**Anoplura; sucking lice**

**Cats**
- none

**Cattle**

**Dogs and other Canidae**
- dog sucking louse, *Linognathus setosus*

**Fowl**
- none

**Goats**
- goat sucking louse, *Linognathus stenopsis*

**Horses and other Equidae**
- horse sucking louse, *Haematopinus assini*

**Rabbits**
- rabbit louse, *Haemodipsus ventricosus*

**Sheep**
- foot louse, *Linognathus pedalis*; face and body louse, *Linognathus ovillus*

**Swine**
- hog louse, *Haematopinus suis*

**Description:** Wingless, small; adults usually 1/16 to 1/8 inch long (a few, e.g., hog louse, nearly ¼ inch); range from pale yellowish to blue-black or brown; head shapes vary round to pointed but narrower than thorax.

**Domestic animals affected:** cattle, swine, horses, sheep, goats, dogs, rabbits; not cats or fowl.

**Damage caused:** loss of blood, sometimes resulting in anemia; itching, which leads to scratched and bruised skin from rubbing; reduced feeding efficiency and rate of gain; seldom linked to disease transmission in domestic animals, but hog lice can transmit eperythrozoonosis.

**Development:** gradual metamorphosis: egg, three nymphal instars resemble adults but are smaller, adult.

**Generational time:** typically about 3 to 4 weeks, more slowly in hot or extremely cold weather.

**Oviposition site:** eggs are glued to individual strands of the host’s hair or wool, typically quite close to the skin.

**Nymphal habitat, feeding:** nymphs share the adult habitat and feeding habits.

**Adult habitat, feeding:** live entire life sheltered by the host’s hair coat or wool, piercing skin with retractable stylets to feed on blood.

**Method of dispersal or infestation:** host-to-host contact, exposure to bedding used by infested hosts; occasionally phoretic on flies.
Seasonality: most sucking lice are more abundant during winter; there are exceptions, e.g., the sheep foot louse and cattle tail louse.

Notes or comments: Most sucking lice are host specific to a single species of host. As with chewing lice, sucking lice of Equidae and Canidae may parasitize any species of a host family.

For additional information contact:
Ludek Zurek Ph.D.
Medical and Veterinary Entomology
Department of Entomology
Kansas State University
Manhattan KS 66506
(785) 532-4731
lzurek@ksu.edu