



CONTROL OF CATTLE LICE USING WARRIOR INSECTICIDAL EARTAGS

- 1) In Australia there are 4 predominant species of cattle lice. One of these is the Biting louse (*Damalinia bovis*) and the other three are Suckling lice (*Haematopinus eurysternus*, *Linognathus vituli* and *Soloenoptes capillatus*). All have a similar life cycle in that the eggs are attached to the hair, incubate and hatch into nymphs. There are three nymphal instars before the adult emerges. The total time from egg to adult is approximately one month. Lice are present on the animal all year round but when ambient temperatures decline to less than 16 degrees Celsius, they become more active.
- 2) European breeds of cattle are more prone to lice infestation probably due to their longer hair coat and their preference to cooler climates.
- 3) Cattle lice can cause significant economic loss in cattle production due to losses in weight gain and decreased milk production. Scientific studies conducted in both the USA and Australia have indicated that heavy infestations of lice can significantly decrease liveweight gains especially when associated with poor nutrition. Estimates of losses in the USA cattle industry are as high as \$126 million in 1997. This does not include damage to fences and yards and cattle hide disfiguration due to rubbing.
- 4) WARRIOR insecticidal ear tags offer several important advantages over conventional sprays and pour-ons for cattle lice control:
 - a) Insecticidal tags deliver a controlled release dose of fresh insecticide over a 10-12 week period. Most insecticides do not kill unhatched louse eggs and as these may take 2 or more weeks to hatch, the newly emerged lice will be exposed to a lethal dose of insecticide from the tag.
 - b) Insecticidal tag concentrate that insecticide where the lice are, especially the head, neck, dewlap, shoulders and back. Cattle lice spend their entire life cycle on the animal, thereby increasing the opportunity to come in contact with the insecticide from the tag.
 - c) WARRIOR Insecticidal tags are environmentally friendly due to less total insecticide entering the environment compared to other methods of delivering an insecticide. There is also no chance of spillage and spray drift and no chance of overdosing, with minimal risk to the operator during application.

- d) WARRIOR Insecticidal ear tags have a NIL WHP for both Meat and Milk and a NIL Export Slaughter interval. This makes this technology ideal for application in dairies and feedlots.
 - e) WARRIOR will not harm beneficial insects such as Dung Beetles.
 - f) WARRIOR is Rainfast.
 - g) WARRIOR is economical to use. ONE application at the beginning of the lice season will give season-long control.
 - h) Insecticidal tag technology is particularly attractive for incorporation into on-farm quality assurance programs such as CATTLECARE due to its one-off application and NIL WHP and NIL ESI.
 - i) At the time of treatment, cattle do not need to be weighed or liveweight estimation undertaken. There is no referral to a dosage chart required. A simple tag application will give long-term control of cattle lice.
- 5) Apply WARRIOR to the back of the ear with the Y-TEX ULTRATAGGER in late Autumn or early Winter with one tag per animal. Tag all newly introduced cattle to the herd over the winter period when lice are most prevalent. To gain optimum distribution of insecticide, it is important to tag all animals in the group. Remove the tags after three months to prevent sub-lethal doses of insecticide being delivered.

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