1973

Parasites of Ungulates in the Jackson Hole Area (Lungworms in Elk)

Robert C. Bergstrom

University of Wyoming

Follow this and additional works at: http://repository.uwyo.edu/jhrs_reports

Recommended Citation
Available at: http://repository.uwyo.edu/jhrs_reports/vol1973/iss1/5
PARASITES OF UNGULATES IN THE JACKSON HOLE AREA (Lungworms in Elk)
Robert C. Bergstrom
Division of Microbiology and Veterinary Medicine
University of Wyoming
Project Number 156

Research on the elk lungworm, *Dictyocaulus* sp. was conducted briefly during January, May and July of 1973.

Sampling techniques, modified during the 1972 season, were again followed in 1973. Sixty gram fecal samples were found to be near the optimum size for determining the presence of *Dictyocaulus* larvae in elk feces. During January and early February only about 15% of the elk on the refuge carried lungworm burdens. During late May and early June the "spring rise" in lungworm incidence was noted but that was only slightly above 50% positive. That level was about 24% less than the level reached in June 1972.

The past summer (1973) was the second consecutive summer that elk had been driven off the refuge in spring and the refuge was subsequently free of elk for the summer months.

Elk lung pathology associated with *Dictyocaulus* has been described by the writer and a journal manuscript will be submitted after research work in the spring and summer of 1974.

Big Game Ridge elk were carrying the same or slightly greater lungworm burden than during 1972.
Fig. 1 Per cent incidence of elk lungworm *Dictyocaulus sp.* in 60 g. fecal samples from Teton elk during 1972 (solid line) and 1973 (broken line).