

Regardless of the specific type of operation you have, your cattle will be exposed to internal parasites at some point in their lives. Last week we discussed the threats that internal parasites can pose to cattle, and how failure to control internal parasites can quickly result in negative consequences for your cattle operation. Knowing the harm parasites can cause, it is important to understand methods available to help control their impact in an operation.

Using last week's discussion on the life cycle of the nematode, you may apply that knowledge to formulate a plan of how to eliminate them from your herd. Because part of the nematode's life is spent outside of the animal, this indicates that grazing and pasture management can play a role in eliminating internal parasites. It is most effective to plan your grazing system with the nematode life cycle in mind. Within fourteen days nematode eggs will hatch into infective larvae. The larvae then move from the manure pile and up the grass blades, where they will stay until they are eaten by the cattle as they graze. Depending on weather conditions, larvae will not stay alive longer than about one week if they are not consumed by the cattle. Rotational grazing can be implemented and managed in a way that the cattle are moved to a clean pasture before they have an opportunity to consume larvae contaminated forages. Further, grazing is most effective when cattle are provided ample amounts of forage to graze and are not forced to graze close to manure piles, which can quickly cause reinfestation. Quality of the forage can also affect the level of parasite infestation each animal may experience. Studies show that animals on a high plane of nutrition had a significantly reduced worm burden compared to animals receiving lower quality nutrition. This reiterates the point that healthy cattle with strong immune systems are more resistant to internal parasites.

In addition to proper grazing and pasture management, it may be wise to use a dewormer on the cattle. Although many types of dewormers are available, we encourage the use of LongRange injectable dewormer. This dewormer, ideal for calves and yearlings, such as stockers, is recommended primarily for its length of efficacy compared to other dewormers on the market. With 100-150 days of parasite control in one single dose, producers can feel confident that LongRange will last longer than the parasite life cycle, resulting in fewer parasites in the herd. Further, not only does LongRange last longer than other dewormers, but cattle given this product performed very well. Recent research at various locations across the United States showed an average of a 28 pound gain per animal over a 150 day period in cattle that were given LongRange compared to cattle given conventional dewormers. This could equate to a \$60 increase in revenue per calf.

With prices like they are, it is wise to do what we can to get the most out of our cattle. Don't let internal parasites be a silent killer in your operation. Take the necessary steps to ensure that your cattle are healthy and not affected by internal parasites so that they can perform well and make your operation as productive as possible. If you have any questions please contact us or visit <http://nofavt.org/assets/pdf/Parasites.pdf>.

Prices for feeder steers medium and large 1 sold through the Oklahoma National Stockyards on Wednesday, November 12, 2014 are as follows: 474lb- \$318.65, 567lb- \$288.43, 678lb- \$245.78, and 769lb- \$236.17. The price for January 2015 750lb feeder steers on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange was \$234.5 on closing Wednesday, November 12, 2014.

Thanks,
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