

Marriages Farmyard Layers Pellets with Flubenvet®

Flubenvet® 5% Premix for Medicated Feedingstuff

Flubenvet® contains flubendazole, a medication that kills adult and early immature stages of common poultry worms. It has no adverse effects on a hen's ability to lay eggs or the hatchability of those eggs. It is safe to eat eggs from hens being treated with Flubenvet®. Birds should not be slaughtered for human consumption during treatment or for a period of seven days after the end of the treatment period. Do not feed after the expiry date.

Feeding

This product can only be prescribed for feeding to chickens and geese. These pellets should be fed for seven consecutive days as the sole form of feed available to the birds and then replaced with the feed the birds are usually given. These types of birds would be expected to eat naturally a quantity of feed that contains the right amount of medication for its bodyweight. We estimate that 10kg of feed contains enough medication to treat around 10 average-sized chickens over seven days. This should be adjusted up or down according to the size of the birds (i.e. less for bantams, more for geese).

Frequency Of Worming

For backyard chickens it is usually adequate to treat every four to six months, for the seven-day dosing period. Flocks where there is a high infection pressure, due to heavy stocking or an existing worm infection, may need to be treated more frequently. Regular faecal egg counts will help determine the need for worming. If you have any concerns about the health of your birds, please seek further advice from a veterinary surgeon or qualified local animal health advisor.

Background

Parasitic worms can cause chickens to suffer ill thrift, a drop in egg production, weak shells and pale yolks or may even result in death. Chickens can become infected through:

- Eating worm eggs or larvae found in soil;
- Eating worms or insects that contain parasitic worms; and
- Wild birds or from worm eggs brought in on clothing or equipment.

An infected chicken will pass worm eggs out into the environment in their droppings, acting as a potential source of infection to other birds.

Prevention

It is almost impossible to completely prevent parasitic worms infecting a flock. Good animal husbandry is cost effective though and worth following, for example:

- Feeding from feeders rather than on the ground;
- Moving birds to clean grass regularly;
- Avoiding muddy areas or putting down shingle to allow droppings to dry out; and
- Keeping grass short, as exposure to sunlight will destroy worm eggs.

Remember that it is not always possible to identify signs of infection with the naked eye and regular worming is the best way to prevent birds suffering the effects of large worm burdens.