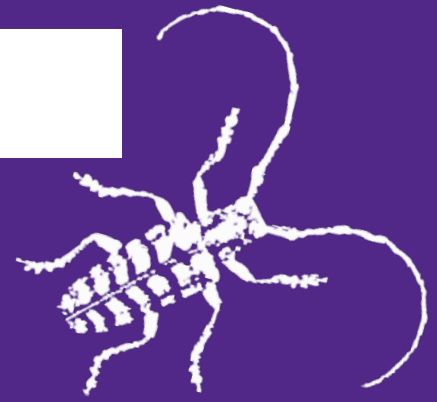


Department of Entomology
123 West Waters Hall
K-State Research and Extension
Manhattan, Kansas 66506
785-532-6154
<http://blogs.k-state.edu/kansasbugs/>
<http://www.entomology.ksu.edu/extension>



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News Corner

- Winter brings increased lice burdens in cattle

NEWS CORNER

Winter brings increased lice burdens in cattle

Lice infestations in cattle can lead to several health issues, including skin irritation, weight loss, reduced milk production, and overall stress on the animals. There are four lice species impacting cattle [cattle biting louse (Figure 1), longnosed cattle louse, little blue cattle louse and the shortnosed cattle louse]. Lice burdens are highest in winter and can result in large areas of hair being removed through lice feeding and rubbing. Most cattle can withstand lower lice burdens, but treatment may be warranted if more than 10 lice are found per square inch. Pour-on insecticides and self-appliator dust bags are effective in treating lice. Treatment must occur twice with three weeks between treatments, as nits (lice eggs) are resistant to insecticidal treatment. Do not use systemic products such as pour-ons in late winter unless treatment occurred in the fall to avoid potential negative interactions with cattle grubs.



Figure 1: Cattle biting louse (*Bovicola bovis*), a chewing lice species common on cattle

Cassandra Olds – Veterinary Entomology

HOME

Kansas Insect Newsletter

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Sincerely,

Cassandra Olds
Assistant Professor
Veterinary Entomology
Phone: (785) 706-8599
e-mail: colds@ksu.edu

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