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EC1533 Mange and Lice of Hogs

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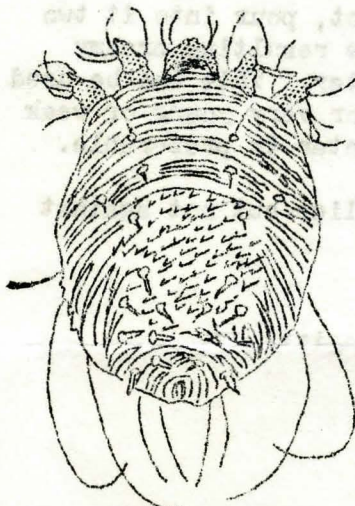
U. of N. Agr. College & U. S. Dept. of Agr. Cooperating
W. H. Brokaw, Director, Lincoln

Mange and Lice of Hogs

Introduction

Mange mites and lice are the most common external parasites of hogs. All classes and ages are attacked, but injury is greatest on pigs. Hogs kept in insanitary quarters and those that are poorly fed or in an unthrifty condition are particularly likely to suffer from these pests. Their attacks irritate the animals, cause restlessness and rubbing, slow down growth, reduce vitality, increase feed costs, and lower the animals' value for pork. In extreme cases they may cause the death of pigs.

Mange

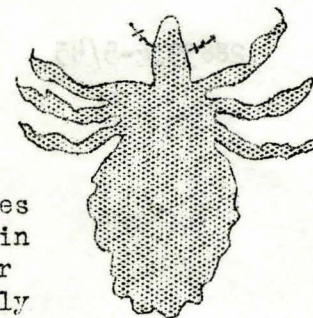


"Mange Mite"

Common mange or scabies is caused by a tiny whitish mite, Sarcoptes scabiei suis, that is so small as to be scarcely visible to the naked eye. It burrows into the skin, forming tunnels where it lives and lays the eggs that soon produce more mites. Its work causes intense itching, and the animal rubs vigorously and frequently against any rough object. This frequent, violent rubbing is usually the first symptom of mange. Then the hair begins to fall, and in later stages the skin becomes thickened or scabby, and wrinkles and cracks. It commonly begins about the ears, eyes or nose, but may spread over the entire body.

Lice

The hog louse, Haematopinus suis, is the largest louse attacking livestock, often reaching a length of a quarter inch. It is bluish gray in color and has a sharp piercing beak with which it punctures the animal's skin and sucks out blood. The females lay and glue their eggs or nits on the hairs, and these hatch in 12 to 20 days. As one louse may lay from 75 to 150 eggs in her egg laying period of 25 days, they increase quite rapidly. Only 10 or 12 days are required for the newly hatched lice to mature. They are most commonly found around the eyes and ears, and other areas where the skin is tender, but may become generally distributed over the body.



"Hog Louse"

Control Measures

Treatments for either lice or mange of hogs should be repeated three or four times in order to secure complete eradication, and they should be spaced 10 to 14 days apart. Dipping, as it gives a more thorough coverage, is most effective, but sprays or washes may be used with good results where dipping is not practical or convenient. Regardless of what treatment is used on the animals, the sleeping quarters may prove a source of reinfestation. They should be cleaned well, all old bedding removed and burned, and the quarters then treated thoroughly with one of the coal tar-cresote dips; following the manufacturers' directions. Following are materials that have been found to be effective:

1. Crude petroleum oil is effective against both mange and lice. Dipping may be done in a vat of water having several inches of crude oil on its surface. Small pigs may be dipped in a tub or barrel. Crude oil thinned with kerosene may be used to spray the animals. Dipping or spraying with oil should not be done in extremely cold weather nor while it is very hot. Shade should be provided, and the animals protected both from extremes of temperature for a day or two, and from direct sunlight in hot weather. Used crankcase oil is sometimes used for spraying the animals but is not as good as the crude oil-kerosene mixture.

2. Lime-sulphur will control mange but is not effective against lice. Use one gallon of commercial liquid lime-sulphur to 25 gallons of water. Three pounds of dry lime-sulphur may be used in place of a gallon of commercial liquid lime-sulphur. Lime-sulphur dips should be used at a temperature of 95 to 105° F. Hold hogs in the dip until scales are well soaked.

3. Kerosene emulsion is very effective against lice. To make it, dissolve about one quarter pound of laundry soap in one gallon of soft, hot water. When the soap has all dissolved and the solution is still hot, pour into it two gallons of kerosene and stir the mixture vigorously. Of the resulting creamy emulsion one part is added to 8 or 10 parts of warm soft water. This can be used as a spray or applied by means of a stiff fibered brush. For very young or weak pigs one part of the creamy emulsion to 15 or 20 parts of water is preferable.

4. Coal tar-creosote dips are effective against lice but not against mange. In using them follow the manufacturers' directions.

(Prepared by O. S. Bare, Extension Entomologist)

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