



MEDIA RELEASE

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STARTECT® - new innovative sheep anthelmintic an effective tool for managing costly drench resistance

Pfizer Animal Health is launching an innovative, highly effective new sheep anthelmintic to help combat growing drench resistance and aid in protecting the sustainability of sheep farming in New Zealand.

Recent regulatory approval for STARTECT® means New Zealand sheep farmers will be the first in the world to use the new, broad spectrum oral drench.

STARTECT contains a unique new molecule called derquantel, in combination with an existing active, abamectin. Introducing a new active in a combination is a world first, and comes following a significant investment in research and development by Pfizer over more than five years.

Manufactured in New Zealand for New Zealand farmers, STARTECT was developed in conjunction with Auckland-based Argenta - a leading provider of anthelmintic product development and manufacturing services to the international animal health industry.

“This major breakthrough will enable sheep farmers to confidently regain control of their worm management programmes,” says Pfizer Animal Health Divisional Director, Paul Fitzpatrick.

“STARTECT has the potential to contribute significantly to the economic growth and sustainability of the New Zealand sheep industry.”

Drench resistance is estimated to cost New Zealand sheep farmers an additional \$20 million a year on top of the \$300 million annual cost of internal parasites in lost production and drench use¹. This cost is expected to rise as drench resistance becomes more prevalent.

“Pfizer is proud to offer New Zealand sheep farmers STARTECT,” says Paul. “It is a highly effective worm control tool, which, when used responsibly as part of a well designed worming programme, will help them achieve optimum productivity and overcome subclinical losses due to parasitism and drench resistance.

“Even for farmers without a current drench resistance problem, STARTECT can be used as an effective proactive measure to ensure drench resistance doesn’t threaten the productivity of their farming business in the future.”

Studies of STARTECT’s derquantel-abamectin combination have been conducted in New Zealand, Australia, South Africa and the United Kingdom under a range of farming conditions. Results showed

¹ Risk factors for drench resistance in sheep. *January 2008 - Issue 4, Wormwise*

consistently high efficacy (>99%) against even the drench resistant strains of economically important parasites to sheep.

Pfizer Animal Health product development manager, Jennifer Seed, says, "Combination drenches are not new to New Zealand farmers, but existing combinations have emerging drench resistance, since resistance to the components was apparent before they were formulated as combinations.

"The resistance to these actives has not gone away, but formulating them in combination has been a successful interim measure in providing farmers with a solution to improve drench effectiveness.

"STARTECT, on the other hand, is the first combination anthelmintic containing a new active, derquantel, that worms have never been exposed to before. It is the combination of derquantel with abamectin that makes STARTECT unique and deadly to even the most resistant worms.

"Drenching is only one aspect of a worm management programme. STARTECT is a highly effective combination drench that will be an important addition to the toolbox of New Zealand vets and farmers in their efforts to better manage internal parasites in sheep."

Suitable for a range of farming operations, STARTECT can be introduced early on to maximise worm management opportunities, optimise stock productivity potential, minimise emerging drench resistance, and protect the efficacy of existing drenches.

AgResearch scientist, Dr Dave Leathwick, says the New Zealand sheep industry has waited a long time for a new anthelmintic class.

"Now that there are new options available, it is imperative we better manage them than we have in the past," he says. "One way to do this is to put the new active in a combination, which is exactly what Pfizer has done with STARTECT.

"Assuming that other resistance management practices are implemented, bringing a new anthelmintic to the market in combination with abamectin should greatly extend the useful life of the new active and protect each active."

For more information about STARTECT, farmers should talk to their vet or visit www.startect.co.nz

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