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Nebraska

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK
IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS

U. of N. Agr. College & U. S. Dept. of Agr. Cooperating
H. G. Gould, Associate Director, Lincoln

E. C.
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SODIUM FLUORIDE FOR SWINE ROUNDWORMS

by

S. W. Alford

Until a few years ago there was no highly effective remedy for roundworms in swine. Fifty to seventy per cent efficiency in removing roundworms was the best one could expect from agents employed for this purpose prior to 1944.

Federal Bureau of Animal Industry scientists realizing the short-comings of the agents formerly employed, began systematic research in this field and in 1944 announced that sodium fluoride was the answer to the problem. For effectiveness, convenience, economy, and safety, it was the best agent discovered for this purpose. In their experimental tests it was reported to be nearly 95% efficient.

For worming purposes it is fed to hogs mixed thoroughly with dry ground feed at the rate of one pound to 99 pounds of the feed (1% mixture). Mix enough to last the swine to be treated for 24 hours and let them have continuous access to the medicated ground feed mixture throughout the 24 hour period. If any of the mixture is left in the troughs at the end of the 24 hour feeding period, clean it out and mix it with the next days regular feeding. Do not throw it out where other livestock or chickens may eat it. Sufficient feeding space should be provided so that each pig will get its share.

The amount of ground feed required to last for 24 hours can be estimated as follows: - The average pig weighing 100 pounds will eat about 4 pounds. On this basis 100 pounds of the medicated grain mixture would treat 25 pigs weighing 100 pounds each. This scale can be adjusted to any number of pigs of varying weights.

It is not necessary to fast pigs prior to treatment. If the dry ground grain mixture used in the treatment is entirely different from what the pigs are used to eating it is recommended that it be fed to the pigs a few days prior to feeding the medicated mixture to accustom the pigs to eating it.

In most cases two treatments -- one soon after weaning and the second two or three months later -- are enough for pigs raised to ordinary market weights. It is best not to administer sodium fluoride in any other way than in dry ground feed. There is danger of adverse effects if the chemical is given in capsule or drenches or in garbage, slops, or milk.

Do not guess at weights. Weigh both the feed and chemical accurately.

CAUTION

Sodium fluoride is a dangerous poison and should be handled as such. It is normally a white powder. Its preparation in tinted form is a safety precaution that reminds the user that he is dealing with a poison and also helps him to distinguish it from other substances. Any of the chemical left over should be stored in a safe place where playing children will not find it. It should never be stored in the kitchen where it might be mistaken for a harmless ingredient for cooking and baking purposes.

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