

# CASE

*Curriculum for Agricultural  
Science Education*

**Principles of Agricultural Science – Animal**

# Parasites

Unit 8 – Lesson 8.3 Bugged!

# What Is a Parasite?



**Contrary to popular belief**

**- not your younger sibling!**

# What Is a Parasite?



An organism that lives on or in living animals or plants for at least part of its life cycle

- Benefits from the animal or plant while causing the animal or plant harm
- Are commonly helminths, arthropods, or protozoa

# What Is a Parasite?

Helminth	Arthropod	Protozoa
<b>Phyla:</b> Aschelminth Nematoda	<b>Phylum:</b> Arthropoda	<b>Kingdom:</b> Protista
Parasitic worms	Lice, fleas, ticks	Giardia

# Host

- An organism, plant or animal, in or upon which another spends part or all of its existence
- Provides nourishment and or protection for the parasite

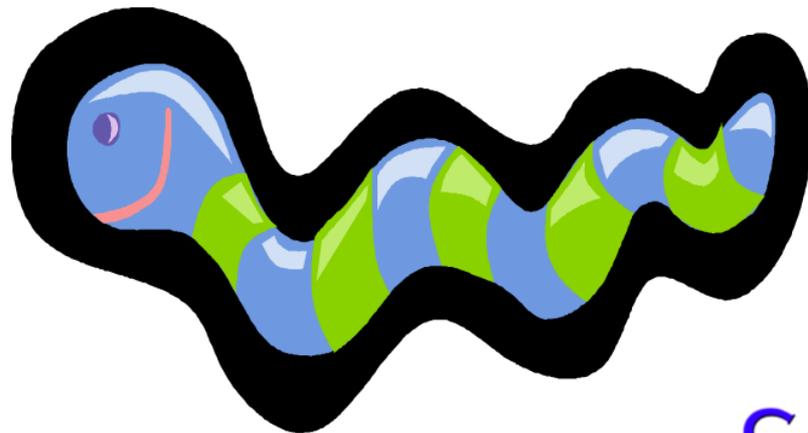
# External Parasites

- Commonly affect the skin and ears
- Cause damage by:
  - Sucking blood
  - Transmitting diseases
- Examples are ticks, lice, mites, and fleas



# Internal Parasites

- Most commonly affect the digestive tract
- Cause damage by using animal nutrients and blood for survival
- Examples are roundworms, strongyles, and tapeworms



# Parasites and Health

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## *Unthriftness*

Cause tissue damage

Absorb nutrients

Suck blood

Cause serious economic damage

# Parasite Control

## Good sanitation and management practices:

- Frequent removal of manure and waste
- Rotational grazing and pasture management
- Fresh, clean water supply

# Parasite Control

## Chemical Controls:

- Dewormers
  - Anthelmintics – remove parasites from intestinal tract
- Insecticides
  - Control external parasites
- Antibiotics
  - Treat protozoan infestations

# References



- Parker, R. (2003). *Equine science* (2nd ed.). Clifton Park, NY: Delmar.
- Warren, D. M. (2002). *Small animal care and management*. Albany, NY: Delmar.