

SUBJECT: AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE

CLASS: JSS2

WEEK: 8

TOPIC: FARM ANIMAL PARASITES

TERM: 3RD TERM

DEFINITION OF PARASITE

A parasite is an organism that lives inside or on the body of another organism (referred to as host) derives nourishment from it, but gives nothing in returns. The benefiting organism is called a parasite, while the other is called the host.

CLASSIFICATION OF FARM ANIMAL PARASITES

There are main classes of parasites, Endo-parasites and Ecto-parasites.

- (a) Endo-parasites are parasites which live inside the body of the host. Examples are roundworms, tapeworms, and liver flukes. Endo-parasites are also called internal parasites and they usually attack the liver, lungs, the alimentary canal etc.
 - (i) Round worms (*ascaris lumbricoides*) causes loss of weight, anemia, reduction in production and abdominal pains, their host animals are cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, poultry, and man.
 - (ii) Tapeworm (*teania spp*) causes anaemia, abdominal pain and increased appetite, weight loss, and, in severe cases, death of the animal, their host are cattle, pigs, and of course, man.
 - (iii) Liver flukes (*fasiola hepatica*) attacks the liver tissue of animals, destroying it, causes anaemia, weight loss, reduced productivity and death, their mainly cattle and sheep.
- (b) Ecto-parasites (external parasites) are parasites which live on or outside the body of an organism. Farm animals, ecto –parasites include; ticks, lice, flies, tsetse flies etc. The host animals are usually cattle, sheep, goats, and poultry.
 - (i) Ticks: these attack cattle, sheep, goats; ticks attack the skin of infected animals, causing irritation. Ticks suck blood of the host, causing anaemia and leaving wound through which bacteria enters. They transmit red water disease (babesiosis). they also cause loss of appetite and emaciation.
 - (ii) Lice: Attack poultry by fixing themselves on the skin at the base of the feathers, they attack the skin causing irritation, they suck blood, and so, open wound for secondary infection, reduced productivity and emaciation.

GENERAL EFFECTS OF PARASITES ON FARM ANIMALS

They cause;

1. Weakness
2. Loss of appetite and emaciation

3. Reduced production
4. Contamination of skin
5. Contamination of meat, which can lead to infection of man in the case of worms examples tapeworm when meat is not well cooked.
6. Death of the animals in severe cases.
7. Control measures increase cost of production.
8. Reduction in quality of meat and consequently , lowered market value
9. Loss of hair.

METHODS OF CONTROLLING FARM ANIMALS PARASITES

1. Adopt good hygienic measures to ensure that farm animals do not eat the faeces of infected animals and persons, to protect them from tapeworm.
2. Meat should be properly cooked to kill worms, especially the bladder worm, to prevent infection on man.
3. Good sanitary measures should be adopted in the overall management of the farm animal's examples at intervals with insecticides.
4. Passing the animals through dips or spraying them regularly with acaricides.
5. Isolation of infected animals.
6. Avoid over-crowding to reduce infection from one animal to another.
7. Rotation grazing
8. Regular de-worming of the animals with appropriate drugs.
9. Dusting of infected animals with chemical powder.

ASSIGNMENT

1. Define the term parasite
2. Classify parasites