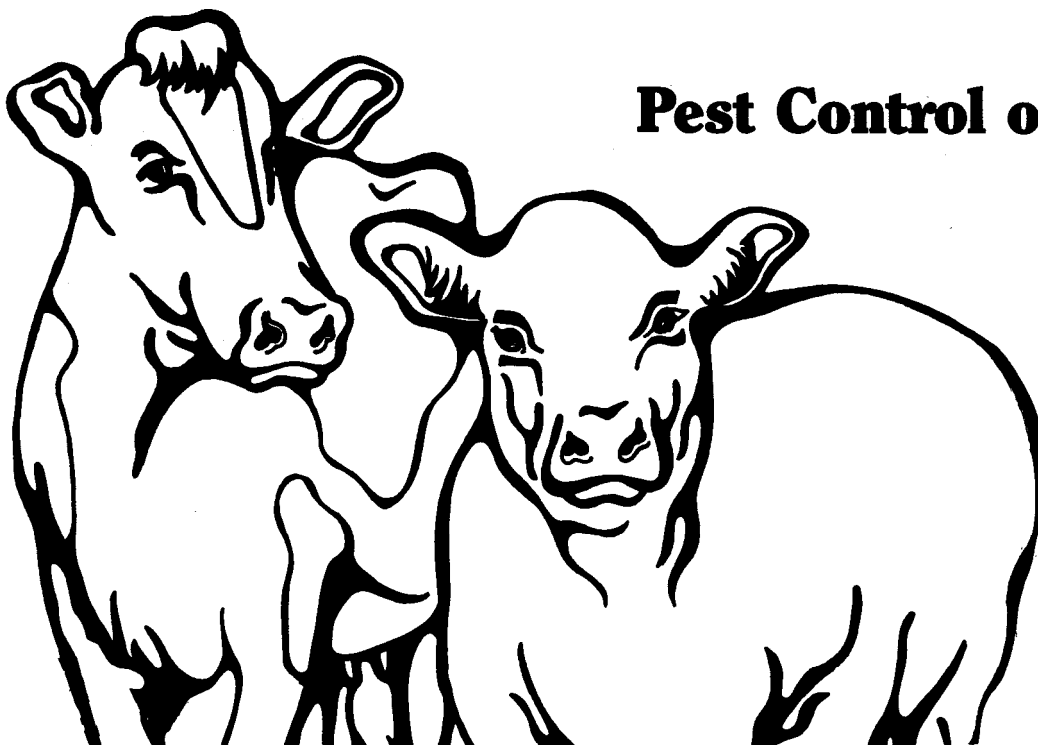


Pest Control on Cattle

W.L. Gojmerac



Lice, grubs and mange mites cause discomfort to animals. Heavy infestations can sometimes weaken animals, make them more susceptible to other diseases, arrest their growth, and lower milk production. Good cattle management includes pest control.

LICE CONTROL

Two types of lice infest Wisconsin cattle. The biting louse does not pierce the skin, but feeds on hair, scales and skin secretions. The sucking louse pierces the skin and sucks blood. It can weaken animals making them more susceptible to diseases which can cause death.

Wisconsin cattlemen should make provisions for louse control each fall. Don't wait until you notice the problem. Louse infestations can and should be prevented.

A number of insecticides are approved for use on beef. These are listed inside this publication, along with important restrictions. Use the method of application (spray, dust, black rubber, pour-on, spot-on) best suited for your operation.

For dairy cattle, clipping hair off the tail, back, shoulders, and neck in late October and November will prevent biting louse build-up.

Chemicals approved for direct application to milking dairy cattle are coumaphos (CoRal), crotoxyphos (Ciodrin), malathion dust (5 hours before milking), methoxychlor, permethrin, pyrethrin, and stirofos (Rabon). A mixture containing dichlorvos (Vapona) and crotoxyphos (Ciodrin) is also available. Do not repeat more often than specified on the product label. Some milk-marketing organizations object to the use of dusts on milking dairy cattle. Check with your fieldman before purchasing a product.

GRUB CONTROL

Both northern and common grubs attack Wisconsin cattle. Grubs can be detrimental either as adults by disturbing cattle or as larvae by damaging meat and hides.

Control is similar for both grub species. They go through four stages: egg, larva, pupa and adult. Adults are also called gadflies or heel flies. They attach the eggs to the legs or undersides of animals. In 2 to 6 days, the eggs hatch and the larvae burrow through the animals' skin to the tissue. Once inside, grubs migrate to the animals' back by spring. There the larvae live in the tissue and form holes in the cow's hide. It is to your advantage to treat cattle *destined for slaughter* when grubs are in the back. Under normal conditions for Wisconsin cattle this is between February and May. The hide of a grubby animal will have holes and the carcass (loin area) might require extra trimming. Unfortunately, packers don't necessarily distinguish between bruised areas, mechanical hide puller, and grub damage. If your animals are grub free, however, you can eliminate that portion of the dockage. Buyers usually discount obviously grubby animals.

TIMING OF TREATMENT

Excellent (95%-100%) control is usually achieved if the insecticide is applied before larvae (grubs) are 6 months old. If cattle are gadding in early spring and treatment is delayed until December 1, the grubs could be too mature to be effectively controlled. Not only are old grubs more difficult to kill, but treated cattle might experience an adverse host-parasite reaction. If cattle are treated before the heel fly season is over, late emerging grubs could still infest after treatment. In southern areas where the heel fly season is longer, two treatments 3 to 4 months apart are suggested.

Products Registered for control Treatments for Lice and Grubs in Beef Cattle

Product	Pest	Days Before Slaughter	Method of Application
chlorpyrifos (Dursban)	lice	14	Spot on
coumaphos (Coral)	grubs	0	pour on, spray
	lice	0	dust, spray
crotoxyphos (Ciodrin)	lice	0	dust, spray
famphur (Warbex)	grubs, lice	35	pour on
fenthion (Lysoff) (Spotton) (Tiguvon)	lice	35	pour on
	grubs	45	spot on
	grubs, lice	35	pour on
ivermectin (Ivomec)*	See note below	—	—
lindane	lice	30	spray
malathion (Cythion)	lice	0	backrubber, spray, dust
methoxychlor (Marlate)	lice	0	dust, backrubber
permethrin	lice	0	spray
phosmet (Prolate)	grubs, lice	21	spray, pour on, dust
stirofos (Rabon)	lice	0	spray, dust
trichlorfon (Neguvon)	grubs	21	pour on

* Ivermectin is one of a new class of pesticides discovered in fermentation broth from a special kind of microbial culture.

Ivomec is a nerve poison but its mode of action differs from the conventional phosphate, carbamate and chlorinated hydrocarbons. It is extremely effective in controlling some insects, mites and roundworms (nematodes) and is effective against mange mites, blood-sucking lice, grubs and bots. However, its specific mode of action means it is effective against roundworms (nematodes) but not against tapeworms and flukes.

Ivomec is currently approved for use on horses and cattle. There is a 35 day withdrawal period before slaughter. It is not to be used on female dairy cattle of breeding age.

Ivomec is injected subcutaneously at the rate of 200 micrograms per kilogram of body weight. The dosage on hogs is 300 micrograms per kilogram, with an 18-day withdrawal period.

References to pesticide products in this publication are for your convenience and are not an endorsement of one product over other similar products. You are responsible for using pesticides according to the manufacturer's current label directions. Follow directions exactly to protect the environment and people from pesticide exposure. Failure to do so violates the law.

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