1979 Recommendations for Controlling External Parasites of Swine

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Hog Lice

The major external parasite attacking hogs in Missouri is the hog louse. These insects obtain their food by puncturing the skin of the host animal with their mouthparts and sucking blood. Each time they feed they puncture the skin at a different place. The irritation and itching caused by puncturing the skin causes the animal to rub against any convenient object. The animals may rub off the hair in patches and may even rub hard enough to cause bleeding.

Hogs which are in an unthrifty condition may be more susceptible to attack by hog lice, other parasites and diseases. Louse infested hogs, particularly young pigs, may exhibit a reduced feed efficiency rate.

The adult female louse may reach a length of 1/4 inch. The egg or “nits” are glued to the hair, close to the skin. The female louse may lay 90 eggs during a 25 to 30 day period. The eggs hatch in 12 to 20 days. The young lice become mature in 10 to 12 days. The entire life cycle is passed on the host. Hog lice do not remain attached to the skin like ticks, but detach after each feeding and may crawl around over the animal or remain quiet.

To prevent a severe louse problem from developing, treat pigs as soon as possible after weaning (See GENERAL PRECAUTIONS and RESTRICTIONS), treat sows 30-45 days before farrowing, and treat boars before breeding season. If new hogs are added to the herd, treat them before turning them in with those already on hand. Treat purchased feeder pigs before turning them in with home grown animals.

Mange

Mange-infested animals have a reduced growth rate, a reduced vitality, and may have a high death rate.

Mange is a scabies or itch caused by mites. Hogs may be infested with two kinds of mange. Sarcoptic mange usually starts around the head then spreads backwards eventually covering the entire body. The itch mites that cause sarcoptic mange live in the upper surface of the skin. These mites are small, whitish parasites with a rounded body about 1/50 to 1/60 of an inch in length. Although they may be seen with the naked eye, the use of a hand lens in examining skin scrapings from the suspected animal is advisable.

The affected area often takes on a dry, scurfy or leather-like appearance. Active mites causes irritation and the hogs will scratch themselves, sometimes so much that the skin becomes raw and scabby.

Sarcoptic mange is contagious and is usually transmitted by direct contact with infested animals. Man and some other animals may become infested with hog sarcoptic mange. It is advisable to bathe and change clothes as soon as possible after handling mangy hogs.

To prevent sarcoptic mange from developing, treat pigs as soon as possible after weaning (See GENERAL PRECAUTIONS and RESTRICTIONS). Treat sows 30-45 days before farrowing, and treat boars before breeding season. If new hogs are added to the herd, treat them before turning them in with those hogs already on hand. Treat purchased feeder pigs before turning them in with home grown animals.

Demodectic mange is caused by hog follicle mites that live in the hair follicles and oil glands of the skin of the hog. These mites cause hard, round swellings on or just under the surface of the skin. The very small, worm-like mites are microscopic, being about 1/100 of an inch in length.

There is no completely satisfactory chemical control for these mites, although the insecticides recommended for the control of the itch mites may aid in controlling follicle mites. Severely infested animals should be killed and destroyed. Less severely infested animals should be marketed for slaughter. Clean and disinfect hog houses, pens, sheds, etc., in which mangy hogs have been confined before using them for noninfested hogs.
The Missouri Insect Control Recommendations are revised annually and are subject to possible change during the growing season.

Restrictions: DO NOT apply where animals may come in contact with the treated material.

2. Rhabson - Use 5 Tablespoons 50% Rhabson wettable powder in 1 gallon of water.

1. Dimethoate (Cygon) - Use 1 pint 23.4% Dimethoate emulsifiable concentrate in 2-1/2 gallons of water.

MacGoff Control

Restrictions: DO NOT place baits where animals may come in direct contact with the baits material. DO NOT construct feed troughs where animals may come in contact with the treated material.

Recommended liquid baits - must be prepared by user.

4. Trichlorfon (Knackron) - Use a 1% Trichlorfon liquid bait.
3. Rhabson (Kornan) - Use a 1% Rhabson liquid bait.
2. Malathion - Use a 1% Malathion liquid bait.
1. Chlorpyrifos (Cydon) - Use 1% Chlorpyrifos liquid bait.

