

# Dairy Cattle Parasites

## CONTROL OF INTERNAL & EXTERNAL PARASITES

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## EXTERNAL PARASITES

### FLIES

Flies present an irritation to cattle as they fly around the face and often bite the animal. Flies in Florida include black, horn, horse, deer, sand, and stable flies. Large fly populations can affect cattle weights and potentially milk production, therefore treatment may be necessary.

### GRUBS/MAGGOTS

Flies present a secondary problem by laying eggs in a cow's flesh wounds. These eggs hatch into grubs and maggots which can prevent healing. Keep wounds clean as a method of prevention.

### LICE/MITES

Lice and mites cause skin irritation and itching. This can cause production issues or damage to fences/equipment as animals rub. Retreatment will usually be necessary approximately 3 weeks later due to louse/mite life cycles.

For external parasite product recommendations visit: <https://www.veterinaryentomology.org/>



## Internal Parasites

Internal parasites that affect cattle include roundworms, tapeworms, and flukes. Roundworms often have the most impact on cattle and should be treated accordingly. All cattle will have some level of parasite load, treatment is necessary when that load begins to negatively impact the animal.

### Dairy Heifers & Bulls

Dairy heifers and bulls can be dewormed similar to beef cattle. Initial deworming of calves should occur 3-4 weeks after turnout to pasture.

### Milking Cows

Milking cows should be dewormed only with products approved for lactating dairy cattle and milk withdrawal times should always be observed.

**Always consult a veterinarian on specific treatment recommendations for your animal.**