



Safe-Guard® (*fenbendazole*) contributes to rapid health improvements and weight gain.

Mark Bray · Ridgecrest Farms · Lawsonville, NC

For Mark Bray, what started out as side venture eventually turned into a full-time cattle business. Today, Bray runs between 1,200 and 1,500 head of stockers on 300 acres of pasture in north central North Carolina.

Bray says his management philosophy is to buy cattle at the right time and at the right price. "Ninety-eight percent of what we buy are highly-stressed calves weighing between 370 and 440 pounds," he says. "For some people this could be an issue. Buying stressed calves doesn't affect us because we've got a program that quickly addresses health weaknesses to quickly get the calves on the right path."

In his operation, it starts at the headgate with an oral drench of Safe-Guard® (*fenbendazole*) a complete series of vaccines and a 'kick off' antibiotic. "We initially deworm with an oral drench because it goes straight to the stomach and starts working immediately. We also use a generic ivermectin pour-on for external pest control," he says. "After 60 days we introduce Safe-Guard pellets for continued internal parasite control. At 150 days, we pull the cattle off pasture and move them in backgrounder pens. We'll feed out for another 45 days to put the bloom on and take the harshness off."

According to Bray, he has followed this highly effective deworming protocol for the past two years. While vaccine and antibiotic selections have adjusted based on new product offerings, his use of Safe-Guard over the past ten years has stayed consistent.

Now, fifteen years into full time livestock management, Bray is at the 'top of his game' with a successful health maintenance program that pays dividends. "We know how to get our cattle healthy and keep them progressing," he says. "Fast health improvements and reduced stress means more weight gain for the individual calf. Deworming with Safe-Guard plays a big part in the success of our program," he concludes.

Do you know if your dewormer is working? The proof is in the test.

A Fecal Egg Count Reduction Test (FECRT) is the most accurate method of testing for parasite egg counts and 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 800-441-8272.

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Deworm with Safe-Guard® (*fenbendazole*)

Think strategically, Act decisivelySM

- Works differently than pour-on dewormers. Can be effective against worms resistant to pour-on and injectable dewormers.
- Applied directly to the cattle's gut, where the worms are. Pour-ons can be inconsistently absorbed.
- An essential part of a strategic deworming program to stop the cycle of re-infection.
- Available in convenient chute-side and feed-type formulations.
- Safe-Guard has a slaughter withdrawal of between eight and 13 days, depending on product formulation.
- Call 1.800.441.8272 or visit www.intervetusa.com.