

Part 1: Ready for Change?

Applying a few holistic management tools, may help you think, and see, differently for your operation.

by Kindra Gordon, field editor

As a holistic management educator, Joshua Dukart likes to ask those he works with to make two lists. The first is a list of the challenges faced in agriculture. Typically, people have no trouble with this assignment as the challenges come to mind fast and furious: weather, markets, labor, capital, land ownership, family relationships, equipment costs and regulations, among others.

Next, Dukart, who ranches near Hazen, N.D., with his family, asks people to make a list of the positives or opportunities in agriculture. Specifically, he poses the question, “If your farm or ranch was how you wanted it to be, what would it look like?”

To this question, Dukart is often met with a slower response. Then words like profitable, strategic, generational, proactive — and even fun, might be shared.

From this activity, Dukart hopes participants recognize that crisis management and challenges are where we often spend most of our time, but getting to that place where we identify and pursue our dreams deserves our time and attention, too.

For further perspective, he poses the question: Are you running towards your vision (which is the positive list), or are you running from your fears (the challenges and negative list)?

Dukart also asks, “Can we run a straight line if we are looking over our shoulder?” He says, “We spend a lot of time looking in the rearview mirror. We can’t accomplish our vision in survival mode. We need to be strategic,” with consideration given to quality of life, finances/economics and environment/ecology goals.



bigger, more efficient. But, because we are willing to work hard, absorb pain, put in more hours, we sometimes don’t take time to ask questions to get to root causes. But, do you have the tools to analyze what works and make decisions ... to decide if something is the right fit for you?”

He adds, “If you want to make small changes, change how you do things — grab a different tool. If you want to make big changes, change how you see things, and the small things will ultimately change too.”

How can you change how you see? Dukart encourages producers to look at their operations with new eyes and fresh ideas — and ask, why? “Ask a series of ‘why?’ questions to dig deeper, deeper, deeper. Why is so-and-so mad? Why is this not working? Why do we have pain?”

He adds, “It’s not about having the right answers, it’s about asking the right questions first.” Dukart explains that often we are all guilty of grabbing on to an answer (i.e. management or production strategy) because it worked for someone else or was well-advertised. But before doing that, he suggests considering “why” we need that strategy — or piece of equipment or management technique — for our own scenario.

Dukart notes, “To explore possibilities for the future, we need to navigate through the ‘why’

Tools to get there

To set the course toward business (and/or personal life) vision or dreams, Dukart suggests several management strategies may be valuable.

A central concept he suggests is asking “why” in order to change how we “see” things. He explains that too often we tell ourselves that working more hours, buying bigger equipment, or making more money will help fix the challenges we face.

Dukart believes, “Society today has become consumed with being faster,

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questions. It can be challenging, emotional, conflictual, threatening, uncomfortable and difficult; but it can also be powerful.”

For Dukart, perspective on this process came from a quote by one of his mentors Oklahoma rancher Walt Davis, who said, “The question should not be how to lower the cost

of a practice, but how to change the operation so that this practice may no longer be needed.”

Dukart explains, “In other words, we may gain some cost-cutting benefits by shaving with a scalpel, but sometimes we need to attack the issue with an axe or chainsaw mentality and totally change or eliminate the management in order to make it profitable.”

As examples from asking “why?” in his own operation, Dukart and his family have shifted to having some custom haying done, they’ve added sheep to graze underutilized areas, and they direct market their own beef to local consumers.

Points to ponder

Dukart offers these thoughts for consideration as you navigate through evaluating your business’s purpose:

Do you make decisions from an emotional stance, or do you take time to step back and gather information? Recognize that emotional or gut influences often affect a lot of choices that might have been made differently had you gathered more information. To

balance this, consider starting with a gut choice, then go through the process of gathering information

and re-ask the same question. See if your decision remains the same, or if you choose a different outcome.

Have you ever stopped to consider how many steps it takes to complete

certain tasks? Dukart says it used to take about 21 steps on their operation to get hay from the hay field to the cows and nutrients back to the field. From this he says, “The point is we are really good at making work for ourselves. And, once we get going on a path it is sometimes easier to keep going than to change and find a new way. But, to gain time, we need to be willing to think differently. For example, is it easier to take the cows to the hay in the field?” **AJ**

Editor’s note: Joshua and Tara Dukart have been practicing holistic management since 2008, identifying and working toward their financial, environmental and social goals. Joshua is a certified educator of holistic management. Learn more at www.seekfirsttranch.com. Watch for Part 2 of this article, with additional suggestions from Joshua Dukart for making your business effective and efficient.

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— Joshua Dukart

LONGRANGE®
(eprinomectin)

Extended-Release Injectable Parasiticide

5% Sterile Solution

For the Treatment and Control of Internal and External Parasites of Cattle on Pasture with Persistent Effectiveness

Not for use in female dairy cattle 20 months of age or older, including dry dairy cows. Not for use in calves to be processed for veal.

Not for use in breeding bulls, or in calves less than 3 months of age.

Not for use in cattle managed in feedlots or under intensive rotational grazing.

CAUTION: Federal law restricts this drug to use by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian.

