Healthy Heifer™

Parasite Control

Avoid Productivity Losses Caused by Internal and External Parasites

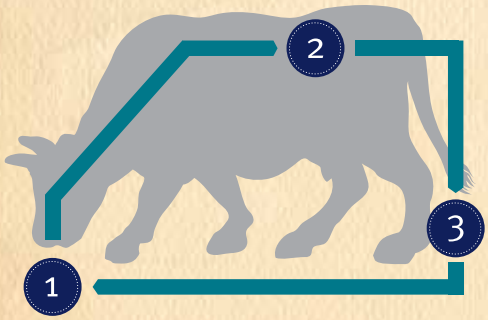
Economic losses in the United States from parasitic infections of livestock have been estimated at more than $3 billion a year.[1] Persistent subclinical levels of parasitism in beef cattle are known to cause reduced weight gain, poor feed conversion and increased incidence of disease.

A recent study from Iowa State University concluded that parasite control is one of the most economically important practices in beef production.[2] Heifers and younger animals are more susceptible to clinical infections than adult cows. Consequently, when developing parasite control programs, beef producers are advised to pay special attention to heifers, as they are much more likely to attain maximum growth potential and reach breeding age sooner when they are not burdened by parasite loads.

Each beef operation has its own unique environmental considerations based on geographic location, pasture dynamics and prevalence of certain parasite species. Your herd veterinarian has the expertise and regional knowledge necessary to design a parasite control program that meets your specific needs.

In some areas of the U.S., properly dewormed cattle have achieved increased gains of as much as 60 pounds during the grazing season.[1]

STRATEGIC DEWORMING PROGRAMS FOCUS ON BREAKING THE PARASITE LIFECYCLE TO REDUCE POPULATIONS AND PREVENT REINFECTION



1 Cattle ingest infective larvae while grazing.
2 Inside the cow, larvae develop into adult nematodes which lay eggs in the digestive tract.
3 Eggs are passed in manure and develop into infective larvae present in the pasture.

Key considerations to discuss with your veterinarian:

- **Deworming Schedule & Frequency** – Determine which deworming products to use and the appropriate timing and frequency of treatments. Several types of dewormers are available, including pastes, pour-ons, feed additives, injectables and oral drenchs. Your veterinarian can help you select dewormers that are most effective and convenient for your operation.
- **Pasture Management Practices** – Depending on your pasture situation and the advice of your veterinarian, these may include moving heifers and younger cattle to pastures that were not grazed in the last 12 months and placing less susceptible, mature cattle on more heavily grazed pastures.
- **Parasite Diagnostic Tests** – Fecal exams are inexpensive and can be used to determine existing parasite loads and appropriate treatments. Periodic testing as recommended by your veterinarian can be used to evaluate the effectiveness of your deworming program and determine if any changes are necessary.

To learn more, visit www.healthyheifer.com or consult with your veterinarian to enroll in this one-of-a-kind, veterinarian-verified heifer management program.

1. Beef Cattle Resource Committee. Internal Parasites in Cattle. In: *Beef Cattle Handbook.* Ames, Iowa: MidWest Plan Service, Iowa State University.
2. Lawrence JD, Ibarburu MA. Economic Analysis of Pharmaceutical Technologies in Modern Beef Production. Iowa State University, 2007. Available at: www.econ.iastate.edu/faculty/lawrence/documents/GET7401-LawrencePaper.pdf. Accessed June 3, 2009.