

The Use of
SODIUM FLUORIDE
for
WORMING HOGS

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The Use of SODIUM FLUORIDE *For* WORMING HOGS

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Sodium fluoride has been found to be the simplest and safest drug to use in worming hogs for the large intestinal round worms (ascarids).

There are numerous worms that may infest hogs; such as round worms (ascarids), thorn-headed worms, stomach worms, lung worms, kidney worms, etc. Sodium fluoride is recommended for only one of these worms; namely, the large round worm. The adult of this worm is frequently passed in the feces of hogs and can be recognized as a long round worm about the size of a lead pencil and yellow or pink in color. This worm is the most common of all worms that infest hogs.

WHEN TO WORM

Hogs of any age may be wormed with sodium fluoride. Successful hog producers agree that all pigs should be wormed two weeks after weaning, even though they show no outward signs of being wormy. Additional worming is usually not necessary unless the hogs show definite signs of being infested.

THE DRUG TO USE

Use the commercial or technical grade sodium fluoride. It can be obtained at most drug stores. It comes in a powdered form, and, because it is very poisonous, it is usually colored pink, blue, or green, so that it will not be mistaken for flour or some other food.

HOW TO WORM

Make sure that the pigs are accustomed to eating dry ground feed. If they are not accustomed to dry ground feed, they should be fed such a ration for about two days before starting the treatment.

Move pigs to a pen and sort them by groups of equal size. Do not have more than twenty pigs to the lot; fewer pigs are preferred. A lot with a concrete floor is very useful. Pigs may be wormed in the original lot if they are moved to new ground after worming.

Feed the pigs a half ration of dry ground feed the day before they are wormed, so that they are slightly hungry when the treatment begins.

Mix one *level* teaspoonful (5 grams) of sodium fluoride with one pound of dry ground feed per pig. Feed this medicated feed in an open trough. Pigs ordinarily consume one pound of medicated feed in from four to 12 hours. One pound of medicated feed is considered sufficient for a pig weighing about 25 pounds. After 12 hours, the pigs can be placed on their regular feed. If any of the medicated feed is left in the trough after twelve hours, it should be carefully removed from the trough and thoroughly mixed with the feed that is given at the next feeding.

Most pigs weigh more than 25 pounds at worming time. If the pigs weigh from 25 to 75 pounds, an additional feeding of one pound of medicated feed should be given 12 hours after the first medicated feeding. The trough should be carefully cleaned between feedings.

For larger hogs give three treatments at 12-hour intervals, using one level teaspoonful of sodium fluoride per pound of dry ground feed per pig for each treatment.

After the treatment as described is completed, the hogs can be put back on their regular feed. They will usually pass worms for four or five days after treatment. To prevent reinfestation, hogs should be moved to new ground as often as possible.

CAUTION: Sodium fluoride is a poison and should be treated as such. Do not feed the medicated feed as a slop because the drug tends to settle out and some pigs may get too strong a

dose. Fresh, clean drinking water should be available, so that the pigs can drink whenever they want to. The medicated feed tends to cause them to want water.

Do not give the hogs a purgative after treatment. Sodium fluoride tends to soften the bowel movements. Some of the pigs may show signs of discomfort and an exceptionally greedy pig may vomit. Be sure to provide plenty of trough space so that all pigs may have an equal opportunity to get their share of the medicated feed.

*Much of the information in this publication is based on experimental data worked out by Dr. R. D. Turk, head of veterinary parasitology, and Fred Hale, professor of animal husbandry, Texas A. and M. College.