

Today there are many different methods of parasite control on the market- ranging anywhere from injectables to pour-ons, to sprays and even feed supplements. Producers essentially have endless possibilities when it comes to formulating a parasite control program for their herd. However, not all methods work the same, and some methods provide better protection than others. In our last article we discussed the importance of having a parasite control program for your operation. This week we want to provide supplemental information on this topic, and help you decide which methods may work best in your operation.

When producers think about parasites, they often think about internal parasites such as worms. Although worms can be detrimental if not controlled, producers should remember to control external parasites as well. A parasite control that targets lice as well as internal parasites is critical. Just like internal parasites, lice have been shown to interfere with cattle performance, which may affect productivity and profitability of the operation. The best way to control the parasites is to implement a plan that will cover both internal and external parasites. We recommend using a combination of an injectable **and** a pour-on that are labeled for the control of internal and external parasites. The use of two different types of products has been found to work more effectively at controlling parasites compared to the use of only one product.

Although a thorough parasite control program can greatly benefit any type of cattle, it is particularly important in performance cattle. This includes show cattle, breeding heifers, and feeder steers that you may be trying to add weight to in order to resell at a later time. Remember, these cattle will be most productive when there is an effective parasite control program in place. If you have any questions about implementing a customized herd parasite control program in your operation, please contact us.

Thanks,
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