

Letter to the Editor Concerning Treatment of Fascioloidiasis

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR . . .

Letter to the Editor Concerning Treatment of Fascioloidiasis

I wish to comment on a statement in a recent article entitled, "Fascioloidiasis in Game-ranched Elk from Montana" (Hood, B. R., M. C. Rognlie, and S. E. Knapp. 1997. *Journal of Wildlife Diseases* 33(4):882–885). The statement reads that "No approved and effective anthelmintic is available for treating elk for fascioloidiasis in the United States". While this statement may be true if taken strictly at face value, the Animal Medicinal Drug Use Clarification Act of 1994 (AMDUCA) does allow the use of otherwise licensed drugs for judicious use off-label. Albendazole is licensed for use in cattle in the United States and has been shown effective in treating fascioloidiasis in white-tailed deer [Qureshi, T., D. S. Davis, and D. L.

Drawe. 1990. Use of albendazole in feed to control *Fascioloides magna* infections in captive white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*). *Journal of Wildlife Diseases* 26(2):231–235]. While the delivery technique described in the treatment article is not allowed off-label by AMDUCA for potential food animals (medication in feed; see "AMDUCA questions answered during teleconference", *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association* 210(7):874–877), the availability and usefulness of albendazole in treating fascioloidiasis is not in doubt, and the drug could be delivered by oral drenching to infected elk in a game farm situation.

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