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Ecology of Cattle Helminth Worms
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The object was to determine the survival of the eggs and free-living larvae of intestinal nematodes of cattle on summer ranges and winter pastures.

Work on the project has been done in Teton County. The free-living stages were found on spring pastures within three weeks after the snow melted. They were found on forested summer ranges before cattle were there this year. All of the cattle range on the forest is used by game also. There is no way to distinguish between free-living larvae having their origin in game from those having their origin in cattle. It is not known, therefore, if the free-living stages found were from eggs in the feces of cattle left the year before or from eggs in more recent feces from game.

On the forest ranges the time for the hatching of the egg and the development of the larvae to the infective stage required from seven to 21 days.

Feces of cattle on the summer range was examined for the eggs of intestinal nematodes. The information obtained has not been studied closely. The indications are, however, that there was little change in the percentage infected. The average number of eggs per gram of feces did not increase and may have decreased slightly.

This study will be continued over a five-year period.

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