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Controlling External Pests on Goats

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Goats can be affected by lice, ticks and several species of flies. These pests may only annoy the animals. However, if the pests are numerous, they may affect the quality and quantity of meat and milk production. With severe infestations, animals may die from pest feeding or associated secondary problems that can develop.

Lice

Lice are the most frequently encountered insects on goats. The two types are biting lice and sucking lice. Sucking lice are the most common and most important.

Louse populations are heaviest in the winter and spring and decrease as summer approaches. Egg (nit) development usually requires about 10 days. Nymphs (young lice) will feed on their hosts for another 12 to 15 days before maturing. Production of a full generation of lice, then, takes about 25 days.

Goats will try to dislodge lice that have pierced their skin or that are feeding on their skin. You will often find hair balls along fences and buildings where goats have tried to rub off the lice. Patches of the hide may be rubbed off, and bacterial infection can result. In severe infesta-

tions, sucking lice can take a significant amount of blood.

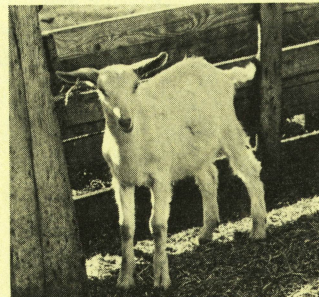
Overall, both biting and sucking lice can cause goats severe stress and cause a serious loss in milk production and weight gain. Older animals are more likely to be infested than younger ones. However, certain animals in a flock never seem to be free of lice, even after treatment.

Sheep Ked (sheep tick)

Keds are not usually found on goats, although they occasionally cause problems on the Angora type. The ked is not a tick but rather a flattened, wingless, bloodsucking fly. In large numbers, keds can seriously irritate and weaken an animal from loss of blood. Infection may result and can cause the animal to seek relief by rubbing. This may lead to fleece damage and sores on the skin.

Ticks (wood ticks)

Wood ticks are normally associated only with livestock on the open range and thus are not a serious problem to goats. However, these pests are a potential hazard because the blood loss from their feeding may result in loss of vigor and anemia. Also, ticks may transmit several disease



agents. Finally, embedded ticks, especially on the back or at the base of the neck, may cause animal paralysis. Insecticides used for control of lice will be effective against ticks.

Flies

Several species of flies may be present within the living quarters of domestic animals, including goats. Important ones include the face fly, the house fly, the horn fly and the stable fly. All fly species look similar but have different habits.

Face flies are attracted to an animal's head and face where they feed on secretions from the eyes, lips and nostrils. They do not bite or suck blood from their host but have been implicated in eye disorders. House flies feed in a manner similar to face flies but are more of a nuisance pest around the livestock quarters because of their abundance. Horn flies and stable flies, though, are blood sucking and may account for considerable blood loss and decreased animal vigor.

Face, house and horn flies lay their eggs in manure. House and stable flies lay their eggs in decaying straw bedding. A new generation of flies may be produced in 7 to 14 days.

Insect Control On Milking Goats

Insect control on lactating goats is difficult because of the danger of contaminating milk with insecticides. You must use great care to avoid insecticide residues. Follow the insecticide label, and use only those materials registered for dairy animals (Table 1). Apply insecticides at the proper time and in the proper dosage.

Insect Control On Slaughter Goats

Several additional insecticides can be used for insect control on goats to be slaughtered for meat (Table 2). However, you must be careful to prevent illegal residues from occurring. Follow label directions for proper dosage and time interval between application and slaughter.

Fly Control Around Animal Quarters

Control of flies around animal living quarters is mostly a matter of sanitation. Good fly control requires good sanitation and constant attention. Keep buildings and pens clean. Insecticides are of little value if animal quarters are not kept free of manure and other animal waste. Table 3 lists insecticides for fly control around animal quarters.

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Table 1. Insecticides for use on lactating dairy goats.

Insecticide	For use on:						
	Lice	Ticks	Sheep ked	Horn fly	Stable fly	Face fly	House fly
Ciodrin	X	X	No	No	No	No	No
Ciovap	X	X	No	No	No	No	No
Pyrethrins	X	No	X	X	X	X	X

Table 2. Insecticides for use on goats for slaughter.

Insecticide	Min. days before slaughter	For use on:						
		Lice	Ticks	Sheep Ked	Horn fly	Stable fly	Face fly	House fly
Ciodrin	0	X	X	No	No	No	No	No
Ciovap	0	X	X	No	No	No	No	No
CoRal	15	X	X	X	X	No	No	No
Delnav	0	X	X	X	X	No	No	No
Korlan	28	X	No	X	X	No	No	No
Lindane	30	X	X	X	X	X	No	No
Malathion	0	X	X	X	X	No	No	No
Methoxychlor	0	X	No	No	X	No	No	No
Pyrethrins	0	X	No	X	X	X	X	X
Toxaphene	28	X	X	X	No	No	No	No

Table 3. Insecticides for fly control around animal quarters.

Insecticide	Dosage and application	Remarks
Baits		
Vapona	Follow label directions for applying baits	May be used in milk room. Do not contaminate feed, water or dairy utensils. Keep poultry and livestock out of treated areas. Do not contaminate milk or milk handling equipment.
Malathion		
Korlan		
Dibrom		
Residual sprays		
Korlan	Follow label directions for mixing and applying residual sprays	Do not use Baytex, Ciodrin, Korlan, Dibrom, dimethoate or Rabon in milk rooms. Do not use Baytex inside barns or milk rooms. Do not contaminate feed and water and milking equipment. Remove animals when spraying.
Cygon		
Dibrom		
Rabon		
Ciodrin		
Vapona		
Malathion		
Baytex		
Space sprays		
Pyrethrins	Follow label directions for space sprays	Pyrethrins may be used in milk room. Do not use Vapona in milk room. Do not contaminate equipment, feed or water.
Vapona		
Resin strip		
Vapona	Use 1 strip per 1,000 cu ft of enclosed space	May be used in milk room. Do not hang strips over feed or water troughs or over milking equipment.

The mention of insecticides in this publication does not constitute a recommendation by the University of Idaho. Growers should insure that label directions are followed before applying any agricultural chemical.

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