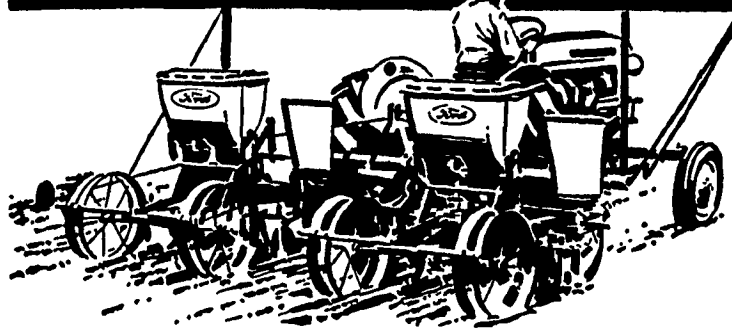


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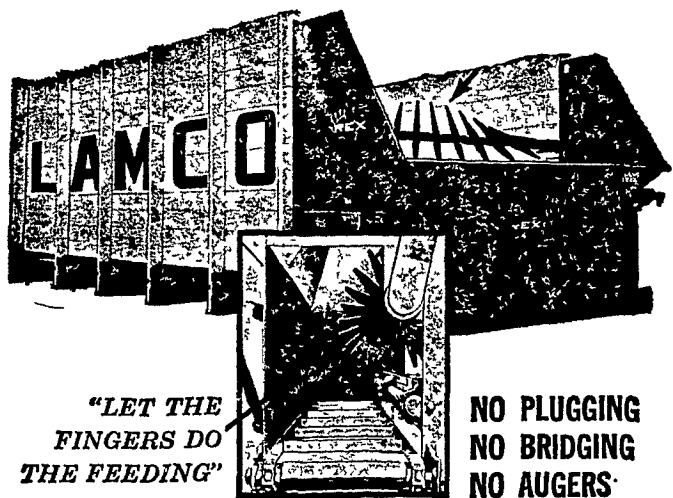
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**Researcher Says "Invisible Thieves" Steal \$250,000,000 In Cattle Profits Yearly**

An apparently healthy steed may have as many as 50,000 unseen mouths to feed, according to a Merck & Co., Inc., veterinary researcher. The extra mouths belong to one of four species of parasitic roundworms, which constitute a \$250 million annual problem for the U. S. cattle industry.

The Merck scientist, Dr. Robert Kilgore, made his observations during a seminar on parasite control held in Dallas, Texas. The two-day seminar was one of a series of educational sessions being held by Animal Health Products department of Merck Chemical Division for key management and sales personnel of farm supply and veterinary products distributors throughout the country.

Placed end to end, the roundworms in the "healthy-looking steer" postulated by Dr. Kilgore would stretch over 520 feet. "And there would be 96 hungry mouths to every foot," he said.

Despite the seriousness of the roundworm problem, it has gone largely unrecognized until now, Dr. Kilgore said. He summarized findings of 93 field tests made in all major cattle-producing areas of the country, reporting that treatment with the wormer 'Thibenzole' produced weight-gain advantages averaging .136 pounds per day per animal. Since almost every test was conducted among cattle showing no visible signs of parasite infection, he said, "it seems to have been proven beyond any reasonable doubt that routine

worming of healthy-looking cattle will produce significant weight gains on an overall basis."

His conclusion was fortified by a second study of 800 beef and dairy herds in various parts of the U. S. The study showed that 94% of the herds were infected with roundworms. 8 out of 10 of the individual animals were found to carry roundworm burdens that had been unsuspected before testing.

The "invisible thieves," as he characterized roundworms, can cost up to 36c a day in feeding a single parasitized calf. He cited an example from one research project which showed a roundworm burden in a representative calf costing 42 pounds in weight during a 2½ month period — some 11c a day in terms of market value. Inefficient feed conversion, amounting to an extra three pounds of rations per pound of animal, adds another 5c to 25c per day to the cost of feeding worms instead of cattle. "For a herd of 100 head," Dr. Kilgore said, that would mean a profit loss to the cattleman of between \$1,200 and \$2,700 during that 2½ month period.

