

Strongyloides papillosus

intestinal threadworm

Description: Internal parasite. Adults are short and thin, 3.5 – 6 mm long and 0.05 – 0.06 mm wide.

Life Cycle: Female adults lay eggs in the intestine. Larvae begin to form before the eggs are passed in feces. On pasture, the eggs hatch quickly and larvae molt to become infective third-stage larvae in 24 – 48 hours; these infect animals via ingestion or penetration of the skin. The circulatory system carries the larvae to the lungs – the larvae are coughed up and swallowed, and develop into adults approximately 7 – 9 days after infection. Intestinal threadworm can be passed to newborn calves via colostrum.

Geographic Distribution: Worldwide, particularly in warm, humid areas.

Significance: Infections are most common in young calves, particularly dairy stock. Signs of infection can include intermittent diarrhea, loss of appetite and weight, and blood and mucus in feces.