Livestock Insects–Sheep and Goats

Ticks

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Identification and Field Biology

The ticks and their biology are discussed in the section on cattle.

Animal Response and Economic Losses

The Rocky Mountain Wood tick can cause tick paralysis and may transmit Tularemia. The condition, termed “tick worry” may result when sheep are heavily infested with the lone star tick, and “Gotch ear” may occur in sheep as well as cattle because of the tick feeding in the ear. The spinose ear tick also feeds in the ear, which causes irritation and pain, and secondary bacterial infections may occur at the tick feeding sites. Tick feeding on the body of the sheep causes grain damage to the leather, which causes buyers to downgrade the sheepskins.

Management Strategies

Chemical

Insecticides recommended for other sheep ectoparasites will control ticks. Dipping or high pressure sprays provide the best results. The spinose tick can be controlled by applying an insecticide directly into the ears. Insecticides registered for sheep are listed at the end of the chapter.

Categories: Livestock insects, Sheep, Goats, Ticks

Date: 12/17/2002