



COOPERATIVE EXTENSION PROGRAM  
*Prairie View A&M University*

# Fact Sheet

## PARASITE CONTROL IN CATTLE

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**Parasite control should be practiced to prevent infestations of ticks, lice, grubs, horn flies and others parasites that can cause irritation, spread disease and reduce weight gains. Self treatment devices such as dust bags and back rubs help to control fly and louse populations but do not work well on ticks. Treated ear tags, sprays, dips, and pour-ons work well for flies, lice and ticks.**

**Where there is a grub problem use the proper insecticides. Systemic insecticides are generally the most effective. Various pour-ons and some systemic sprays are also appropriate. It is not recommended that you treat animals for grubs with systemic insecticides and drench for internal parasites the same day.**

**Follow a program designed to provide adequate year-round nutrition. This should include pasture rotation which also helps to prevent heavy larval buildup. You should also utilize de-worming products to break cycle of adult female worms that populate pastures with viable worm eggs. Depending on other factors, worm control in the fall and spring will help to prevent internal damage to livestock that result in lower milk production, poor feed conversion and reduced weight gains in growing calves.**

**There are numerous broad spectrum products available for use. They can be found in various forms include injectable agents, pastes, bolus, drench or feed additives. De-worming products should be varied from year to year to prevent a buildup of resistance by the internal parasites. Under extensive range conditions, worming may be less important than under intensive pasture situations such as irrigated pastures.**

**Some tips to help manage parasite problems are to de-worm cows prior to calving to reduce parasite infection in their calves and nutrient loss in cows due to worms. Also, rotating pastures approximately every 30 days can help control some parasite problems.**

**When using any type of pharmaceutical product, remember to always follow the instructions printed on the label. You may also want to consult your veterinarian about the proper recommendation of various products and instructions on how to administer the product.**

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