



## Parasitism management in grazing animals

**Need/issue:** Internal parasitism.

**Aim:** Management measures to interrupt the cycle of infection of grazing animals through life forms of the parasites excreted by parasitized animals and hosted on the vegetation.

**Expected benefits:**

Increased production per animal, reduced infection rates, lower rate of anthelmintics application thus lower cost of treatments and drugs' residues in animal products, lower drugs residues and byproducts polluting the environment



**Description:**

- Parasitism is inextricably linked to grazing.
- Infection of the animals is through parasites excreted by the parasitized animals, present in the field or developed on the vegetation (eg. eggs evolving to larvae), and then consumed by other grazing animals.
- These life forms, when ingested, infect the naïve animals and multiply thus continuing the cycle of infection.
- Grazing management techniques which break the cycle of parasites infection can substantially control internal parasites in sheep



## How to implement:

1. reduction of grazing animals on a given area
2. alternating grazing animal species on a given area,
3. transferring a new group of animals into "clean" grazing field,
4. applying rotational grazing of grazed parcels, introducing in between grazing bouts long intervals of rest
5. grazing, fields cultivated with plant species expressing anthelmintic properties (such as sainfoin, chicory, dandelion etc)

**Country:** Greece

**Dairy and meat sheep**

**Category of Animal:**

Adult ewes, replacement animals, fattening lambs

### Topic:

- Health
- Nutrition
- Management

### Level of solution:

- Knowledge
- Practical

