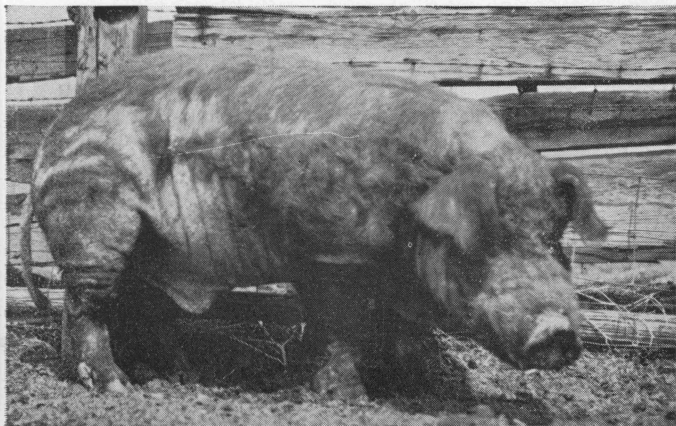


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External Parasites of Swine



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The Agricultural Extension Service
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G. G. Gibson, Director, College Station, Texas

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External Parasites of Swine

by

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HOG MANGE

Hog mange occurs in all parts of the United States where hogs are raised. Hogs of all ages are susceptible but the younger and older animals are most seriously affected.

There are two types of mange, each caused by a different species of mite. The symptoms of each are clear and distinct.

SARCOPTIC MANGE

Sarcoptic mange is caused by a small yellowish mite which is scarcely visible to the naked eye. The mites burrow into the skin, forming tunnels within which each female lays 10 to 25 eggs. The eggs hatch in 3 to 10 days and the young mites reach maturity in 10 to 12 days. The burrowing of the mites causes lesions which usually first appear on the head. These lesions spread toward the rear until the entire body may be covered. The skin becomes thickened and is thrown into wrinkles or folds which may be yellowish or pinkish in color and raw in appearance. The animals may lose their hair.

DEMODECTIC MANGE

Demodectic or follicular mange is caused by a small worm-like mite which is about one-half the size of the sarcoptic mite. The mites penetrate the hair follicles and cause small, hard nodules or pimples to form. These nodules may grow to about one inch in diameter and often rupture, releasing a creamy-white, cheesy material. The pimples first appear about the head and spread backward over the rest of the body.

HOG LICE

One species of louse attacks swine and this species is a blood-sucker. Severe infestations cause serious loss of flesh, poor feed utilization and general unthriftiness.

The hog louse is one of the largest known, reaching 5 or 6 mm in length and is bluish-gray

in color. The lice feed mainly on the tender areas of the skin but may be found over the entire body.

Each female louse glues 1 to 20 eggs on a single bristle, laying up to 90 eggs over a 25-day period. The eggs hatch in 12 to 20 days and the young lice become active immediately. Maturity is reached in about 10 days.

CONTROL OF MANGE AND LICE

Sanitation is a most important factor in the control of hog mange. The mites do not reproduce off the body of the host animal but if they are dislodged, they may remain active in litter for at least a month. For best results all litter should be removed from the pens and the pens should be kept clean.

Demodectic mange is not easily controlled, but fortunately this type is not commonly found in Texas.

A good insecticide for sarcoptic mange control is benzene hexachloride wettable powder used at a strength of .12% gamma. A dilution chart for BHC is shown below.

% Gamma BHC Wettable Powder Concentrate	Amount of Material for Each 25 Gallons of Spray
6% -----	4 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.
12% -----	2 lbs.
25% -----	1 lb.
33% -----	12 oz.

Lindane, which is the pure gamma isomer of benzene hexachloride may be used at a rate of $\frac{1}{4}$ pound to each 25 gallons of water.

Chlordane also gives good results against hog mange. Only the wettable powder should be used and the spray should contain .25% actual chlordane, or 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. 40% concentrate in 25 gallons of water.

Hog lice may also be controlled with the same spray given above for mange control.

It is important that the animals be completely covered with spray. Special attention should be given to the underside of the body, flanks, armpits, and ears. One square inch of the skin may contain a hundred or more mites and this is sufficient for immediate reinfestation. If each animal is thoroughly soaked, one treatment should give control of both lice and mange. If reinfestation occurs, repeat in 10-14 days. **PRECAUTION:** Due to the acute toxicity of BHC it is important that the recommended strength of the mixture not be exceeded. Young pigs should not be treated with BHC until weaning time.

ON THE COVER:

Hog infested with sarcoptic mange. Photograph courtesy Bureau of Animal Industries, USDA.