

# Prairie Livestock LLC Managing Cattle Parasites with Fewer Hands



At Prairie Livestock LLC, Craig Keys spends most of his time buying and selling quality cattle. Located on 4,000 acres of rolling grassland, Prairie Livestock sells over 350,000 head annually to feedlots, conditioning lots and ranchers nationwide. He took part in a recent study comparing two parasite control strategies: LongRange® — an injectable, long-acting eprinomectin — versus a combination of Safe-Guard® (fenbendazole) drench plus generic ivermectin pour-on with follow-up Safe-Guard Dewormer Range Cubes.

## Managing risks means managing parasites.

For Craig Keys, good parasite control is the foundation to receiving and starting cattle right. Craig says, "We handle a lot of cattle. It's important to get them dewormed with something that's going to wipe those worms out immediately, so we're not bringing everybody else's parasite resistance problems and dumping them onto our ground."

## Lower stress. Better health. Better profitability.

According to Keys, removing parasites on arrival and keeping worm burdens low while grazing pays benefits. Most of our cattle are dewormed on arrival with a combination of Safe-Guard and ivermectin," he says. "Then, we monitor the worm load through fecal samples and deworm in the pasture as needed with Safe-Guard Range Cubes.

Not only are they effective and easy on the cattle, the range cubes provide a labor savings. As Keys observes, "If you figure for the labor and the fuel it takes to get four or five good hands and the horses to wherever the location is, setting up panels, you've got a lot invested just to gather the cattle to deworm them. With Safe-Guard Range Cubes, we're able to employ one person versus five when we need to treat."

Treating with Safe-Guard Range Cubes reduced parasite burdens in the animals and let them perform at their best. Craig says, "The Safe-Guard and ivermectin concurrent approach resulted in 23 more pounds per calf.<sup>1</sup> Financially, that's significant to me. If you multiply it times 500 head that received that treatment, that's an additional \$22,000."



*"You need to leave cattle alone as much as you can. When they're making money is when they're standing in that pasture eating grass."*

**safe-guard**<sup>®</sup>  
(fenbendazole)

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Craig Keys, Prairie Livestock LLC, West Point, Mississippi

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

**Safe-Guard mineral, feed through products and liquid feed:**

**RESIDUE WARNING:** Cattle must not be slaughtered within 13 days following last treatment. For dairy cattle, the milk discard time is zero hours. A withdrawal period has not been established for this product in pre-ruminating calves. Do not use in calves to be processed for veal.

**Safe-Guard drench and paste:**

**RESIDUE WARNING:** Cattle must not be slaughtered within 8 days following last treatment. For dairy cattle, the milk discard time is zero hours. A withdrawal period has not been established for this product in pre-ruminating calves. Do not use in calves to be processed for veal.

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1. Data on file, Merck Animal Health

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