

Internal parasites and acorn toxicity are two topics that should be on the forefront of producers' minds this time of year. This week we want to briefly go over these topics to remind producers of the importance they have and the risk that they can be to your operation.

Acorns pose the biggest threat when ample quality forage is not available for your cattle. The cattle typically consume large quantities of acorns, which then creates toxicity in the animal. Affected cattle may develop a lack of appetite, have diarrhea, and may even become emaciated. If it is not treated, kidney damage may occur, resulting in chronic poor-doing cattle, or even death.

In the past several weeks we have seen many cases of internal parasites in adult cattle. This is likely a result of the increase in incidence of internal parasites due to the wet weather we have been experiencing. Internal parasites have been found to affect the health and performance of cattle, causing digestive, immune, and reproductive issues in the cattle. This enhances the argument that producers should be ever aware of the impact that internal parasites have in their herd, and should formulate a plan to eliminate, or minimize the negative toll they may take on the cattle.

We urge you to keep these things in mind this fall, and take special care to ensure that internal parasites and acorn toxicity do not affect your herd. For more on these topics, please contact us or visit our Herd Health tab at [hcvethospital.com](http://hcvethospital.com).

Thanks,  
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