positive	Negative	Negative
14	0.5	Positive	Negative	Negative	Negative
15	0	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative

Recommendations:

With the low nematode eggs counts in the fecal samples, we believe that by continuing the current efficient pasture rotation, there is no need to use anthelmintic. The egg counts are low enough (the highest being 12.5 eggs per gram) to not raise concerns about the welfare of the cattle. However, one of the calves tested had a high number of *Strongyloides* which would suggest close monitoring for signs of disease (diarrhea and dehydration), but no need for immediate action. The cattle also had good body condition scores and no apparent signs of disease. Pasture rotation may currently be sufficient for parasite management for this size herd.