

Can we combat anthelmintic resistance in ruminants?

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Helminth parasitic pathogens cause severe disease and are amongst the most important production-limiting diseases of grazing ruminants. Frequent anthelmintic use to control these infections has resulted in the selection of drug resistant helminth populations. Anthelmintic resistance (AR) is today found in all major helminth species across the EU and globally. COMBAR (COMBatting Anthelmintic Resistance in Ruminants) is a recently launched COST Action (2017) which aims to advance research on the prevention of AR in helminth parasites of ruminants and disseminate current knowledge among all relevant stakeholders. COMBAR aims to integrate, evaluate and assess the economic trade-off of the novel developments in the field mainly by networking and has already attracted scientists from 27 countries. The Network has been organised around 3 Working Groups (WG): WG1 "Improving Diagnosis" which aims to prioritise, evaluate and implement cost-effective methods for the diagnosis of helminth infections and AR; WG2 "Understanding the socio-economic aspects" which aims to develop, disseminate and apply methods to study the economics and human behaviour in the field of helminth control in ruminants and WG3 "Innovative, sustainable control methods" which aims to develop practical and sustainable helminth control strategies that integrate current insights from diagnostics, Targeted (Selective) Treatment approaches, epidemiology, anti-parasitic forages, vaccinology, farm economics and human behaviour.