EFFECTIVENESS OF ON FARM CONTROL OF INTESTINAL PARASITES

LeRoy G. Eischeid and Horace W. Norton
College of Veterinary Medicine, College of Agriculture
University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois

State and national surveys have indicated that 65-87% of swine farms are infected with one or more internal parasites.

Over 50% of swine producers in the United States report anthelmintic treatment as a means of 1.5-2.0 times to 6 times the feed cost per pig per treatment. If anthelmintics have been administered nearly twice to over one-half of the 10.5 million hogs slaughtered annually, more than 25 million dollars a year is spent on anthelmintics. As a modern anthelmintic has been shown to be effective, better management of a parasite control program seems to be needed by most producers.

Feeder pig production is an important part of the southern Illinois livestock economy with feeder pigs exported to other parts of Illinois and to several states to be finished to market weight. Preliminary studies indicated a liver fluke incidence rate of 47% and a liver fluke infectivity rate of 22% in southern Illinois. The purpose of this study was to determine the incidence of internal parasites in southern Illinois feeder pigs and compare the effects of different management and treatment schedules.

Fecal samples were collected at a monthly feeder pig auction from 15-35 kg pigs raised on 84 farms in southern Illinois. Individual fecal samples were examined from 5 pigs of each group of pigs presented for sale. Information was obtained concerning the types of housing management and anthelmintic programs used on the pigs presented for sale. Internal parasite egg counts were determined using the modified McMaster technique. The data collected were statistically evaluated by the method of least squares.

Ascaris suum, Trichuris suis, and Oesophagostomum spp. eggs and coccidia oocysts were identified. Pigs from 77 of the 84 farms (92%) were infected with at least one nematode and 5% were positive for coccidia. None of the pigs had no effect on the incidence of infection.

Type of housing and management treatment rate of 1.5 times to 6 times the feed cost per pig per treatment. If anthelmintics have been administered nearly twice to over one-half of the 10.5 million hogs slaughtered annually, more than 25 million dollars a year is spent on anthelmintics. As a modern anthelmintic has been shown to be effective, better management of a parasite control program seems to be needed by most producers.

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