Mark Malott is serious about beef production. He raises 1,800 cows and 3,500 stockers – most of them Black Angus – on his ranch in central Oregon. The rest of the time he helps his customers maximize production on their own herds through Central Oregon Ranch Supply in Redmond, which he owns with his wife, Ann.

Whether it’s his own cattle or his customers’, Malott’s goal is the same – improve return on investment by increasing weight gain and pregnancy rates. He was pleasantly surprised to learn that strategically deworming with Safe-Guard® (fenbendazole) helped accomplish both objectives.

“In years past, as our stocker operation was growing, we traditionally dewormed calves upon delivery with a standard anthelmintic product,” he said. “We then turn them out to pasture in a region that had a lot of moisture throughout the year.”

Malott noticed that the cattle would perform well for 45 to 60 days, but then weight gain began to taper off significantly. He found out why when his Intervet/Schering-Plough representative conducted a Fecal Egg Count Reduction Test on his herd.

“The cattle on pasture were full of parasites,” Malott said. “There was too much of a burden on them during the summer. To make things worse, the feed quality of the pasture started to go down at the same time that the parasite load was increasing.”

Production turned around dramatically when Malott began deworming his stocker cattle with Safe-Guard every 30 days. “Before we started using Safe-Guard, we had to work hard to get the stockers to gain 1-1/4 pounds a day,” he said. “Now, they are consistently gaining 1-3/4 pounds a day.”

Based on the success with Safe-Guard on his stockers, Malott is deworming his cows every 45 days. “Instead of struggling to keep pregnancy rates at 92 or 93 percent, the rates climbed to more than 95 percent,” he said. “I’m not saying it was entirely the Safe-Guard, but it made a huge difference.”

Malott has become a big proponent of regular deworming, and recommends Safe-Guard to his retail customers.

“Proper deworming with Safe-Guard is a priority because the more I use it, the more it pays me back. You couldn’t pay me to quit using Safe-Guard.”

If you would like to reach Mark Malott to learn more about how he uses Safe-Guard in his operation you may contact him at 541-548-5195.

FECRT is the most accurate method of testing for parasite egg counts and is offered at no charge by Intervet/Schering-Plough Animal Health. For more information on FECRT and how to determine the efficacy of a deworming program, cattlemen should contact their veterinarian, county extension agent, or call Intervet/Schering-Plough Animal Health at 800.521.5767.

The statements presented were provided to Intervet/Schering-Plough Animal Health by the producer. Intervet/Schering-Plough Animal Health did not contribute to or supervise any treatment mentioned in this document. When using an anthelmintic, results may vary.

Consult your veterinarian for assistance in the diagnosis, treatment and control of parasitism.

1Merial bovine practitioner communication.


Safe-Guard and Think Strategically are property of Intervet International B.V. or affiliated companies or licensors and are protected by copyrights, trademark and other intellectual property laws. ©2009 Intervet International B.V. All rights reserved.

BV-SG-109882-1