

Parasite Control Important In Fall, Winter

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Controlling parasites is a challenge for any cattleman. Keeping pests under control is cost-effective any time of the year, but fall and early winter weather offers superior opportunities to take steps that reduce possibilities of herd contamination.

Dr. John Hough, education and research director for the American Polled Hereford Association, said the fall season is a particularly susceptible period for infestation.

especially in warmer climates. With the milder winter and summer experienced this year, infections are more likely as well.

All cattle, particularly young ones, are affected by a number of internal parasites. These include roundworms, liver flukes, tapeworms, and single-celled parasites. All kinds of internal parasites can be economically significant and lower profit potential. Recognizing internal parasites, life cycles, and methods of infec-

tion can be of great benefit to your parasite control program.

Roundworms are very common and several species found in cattle of all ages across the country. The largest infections are usually found in weaning and yearling cattle. Depending upon the species, the worms may penetrate and migrate in tissue, suck blood, or otherwise cause small hemorrhages, cause erosion of surface layers of the gut lining, or cause formation of nodules. A major ef-

fect of roundworm infection is a severe loss of appetite resulting in failure to grow or even weight loss.

Noticing these and other signs associated with roundworm infection should be an indication to start controlling the problem. Complete eradication of roundworms is practically impossible. However, control can be obtained and maintained.

"Grazing management is one of the first areas to consider for para-

site control," said Hough. "Pastures considered to have the lowest levels of parasite infection should be reserved for younger, more susceptible stock. Reduced pasture contamination can result from the pasture being vacated for several weeks in summer for hay production, being grazed exclusively by older dry cows for several weeks, harvested cropland or rested pasture planted in annual forages, and frequent, extensive treatment with dewormers."

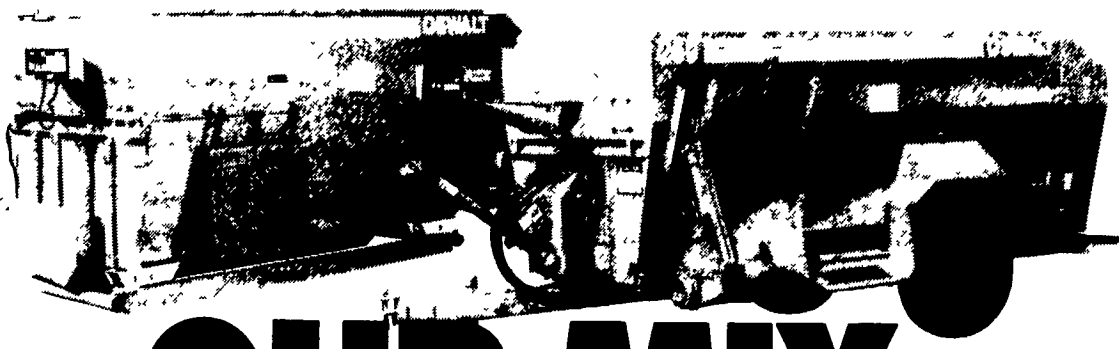
Hough also said that careful use of broad spectrum dewormers have significant benefits to help reduce parasite losses in cattle, whether roundworms or other internal parasites. The primary purpose of dewormers is to reduce levels of pasture contamination, not to cure sick animals.

"Be certain to apply dewormers at recommended rates and always follow label directions," Hough said. "More is not always better."

Hough emphasizes that you cannot eliminate all parasites, but control can often be cost-effective and increase the potential profits from your herd.

The local extension office or local veterinarian can provide additional information about parasite control.

YOU JUST CAN'T MATCH

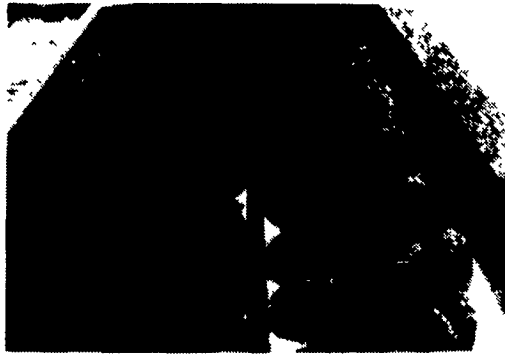


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