

The effects of early-season treatments with doramectin on set-stocked calves naturally exposed to trichostrongyles

F. Satrija^{1,2} and P. Nansen¹

(1) Danish Centre for Experimental Parasitology, Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University, 13 Bülowssvej, DK-1870 Frederiksberg C, Denmark

(2) *Present address:* Department of Parasitology and Pathology, Bogor Agricultural University, Jl. Taman Kencana I no. 3, 16151 Bogor, Indonesia

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Abstract A study was carried out to evaluate the effects of strategic early-season treatments with doramectin on first-season grazing calves exposed to trichostronglylid infection on a naturally contaminated pasture. Two groups of cross-bred Limousine/Red Danish calves were turned out in early May on two plots that were similar with respect to size and herbage infectivity. They grazed separately until housing in early October. One of these groups was given doramectin at turnout and 10 weeks later, while the other group served as untreated controls. The results showed that the treatments significantly reduced trichostronglylid loads throughout the season, as evidenced by significant reductions in both their *Ostertagia ostertagi* burdens and serum pepsinogen levels compared with the controls. Furthermore, the results of herbage larval counts and post-mortem worm counts in tracer animals demonstrated that the treatment had successfully suppressed herbage infectivity on the 'treated' plot.

Keywords anthelmintic - cattle - control - doramectin - *Ostertagia ostertagi* - trichostrongyle