### Findings
- The majority of farmers (95%) have a worm control strategy for their cattle.
- Many farmers are not following COWS Manual recommendations, which identifies best practice for sustainable worm control.
- Unless best practice recommendations are adopted, there is likely to be an increased risk of the development of anthelmintic resistance in cattle.

### Introduction
The control of gastrointestinal nematodes is a vital part of health and production management in cattle herds. The majority of worm control programmes are dependent on anthelmintics, which must be used correctly in order to be effective. Best practices for worm control strategies are set out in the COWS Manual, and include veterinary consultation, effective administration and using wormers only when necessary. Following these recommendations is likely to result in improved herd performance and reduce the risk of anthelmintic resistance developing.

### Results
The majority of farmers (95%) had a worm control strategy on their farm, with 46% having devised it themselves and 49% having agreed it with their vet.

#### Question 1. Which of these statements best describes the cattle worming strategy on your farm?
- I have devised my own worm control strategy
- I have a worm control strategy agreed with my vet
- I don’t have a worm control strategy
- Other

Most strategies (82%) were based on worming at certain times of the year and only 4% of respondents used faecal egg counting.

#### Question 2. If you have a cattle worming strategy, on what is it based?
- Worming based on faecal egg count results
- Worming animals when clinical signs are seen
- Worming animals at a certain time of the year

Half the respondents estimated animal weight rather than using scales or weighbands to determine the weight of their animals.

### Conclusion
Results show that despite having a worm control strategy, many farmers are currently not following COWS Manual recommendations, which identifies best practice for sustainable worm control. Unless best practice strategies are adopted, there is likely to be an increased risk of the development of anthelmintic resistance in cattle, as has been documented in the sheep industry.

### References

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