

ON-FARM APPLICATIONS OF FAMACHA FOR PARASITE CONTROL

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Management of internal parasites in sheep, especially *Haemonchus contortus*, is necessary for profitable and rewarding lamb and wool production. A major tool in the Smart Drenching approach is the FAMACHA eye chart. The effective on-farm use of this diagnostic tool along with informed pasture management, animal husbandry, use of chemical dewormers, and special plant materials results in reductions in mortality, increased genetic tolerance within the flock, and a decrease in expenditures. Considerations in the practical application of this tool and management strategies suggest that the flock will become easier to manage over time, the labor involved for checking animals is reduced, chemical dewormers retain their effectiveness longer, and overall productivity is increased. The key elements in on-farm application involve use of a combination of treatments, reducing labor, and reduction of mortality.

