

Cooperia spp

small intestinal worm, cooperids, cattle bankrupt worm

Description: Internal parasite; small reddish nematodes up to 10 mm long. Under the microscope the head appears swollen because of the dilated anterior end.

Life Cycle: Eggs in feces may hatch in as little as 20 hours. Infective larvae can then develop within 4 days. Infective larvae are ingested by the host while grazing. The time between infection of the cattle and the earliest time at which this parasite's eggs can be recovered in feces is 12 – 15 days.

Geographic Distribution: Worldwide.

Significance: Adults penetrate the lining of the small intestine. Large numbers of worms can cause weight loss in young cattle; affected animals exhibit poor feed utilization and take longer to reach market weight