

Most Dairy Cattle Have Worms, Study Indicates

Parasitic roundworms have research effort to discover infected some of the cows in an geographical patterns of round-estimated 98% of the nation's worm distribution in all U.S. dairy herds, according to a study cattle — beef, dairy and feeder. by Merck & Co., Inc. Some animals in almost all of the herds surveyed carried roundworm burdens. The actual states. It was part of a larger number of individual animals

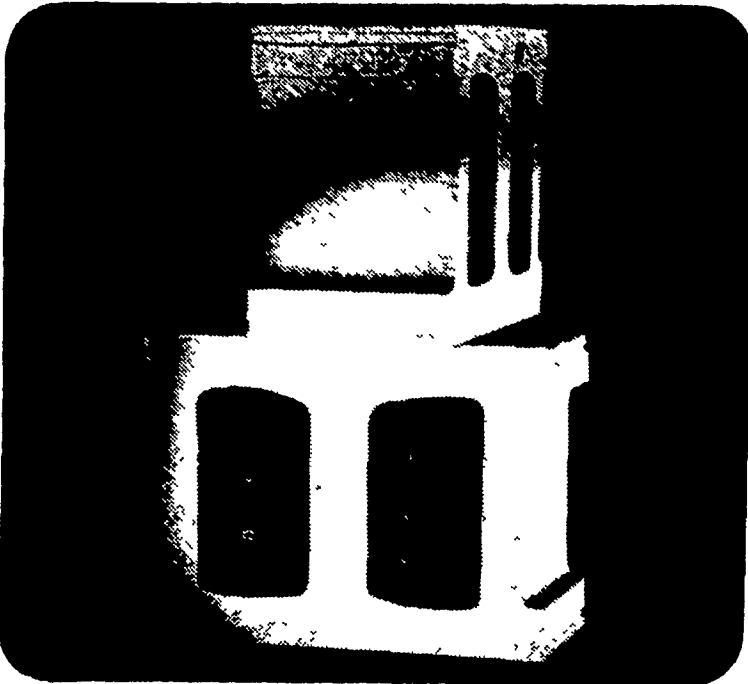
showing evidence of roundworm as Montana and Wisconsin—once infection averaged 67% of those thought to be relatively free of with fecal counts of less than 100 eggs were treated, indicating that roundworm infection may be present even in some cases where there is little evidence of it. Thus, they said, even though 67% — more than two-thirds of the individual dairy animals studied — proved to be harboring parasites by the above criteria, actually the true figure might be somewhat higher.

States covered in the survey While evidence of widespread parasite problems among beef cattle has been accumulating for some time, there has been a lack of similar basic information about patterns of infection in dairy cattle. In evaluating the figures for dairy herds, the researchers considered as "positive" only those samples which showed the presence of eggs through the Stoll or flotation methods, or which had a McMasters egg count of 100 or more. However, they pointed out that significant improvements in rate of gain and feed conversion have been

Noting the almost universal presence of roundworm evidence, the researchers concluded that "roundworms appear to be the most serious overall internal parasite problem in ruminants in the U.S." No difference, they said, was observed in the rate of herd infection between beef cattle and dairy cattle. Even in such northerly states

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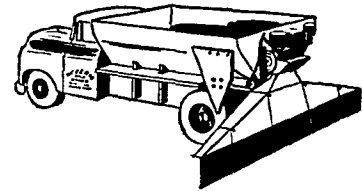
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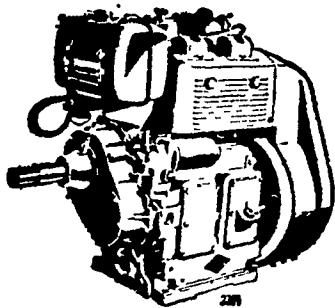
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