

# University of Kentucky—College of Agriculture

## EXTENSION DIVISION

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### Poultry Parasites and Sanitation

By F. E. HULL

Chicks are not infested with parasites at hatching time.

Chicks may be kept free from parasites by preventing contact with the parasites, parasite eggs, or intermediate hosts.

Intermediate hosts are not dangerous unless they have had access to droppings from parasitized birds.

Parasitized chickens are damaged chickens and usually fail to recover completely following treatment.

Prevention by proper management is the best defense against parasites.

The common parasites of poultry are roundworms, tapeworms, lice and mites. These cause a continuous loss to the poultry industry. The greatest loss occurs among young birds. Adult fowls and contaminated houses and grounds furnish a constant source of infestation for the young chickens. The presence of parasites is an indication of poor sanitation and poor management. Poor health, unthriftiness, and unproductiveness are often directly traceable to the presence of parasites. Methods of prevention that are effective against the common parasites of poultry are effective against other parasites of poultry and aid in the control of a majority of the diseases of poultry.

**Roundworms.** The common roundworm is yellowish-white in color and from one to four inches long. It is found in the intestines of the fowl. The mature female worm produces a large number of eggs which pass out of the chicken with the droppings. Droppings frequently get into the feed and water containers or become mixed with feed that is picked up from the floor or the ground. In this way roundworm eggs get into the intestines of other fowls. These eggs hatch

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