

AREA: Breeding Beef Production

JOB 9: Recognizing and Controlling Parasites of Beef Cattle

SITUATION:

OBJECTIVES:

1. To develop an understanding of the common parasites that cause the greatest economical loss to beef cattle.
2. To develop an understanding of the prevention and control of beef parasites.
3. To develop the ability to recognize, prevent and control beef cattle parasites.

MOTIVATION:

1. Ask students to give their definition of a parasite. (A living organism living at the expense of another animal or organism)

STUDY GUIDES:

1. What are the common beef cattle parasites that cause the greatest economic loss?
2. How are beef parasites spread?
3. What are the symptoms of the common beef parasites?
4. How can beef parasites be prevented?
5. What is the recommended treatment for the common beef parasites?
6. What is the life cycle of the heel fly?
7. What other less important parasites is the beef operator usually concerned with?

REFERENCES:

1. Beef Cattle Science, Ensminger
2. The Stockman's Handbook, Ensminger
3. Franklin Serum Company, Catalog, Denver, Colorado

ANALYSIS:

Parasite	How Spread	Symptoms	Prevention	Treatment
Heel fly (Grubs or Warbles)	Heel fly lays eggs on animals' lower parts of legs.	Attack of heel fly in spring or early summer Causes cattle to run wildly with tail high over back. From Dec to May - bumps on back with breather holes in hide.	Complete extermination of grubs. Do not allow grubs to emerge from backs of cattle in a live stage	Rotenone (spray, dip or dust) 25 to 30 days after grubs appear in back: -- Pour on Co-Ral or Rue-lene after heel fly activity ceases.
Cattle lice	Direct contact of eggs on hairs of animals	Infestation occurs usually in Winter. Intense irritation, restlessness & loss of condition. Scratching, rubbing, or gnawing at skin, hair coat rough and lack luster	Spraying, dipping or dusting with insecticide in fall or early winter	Toxaphene-Lindane spray, Lindane-20% liquid concentrate or 25% wettable powder, rotenone. Apply at first sign of infestation.
Horn Fly	Adult fly lays eggs in droppings.	Infested animals have hornflies at base of horns and on poll. Refuse to graze during day. Seek dark areas to hide; rough, sore skin, loss in condition.	Spreading manure to hasten drying manure hauled away from buildings and spread thinly.	Insecticide sprays, back rubbers, dusting powders. Methoxychlor, Toxaphene, Malathion
Stablefly	Adult fly lays eggs in manure and decaying organic matter	Flies attack lower parts of animal's body, outer sides of front legs. Animals resort to standing in mud holes or heavy brush.	Proper disposal of manure and elimination of all fermenting or decaying organic material.	Insecticide sprays, throughout the fly season.

Recognizing and Controlling Parasites of Beef Cattle (Continued)

Analysis:

1. The life cycle of the heel fly begins with the adult female depositing eggs on hairs of lower parts of legs. Egg hatches within three to five days and tiny larvae force their way through the skin. The larvae, after nine months of wandering in hosts' body arrive at back. Here the larvae remain in back for about 5 weeks. After second molt larvae drops to ground and enter pupae stage and in 6 to 10 weeks emerge as adult flies.
2. Other parasites that the beef producer may be concerned with are:
  - a. Mites (which produce the disease known as mange or scabies)
  - b. Cattle ticks
  - c. Screw worm
  - d. Blowflies

PLAN OF ACTION:

1. Have local veterinarian speak to class on parasites.
2. Have students collect and prepare specimens of parasites.