"While he's wondering where the profit is going," Dr. Kilgore said, "it's disappearing down the throats of millions of roundworms."

The four "big destroyers" among cattle roundworms, he asserted, are: Haemonchus, the so-called Large Stomach Worm; Ostertagia, the Medium Stom-

ach Worm; Trichostrongylus, the Small Stomach Worm, and Cooperia, the Small Intestinal Worm. Ranging in size from 1¼ inches to only 2/5 of an inch, they burrow into digestive tissue, diverting food energy from their own use and sapping the animal's blood.

Yet despite the fact that some 8 out of 10 cattle are hosts to these tiny thieves, 95 out of 100 cases have gone unobserved and untreated until relatively recently.

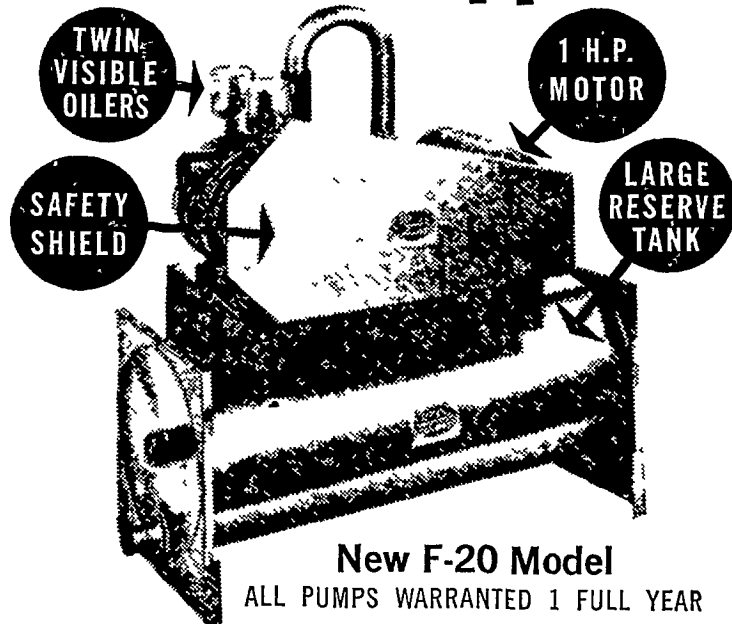
The Merck spokesman advocated that cattlemen adopt parasite control programs aimed at breaking the roundworm life cycle, plus regular worming with 'Thibenzole', the wormer which has been shown to be most consistently effective against the four major types of cattle roundworms.

Anti-worm programs, he said, constitute a solid investment for cattlemen and feedlot operators. In a series of coordinated tests involving 3,739 feedlot cattle, treatment with 'Thibenzole' produced an average of \$3 - \$4 in added gains for each \$1 invested in worming — a 300% return, with some individual tests disclosing returns of up to 500%. The gain was measured both in more efficient feed conversion plus more weight on the animals themselves. Such gains, Dr. Kilgore said, "can spell the difference between profit and no profit in marginal operations, and a very substantial increase for a profitable operation."



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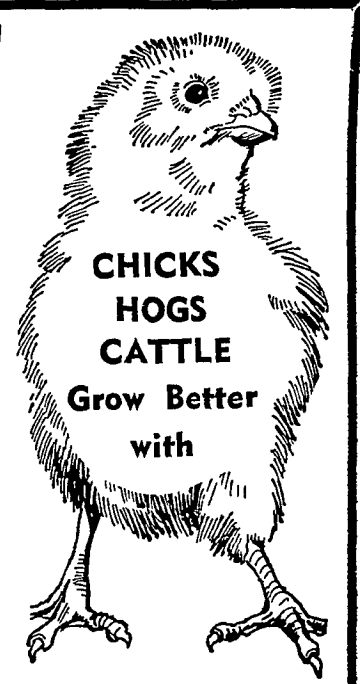


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