INDICATIONS FOR USE

LONGRANGE, when administered at the recommended dose volume of 1 mL per 110 lb (50 kg) body weight, is effective in the treatment and control of the following internal and external parasites of cattle:

Gastrointestinal Roundworms	Lungworms
<i>Bunostomum phlebotomum</i> – Adults and L ₄	
<i>Cooperia oncophora</i> – Adults and L ₄	<i>Dicytycaulus viviparus</i> – Adults
<i>Cooperia punctata</i> – Adults and L ₄	
<i>Cooperia surmabada</i> – Adults and L ₄	Grubs
<i>Haemonchus placei</i> – Adults	
<i>Oesophagostomum radiatum</i> – Adults	<i>Hypoderma bovis</i>
<i>Ostertagia lyrata</i> – Adults	Mites
<i>Ostertagia ostertagi</i> – Adults, L ₄ and inhibited L ₄	
<i>Trichostrongylus axei</i> – Adults and L ₄	<i>Sarcoptes scabiei</i> var. <i>bovis</i>
<i>Trichostrongylus colubriformis</i> – Adults	

Parasites	Durations of Persistent Effectiveness
Gastrointestinal Roundworms	
<i>Bunostomum phlebotomum</i>	150 days
<i>Cooperia oncophora</i>	100 days
<i>Cooperia punctata</i>	100 days
<i>Haemonchus placei</i>	120 days
<i>Oesophagostomum radiatum</i>	120 days
<i>Ostertagia lyrata</i>	120 days
<i>Ostertagia ostertagi</i>	120 days
<i>Trichostrongylus axei</i>	100 days
Lungworms	
<i>Dicytycaulus viviparus</i>	150 days

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

LONGRANGE® (eprinomectin) should be given only by subcutaneous injection in front of the shoulder at the recommended dosage level of 1 mg eprinomectin per kg body weight (1 mL per 110 lb body weight). Each mL of LONGRANGE contains 50 mg of eprinomectin, sufficient to treat 110 lb (50 kg) body weight. Divide doses greater than 10 mL between two injection sites to reduce occasional discomfort or site reaction.

Do not underdose. Ensure each animal receives a complete dose based on a current body weight. Underdosing may result in ineffective treatment, and encourage the development of parasite resistance.

LONGRANGE is to be given subcutaneously only. Animals should be appropriately restrained to achieve the proper route of administration. Inject under the loose skin in front of the shoulder (see illustration) using a 16 or 18 gauge, ½ to ¾ inch needle.

Sanitize the injection site by applying a suitable disinfectant. Clean, properly disinfected needles should be used to reduce the potential for injection site infections.

Body Weight (lb)	Dose Volume (mL)
110	1
220	2
330	3
440	4
550	5
660	6
770	7
880	8
990	9
1100	10



Withdrawal Periods and Residue Warnings

Animals intended for human consumption must not be slaughtered within 48 days of the last treatment. This drug product is not approved for use in female dairy cattle 20 months of age or older, including dry dairy cows. Use in these cattle may cause drug residues in milk and/or in calves born to these cows. A withdrawal period has not been established for pre-ruminating calves. Do not use in calves to be processed for veal.

Animal Safety Warnings and Precautions

The product is likely to cause tissue damage at the site of injection, including possible granulomas and necrosis. These reactions have disappeared without treatment. Local tissue reaction may result in trim loss of edible tissue at slaughter.

Observe cattle for injection site reactions. If injection site reactions are suspected, consult your veterinarian. This product is not for intravenous or intramuscular use. Protect product from light. LONGRANGE (eprinomectin) has been developed specifically for use in cattle only. This product should not be used in other animal species.

When to Treat Cattle with Grubs

LONGRANGE effectively controls all stages of cattle grubs. However, proper timing of treatment is important. For the most effective results, cattle should be treated as soon as possible after the end of the heel fly (warble fly) season.

Environmental Hazards

Not for use in cattle managed in feedlots or under intensive rotational grazing because the environmental impact has not been evaluated for these scenarios.

Other Warnings: Parasite resistance may develop to any dewormer, and has been reported for most classes of dewormers.

Treatment with a dewormer used in conjunction with parasite management practices appropriate to the geographic area and the animal(s) to be treated may slow the development of parasite resistance. Fecal examinations or other diagnostic tests and parasite management history should be used to determine if the product is appropriate for the herd/flock, prior to the use of any dewormer. Following the use of any dewormer, effectiveness of treatment should be monitored (for example, with the use of a fecal egg count reduction test or another appropriate method).

A decrease in a drug's effectiveness over time as calculated by fecal egg count reduction tests may indicate the development of resistance to the dewormer administered. Your parasite management plan should be adjusted accordingly based on regular monitoring.

Macrocyclic lactones provide prolonged drug exposure that may increase selection pressure for resistant parasites. This effect may be more pronounced in extended-release formulations.

TARGET ANIMAL SAFETY

Clinical studies have demonstrated the wide margin of safety of LONGRANGE® (eprinomectin). Overdosing at 3 to 5 times the recommended dose resulted in a statistically significant reduction in average weight gain when compared to the group tested at label dose. Treatment-related lesions observed in most cattle administered the product included swelling, hyperemia, or necrosis in the subcutaneous tissue of the skin. The administration of LONGRANGE at 3 times the recommended therapeutic dose had no adverse reproductive effects on beef cows at all stages of breeding or pregnancy or on their calves.

Not for use in bulls, as reproductive safety testing has not been conducted in males intended for breeding or actively breeding. Not for use in calves less than 3 months of age because safety testing has not been conducted in calves less than 3 months of age.

STORAGE

Store at 77° F (25° C) with excursions between 59° and 86° F (15° and 30° C). Protect from light.

Approved by FDA under NADA # 141-327

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