

Deworming on our farm is handled very differently than on most Icelandic sheep farms. Many deworming practices on many farms end up breeding parasite resistance.

We do not use conventional dewormers to treat parasites here. Our deworming practices include a blend of deworming herbs and garlic drench. We work to perfect our mineral mixes to meet the needs of our sheep and our land. Meeting the mineral needs of our sheep is essential to their good health, with adequate copper being necessary for good parasite resistance. We are testing livers this winter to be able to correctly gauge how much added copper our sheep need. We use the FAMACHA method to check for Barberpole worm, and this summer will begin to do fecal egg counts to better monitor which parasites are present and tailor our herbal dewormers to these parasites.

If we have to deworm any of our sheep with a chemical dewormer, that sheep is no longer part of our organic program and is automatically put on our cull list.