

# **Internal parasite control in ruminant animals**

Parasites are a major problem in animals and these can be internal or external.

Internal parasites are of 3 types and these include round worms, tape worms and flukes. Among the worms, the most common ones are wire worms and tape worms while under flukes the most common are liver and conical flukes. It is important for a farmer to identify which worm species is a problem at his farm.

## **Worm infestation diagnosis**

This can be done by doing the 5 points check for clinical signs which include checking the nose, the body jaw under the neck, check for diarrhoea under the tail, check the eyes for anaemia and body condition scoring.

Internal worms like wireworm or liver fluke may cause anaemia or sudden death in your animals, conical fluke causes loss of condition due to diarrhoea while tape worms cause your animals to have pot bellies or look very emaciated.

## **Treatment of worms**

As a farmer, you need to understand the lifecycle of these parasites putting into consideration their intermediate hosts and the active ingredients of the medication used to treat these worms because some will only act on the mature stages of the worms and others will work on the immature stages of the worms.