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CC76 Extra $1,000,000 Hold Up Each Year by Cattle Grubs

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each year by

CATTLE GRUBS

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS, UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE COOPERATING. (20 M)
D U S T

Derris or cube (5% rotenone) .................. 1 part
Carrier ............................................. 2 parts

Carriers in order of effectiveness are: double ground tripoli earth, micronized volcanic ash, finely ground pyrophyllite, and superfine dusting sulfur.

Good results may be secured from dusts containing as low as 1% rotenone but dusts of 1½% or more give consistently higher kills.

A duster can be made by punching holes in the lid of a quart jar with a 20 penny nail. Ruffle the hair during the application so that the powder goes down to the skin. One pound of powder will treat 8 to 15 head, depending on number of grubs and thickness of the hair. Two people can treat about 100 head per hour by running them through a chute. Dusting is the most practical treatment for small herds.
Prepared by the Department of Entomology and Animal Husbandry and the Extension Service, College of Agriculture, University of Nebraska
SPRAY

Derris or cube (5% rotenone) ..................... 7 1/2 lbs.
Water ...................................................... 100 gal.

Start the agitator and slowly pour the powder into the water. Then spray it on the animals, using at least 350 lbs. pressure. One hundred gallons will treat 125 to 200 head of cattle in an hour at a material cost of 3 to 5 cents per animal.

For native cattle, make the first application in January and repeat about 30 days later. A third treatment 30 days after the second may be needed. For southern cattle, treatment should start in December.

For only a few animals and where other materials are not available, one can get fair control by squeezing the grubs out by hand or by putting a few drops of benzol into each grub hole.

DIP

The following dip may be used where large herds are to be treated and a dipping vat is available. It is best suited for range cattle.

Derris or cube (5% rotenone) ..................... 10 lbs.
Sodium lauryl sulphate (Dreft) ............. 2 oz.
Water ...................................................... 100 gal.

Make powder into thick paste with hot water. Add more hot water to thin. Pour over surface of water in vat, and add sodium lauryl sulphate. Stir well. Hold animals in vat for 2 minutes to insure thorough wetting. Their motions keep the dip stirred.

The first dipping should be given in January as soon as live grubs can be found in animals' backs. A second dipping should follow 30 days later. If lice are a problem, the time between these dippings should be only 15 days, but if possible, a third dipping should be given 30 days after the second to kill the late grubs.
WASH

The dip formula may be used also as a wash for control of cattle grubs. From a pint to a quart is needed per animal. It may be applied from a glass jar having the lid perforated with a dozen or more 1/4 inch holes. The dip should be scrubbed well into the animal's coat, from shoulder to hip, with a stiff-bristled brush. Thoroughness in this is very important.

DAMAGE

Every year, cattle grubs damage hides in excess of $500,000 in Nebraska, and greatly decrease the amount and quality of leather produced. They also greatly reduce the milk supply and the quality of beef, and waste large amounts of feed.

LIFE HISTORY

The grub is the larva of the heel fly, which lays her eggs on the lower part of the animal from April to June. The grubs hatch, bore through the skin and migrate through the animal's body for about 8 months. Then they appear in lumps in the backs of the animals from December to March. When mature, the grubs come out of the openings in the lumps and drop to the ground where they develop into flies.

COOPERATION

The cleaning up of local areas will give lasting benefits because flies seldom travel more than a mile.