

# CONVERGE FOR CATTLE

## Oral or Pour-on treatment

While a pour-on may be convenient, there are other factors to be taken into consideration for controlling worms and managing drench resistance, namely:

- ▶ On-going selection of endecticide resistant worms.
  - ▶ Even with a combination pour-on the endecticide will persist for some time as a single active. (Levamisole has no persistent activity). Only susceptible worms will be killed during this period and resistant worms will survive to breed, giving them a prolonged period of selection.
- ▶ Pasture contamination with endecticide resistant *Cooperia*.
  - ▶ *Cooperia* larvae eaten with pasture will produce eggs in around 21 days. At a treatment interval of 6 weeks, pasture will be re-contaminated for a 3 week period.
- ▶ Treatment cost.
  - ▶ Pour-ons are expensive.
- ▶ Drenching certainty.
  - ▶ Pour-on absorption can be affected by numerous factors, such as faecal/dirt contamination, licking, rain, application technique.

## As an oral drench CONVERGE offers the following benefits

- ▶ Provides the full advantages of a combination drench.
- ▶ Both actives are short-acting, which minimises the time resistant worms are selected.
- ▶ A 4 week drench interval is appropriate, so good *Cooperia* control can be achieved without increasing selection for resistance.
- ▶ The cost of treatment is less compared with a pour-on.

## Product details

### CONVERGE

5L backpack and a 10L drum. Includes cobalt and selenium.



The backpack comes with an upright adapter which allows the pack to be used either inverted (cap at the bottom) or upright (cap at the top).

### Dosage

1mL per 10kg liveweight for both sheep and cattle.

### Doses per pack

- ▶ 1,250 doses per 5L
- ▶ 2,500 doses per 10L (10mL per 100kg liveweight)

### Withholding periods

**Meat:** 21 days (sheep), 35 days (cattle).

**Milk:** 35 days.

For more details on CONVERGE talk to your Intervet/Schering-Plough Territory Manager. For further information on drench resistance go to [www.spah.co.nz](http://www.spah.co.nz) or call 0800 800 543 for a copy of "A Farmer's Guide to Drench Resistance".

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The new way to  
outsmart worms  
for your cattle.



Leaders in  
**SMART  
DRENCHING**

 **Intervet**  
Schering-Plough Animal Health

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## CONVERGE the smart alternative

- ▶ Abamectin/levamisole (ML/clear) combination drench.
  - ▶ Same product for both sheep and cattle.
- ▶ Effective against all major roundworms (immature and mature) and lungworm.
- ▶ Abamectin, a potent active giving a broad-spectrum worm kill, belongs to the best drench family for controlling *Ostertagia* (Type I and II), the most important cattle roundworm.
- ▶ Levamisole is the only drench active which has retained its efficacy against *Cooperia*.<sup>1</sup>
- ▶ Cost-effective compared with an endectocide, and as a combination can improve efficacy.
- ▶ The use of short-acting drench actives reduces the period over which there is selection for resistant worms.

## When to use CONVERGE

- ▶ If you are using an endectocide (ML) and want to keep the benefits of this important drench family and delay resistance.
  - ▶ The power of an endectocide with the benefits of a combination.
- ▶ If you prefer using an oral drench.
  - ▶ Short-acting actives ensures full advantage of a combination.
- ▶ If you have used single actives and you're concerned about drench resistance.
- ▶ As your quarantine drench for all cattle coming onto or leaving your property.

## Treatment options

### Calves

Use CONVERGE as your first choice in a routine drenching programme.

- ▶ **Dairy:** A planned drenching programme at 28 day intervals from weaning will reduce production losses associated with worms.
- ▶ **Beef:** Strategic drenching from marking/weaning will reduce time to target liveweight or slaughter.

### Yearlings

A regular planned drench programme will increase liveweight gain and reduce time to target liveweight or slaughter.

### Quarantine drench

Ideal for drenching all cattle coming onto the property, including those heading to or returning from grazing (e.g. dairy heifers).

### Adult cattle

A treatment in the autumn/drying off provides a clean out and can improve condition going into the winter.

## Sustainability of drenching

Drench resistance is widespread to all three economically important worm species on New Zealand beef farms<sup>2</sup> (Table 1). "Other farming operations, such as those intensively rearing young dairy replacements, are likely to be equally at risk, and it would be prudent for these operators to consider the possibility of resistance being present on their farms."

**Table 1. Proportion of cattle farms with resistant worm populations by drench family and roundworm species.**

	BZ	ML	Lev
<i>Cooperia spp</i>	****	****	-
<i>Ostertagia spp</i>	***	*	*
<i>Trichostrongylus spp</i>	**	*	-

- not detected, \* < 10%, \*\* >10% - 30%, \*\*\* >30% - 60%, \*\*\*\* >60%

1,2. Prevalence of anthelmintic resistance on 62 beef cattle farms in the North Island of NZ. TS Waghorn et al. NZVJ, 2006.

While *Cooperia* resistant to endecticide and BZ are widespread levamisole has retained efficacy against this worm species. Heavy *Cooperia* burdens are primarily a problem in cattle younger than 18 months of age.

Of major concern is the possibility that there may be strains of the most destructive worm, *Ostertagia*, resistant to all 3 drench families.

**Using two actives in combination is the best approach to ensure continued efficacy against important worm species, including *Ostertagia*.**

## Combination drenches minimise the risk

- ▶ Combinations are an important tool to manage or delay drench resistance. They can achieve on-going productivity and extend the life of each drench family.
- ▶ Worms that are resistant to one active are killed by the other active(s) reducing the probability of resistant worms surviving the drench and slowing the development of resistance.
- ▶ Combinations should be used routinely, ideally prior to resistance being detected and if already present, or is suspected, it is essential they are used.
- ▶ Whatever drench is used, it is important to monitor drench efficacy and drench resistance status on your farm.

**Alternating different combination options is different to rotating single active drenches. Therefore alternating between dual combination options (BZ/Lev and ML/Lev) enables flexibility without losing the increased killing power of two actives.**

**Short-acting combinations such as CONVERGE are recommended to improve productivity and delay resistance.**

