

Unit 20iii: Bolusing Factsheet - The bolus

Introduction

According to Wikipedia a **bolus** is.....

‘A large time-release tablet that stays in the rumen of cattle, goats and sheep’

How many types of boluses are there?

- Anthelmintic slow release boluses (wormers)
- Mineral supplements
- Identification boluses.

1. Anthelmintic slow release (wormers)

- pulse release boluses - multi-wormers
- deliver doses of wormer at set intervals
- Kill adult and immature gastro-intestinal roundworms, lungworms and tapeworms.

2. Mineral supplements

a) Magnesium e.g. rumbul

- recommended for adult dairy cattle and sheep when grazing in rapidly growing grass in the spring when there is a well defined period of high risk of grass tetany/staggers e.g. – rumbul.

b) Combined trace element bolus e.g. Cosecure

- Contains a mixture of trace elements
- Released slowly throughout the season.

3. Electronic identification using a transponder bolus

- Made of ceramic material
- Radio frequency transponder – microchip with electronic circuitry, coil and capacitor - all of which are waterproofed and sealed with silicone
- Bolus is activated by a radio signal sent out by a "reader" and then gives the operator a pre-programmed identification code.

How to administer the bolus correctly

Cattle and sheep



- Administer orally using the bolus applicator which delivers the bolus directly into the top of the gullet
- the applicator should be inserted from the front of the mouth and over the back of the tongue, **with no more than gentle, firm pressure**
- As the animal begins to swallow the end of the gun, the passage down the throat becomes easier
- The applicator is now in position for firing. depress the plunger to eject the bolus
- Ensure that each animal has swallowed the bolus by holding the head up and mouth closed and observing the animal for a short time after dosing
- Care should be taken not to cause injury by placing the gun too far inside the throat of the animal.

