

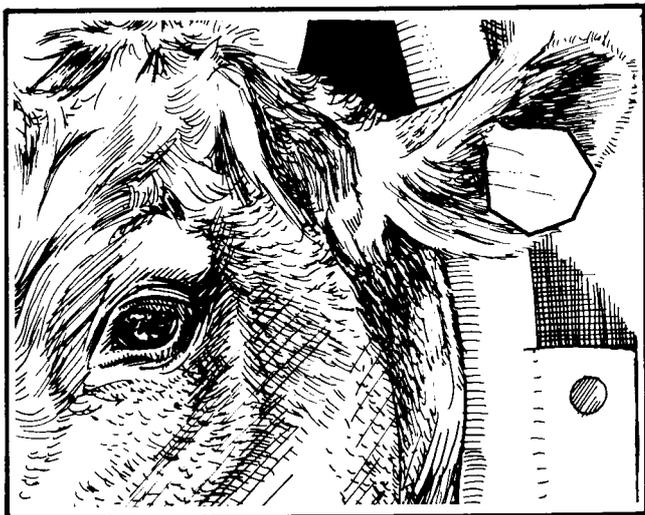
Chemical dewormers (anthelmintics) are available in several forms and with several active ingredients.¹ Examples are phenothiazine, thiabendazole, levamisole and some organophosphorus compounds which come under various brand names and are available from your veterinarian or farm supply store. An excellent idea is to use a different dewormer each time so parasites don't build up a resistance to one. The method of use may be a big factor to you. Some of these are injected, some are in paste form and some are mixed in with feed, so set up a program that is practical for you to use.

External Parasites also plague Florida cattle and can cause serious problems. The pests which cause the most problems are lice, flies, mosquitoes, cattle grubs, ticks and mange. Several types of lice and flies are present. These pests are more common at particular times of the year. Figure 1 illustrates when important pests are prevalent and can be controlled.

Figure 1. Control calendar for major pests of beef cattle in Florida.

PEST	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Horn flies												
Sucking lice												
Biting lice												
Tail lice												
Blood-sucking flies												
Cattle grubs												
Ticks												
Mites (mange)												
Non-blood-sucking flies												

There are several ways to control external parasites. Dust bags containing insecticide, ear tags impregnated with insecticide, sprays, pour-ons and feed additives are all examples. The first method,



forced-use dust bags, has been especially effective and economical. This involves hanging bags in gateways or passages where cattle must pass by and they treat themselves by rubbing under the bags and shaking the insecticide dust onto themselves. Table 2 lists the approved dust bag insecticides.

Table 2. Insecticides for use in dust bags.

Insecticide	Concentration
coumaphos (Co-ral)	1%
famphur (Warbex)	1%
malathion	5%
methoxychlor	2%, 10%
pyrethrins	0.1%
stirofos (Rabon)	3%

Proper use of the dust bag is essential. Hanging bags in gates to the water supply or mineral box has worked well. Placement between two pastures which cattle are grazing will also work but the first idea is probably the most practical. Figure 2 shows how this might be done.

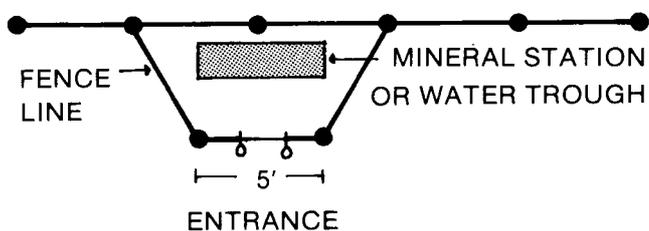


Figure 2. View of dusting station construction.

The new insecticide coated ear tags are also an excellent method of controlling external parasites. As the cow turns her head, the tag brushes the insecticide onto her shoulder. One tag can be effective for up to five months and can then be replaced with a new one. Numbered tags are great because you can then keep valuable records on which cows are doing well and which are not. These tags are only slightly more expensive than using dust bags and they may be the best method for you, especially if it's hard to force the cattle to use the bags. For a very small number of animals the insecticide coated ear tags would likely be the most practical system.

The other methods tend to require more work, or in the case of feed additives, to be less effective. The reason the larvacide in the feed is less effective in controlling horn flies is that it works by preventing fly larva development in cattle feces, but it will not prevent fly migration from your neighbor's cattle.

Further information is available on these herd health topics and is contained in section SR 6000, Herd Health, of the Beef Production Handbook.

¹Consult the Beef Cow-Calf Health Handbook (p. 29) in the Herd Health (SR6000) section of the Beef Production Handbook for additional information.