Recommended ready-to-use dry baits:

Baits

Restrictions: DO NOT apply Rhabson or homatodin residual fly sprays directly onto hogs. Buildings should be aired out until spray is dried. DO NOT contaminate feed or water. Cover feed and water troughs before spraying with any spray in these insecticides.

In 2 gallons of water.

4. Rhabson (Kornan) - Use a 1% Rhabson liquid bait.
3. Rhabson - Use 1% Rhabson liquid bait.
2. Malathion - Use 1% Malathion bait.
1. Chlorpyrifos (Cydon) - Use 1% Chlorpyrifos bait.

Residual Sprays

House Flies

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1979 Swine External Parasite Control Recommendations

Control Recommendations

1. Make sure that the label of the insecticide container is legible.

2. Do not apply insecticides in combination with other internal medications, such as diprhe operations.

3. Do not apply insecticides on the backs of haired animals or allow access to barn areas from other species or diprhe operations.

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House flies

Wastes that accumulate around swine housing can increase the house fly problem around the farmstead. Those operations where the hogs are confined in small pens or in buildings and where manure is allowed to accumulate will have the greatest fly problem. Hogs reared on pasture or in confinement in conjunction with a lagoon for manure disposal will not add much to the fly problem.

The essentials of good fly control are 1) following good sanitation practices, 2) using baits and residual sprays to kill adult flies, and 3) using a larvicide spray to kill the maggots before they have a chance to become adult flies.

Good sanitation practices include frequent (at least weekly) cleaning and disposing of bedding, manure and waste feed from inside and around the buildings. The material should then be thinly scattered in fields or pastures, away from the buildings, so that it will dry and not be attractive for fly breeding. This reduces the number of fly breeding areas and helps to maintain low populations of flies. If good sanitation practices are followed, less insecticide will be needed and that used will be more effective.

RESIDUAL SPRAYS leave a deposit of insecticide which the fly contacts when it lands on the treated surface. Residual sprays remain effective for a few days up to several weeks. Apply the first spray to walls and ceilings in late spring when flies are frequently observed but before they become a problem. This is usually during May. Repeat as needed. Apply one gallon of spray per 500 to 1,000 sq. ft. of surface. Use a compressed air sprayer for small areas and a power sprayer for larger areas. On unfinished wood, brick or concrete surfaces, wettable powder formulations will usually give longer lasting control than will emulsifiable concentrates.

BAITS consist of a diluted insecticide with an attractant which serves to draw flies to the insecticide. Start baiting buildings as soon as flies begin to be numerous. Place bait where flies congregate during the day—window ledges, doorways, alley-ways, doorway to feed room, areas near standing water in buildings, etc. Baits must not be placed where animals or children can come in contact with them.

Dry baits are commercially available in ready-to-use form. During the first four or five days, scatter the bait heavily enough that it can be seen. Continue to put out bait each day for the next week, but smaller amounts can be used. After the first 10 days, put out fresh bait every two to four days in those places where the most flies were killed during the initial baiting.

Liquid baits will have to be prepared by the user. To make a liquid bait, mix the proper amount of insecticide with water and add sugar, corn syrup or molasses. Follow the directions on the container label. Spread the bait on the floor by using a sprinkling can. Where a dirt floor is present or the floor is dirty, apply the bait on pieces of burlap, cardboard, etc. Apply fresh bait every two to four days.

Continue to use bait regularly during the summer. DO NOT stop as soon as fly numbers are knocked down. If you quit and allow fly numbers to increase, it will be necessary to start all over again with the heavy initial baiting quantities.

Controlling Maggots

Every effort should be made to remove manure accumulations from in and around the buildings. If the manure can’t be scattered in fields and must be accumulated in piles, the use of a larvicide spray will help hold down fly breeding until the waste accumulation can be spread in fields.

Apply the insecticide to manure accumulations as a coarse spray or with a sprinkling can. Apply one gallon per 100 sq. ft. of surface area, every five to seven days. Flies may continue to lay eggs on the sprayed manure, but the insecticide will prevent most of the maggots from maturing.

Missouri Insect Control Recommendations are revised annually and are subject to possible change during the season. This guide is intended for use during the 1979 season only. No discrimination is intended and no endorsement is implied.

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