

chorioptic mite

Description: External parasite. Chorioptic mites cause mange, a contagious skin disease transmitted when larvae, nymphs, or fertilized females are transferred to a susceptible host directly by contact with diseased animals, or indirectly by formites or contaminated quarters. Chorioptic mites are found on the legs, at the base of the tail, and on the upper rear surfaces of udders of affected animals.

Life Cycle: The developmental stages include egg, larvae, nymph, and adult. Two to three weeks may be required to complete the life cycle, which is spent entirely on the host.

Geographic Distribution: Worldwide; the most common type of cattle mange in the US.

Significance: Infected animals suffer alopecia and pruritis with intense irritation and hypersensitivity, which can lead to debilitation and possible death. Lesions are more common in autumn and winter, often disappearing in summer. Scabs or scales develop on limited areas of the skin on lower parts of the body. Rubbing and restlessness can decrease milk production and weight gain.