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Keeping Hogs Free Of Parasites

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OKLAHOMA SERVICE, OKLAHOMA LAND AND M. COLLEGE
S. L. W. BROWN, Director
Stillwater, Oklahoma

KEEPING HOGS FREE OF PARASITES

by

STIRLING KYD, Associate
Extension Entomologist

The most important parasites of hogs in Oklahoma are lice, mange, and round worms.

HOG LICE

WHAT TO USE FOR CONTROL

Either rotenone or DDT will control hog lice.

To use rotenone, mix 2½ pounds of cube or derris powder (which must contain 5 percent actual rotenone) to 100 gallons of water, or use 5 level teaspoonfuls of powder to each gallon of water.

To use DDT, mix 4 pounds of 50 percent DDT wettable powder into 100 gallons of water, or use 2 level tablespoonfuls of 50 percent powder to each gallon of water.

DDT or rotenone will give better results than the old oiling method of control.

How to Use It

Rotenone and DDT are both applied as sprays or dips. An oil drum with the top cut out makes a good dipping vat for treating small pigs, but regular hog vats are needed for heavier animals. Few vats are available, so spraying is usually the most practical way of treating.

Since the hog hair coat is thin, high nozzle pressures are not needed. When large numbers are to be treated, the job can be done quicker with power sprayers, but small inexpensive sprayers (such as pack-pack sprayers, compressed air garden sprayers, bucket pumps, etc.) will give good results on the average farm.

Treat all hogs on the farm, and thoroughly wet each one. Spraying several at a time in a crowding pen gives better results than treating each individually. Crowding and crawling over each other helps wet the under sides.

If the hogs are dipped, shove the head under a time or two so that the whole body will be wet.

WHEN TO USE IT

Few lice are found on hogs during the summer, but they start multiplying early in the fall. The ideal time to treat is early in the fall, just as this build-up begins.

Since there is nothing that can be relied upon to kill both lice and louse eggs, two treatments must be applied 14 days

apart. *Good control should not be expected unless the second treatment is made.*

Both time and insecticides can be saved if all hogs are treated several weeks before the sows farrow. This avoids treating the pig crop.

HOG MANGE

WHAT TO USE FOR CONTROL

A hot lime-sulphur spray or dip has been the standard control of hog mange for several years. One gallon of commercial liquid lime-sulfur is used in 25 gallons of water. This mixture must be heated and kept at 95 to 105 degrees Fahrenheit while being applied. Control cannot be expected if the material is not applied hot.

HOW TO USE IT

Hogs may be sprayed or dipped. If dipped, hold them in the vats at least three minutes. If sprayed, it is necessary to completely cover the animals. Control by spraying depends largely on the thoroughness of the treatments.

On small bunches of hogs, pack-pack sprayers, bucket pumps, etc., will give good results. Power sprayers will get the job done quicker on large bunches.

WHEN TO USE IT

Treat as soon as mange is noticed. The number of applications depends upon the degree of infestation. Cases caught early can usually be cleared up in three treatments. If scabs have formed, as many as seven are often necessary. Make applications at 6 to 7-day intervals.

CONTROL WITH NEW INSECTICIDES

A benzene hexachloride spray or dip containing 0.25 percent gamma isomer (made by mixing 20 pounds of benzene hexachloride wettable powder containing 10 percent gamma isomer in 100 gallons of water) has recently been found to give a good control of mange. Only one application is necessary, *But use this material with caution.*

Benzene hexachloride, as it now appears on the market, has a very disagreeable odor. Animals treated absorb the odor, and it will remain as long as 60 days. During this time, *the meat is unfit for human consumption.* If the benzene hexachloride treatment is used, *it must be applied at least 60 days, and preferably 90 days, before hogs are marketed or slaughtered.*

ROUND WORMS IN HOGS

WHAT TO USE FOR CONTROL

Worm medicines alone will not keep hogs free of round worms. General sanitation and running hogs on clean ground

are important steps of control. Worm eggs are laid in the hog intestines and are passed to the ground in the feces. On the ground they are continually being picked up by other hogs. Since each female worm may lay as many as 250,000 eggs a day, lots used year after year become thoroughly contaminated. This means hogs raised in these lots are always wormy.

Worm medicines, however, will aid greatly in avoiding excessive damage when used regularly.

Sodium fluoride, used at the rate of 1 part in 99 parts of ground feed (such as chicken laying mash or calf meal), will kill 90 to 98 percent of the worms in the hogs. *To avoid injuring the hogs, the mixture must be used according to directions.*

How to Use It

Sodium fluoride must be *thoroughly mixed* in the ground feed. Separate hogs *by size and weight* into groups of not more than 20 to 30. Feed the mixture and *give only what will be eaten in one day*. An average 40 to 50 pound shoat will eat about 2 to 2½ pounds of feed per day.

Only a one day treatment is needed. All feed left over should be removed from the trough, *and must not be fed to any other livestock.*

WHEN TO USE IT

Give hogs a worm treatment 15 days before and another 15 days after being moved to clean ground. This will help prevent spreading worm eggs.

Treat hogs that are running in old lots three times at 30 to 45-day intervals.

CAUTIONS

Sodium fluoride is very poisonous and must be handled with caution. The feed mixture must be kept away from all other types of livestock.

It is not necessary to cut down on feed the day before the treatment is given. If hogs have not been on full grain feed, they should not be treated until they have been full fed 3 or 4 days. If this is not done, they may eat too much of the sodium fluoride mixture.

Feed the mixture dry. Do not mix it in a slop.

The sodium fluoride must be thoroughly mixed with the ground feed. Otherwise, some pigs would get too much and be killed, while others would not get enough to kill the worms.