

Parasitic invasions in primitive breed of sheep during pasture period

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In Poland, parasitic invasions occurred in sheep are well recognized but in the case of some native breed included to Genetic Resources Conservation Programme there is lack of an actual data about their parasitological status. So, the aim of a study was to investigate parasitic infection in a flock of primitive native sheep breed called *świniarka* during pasture season.

The research was conducted in a flock of 40 sheep. Stool samples, collected *per rectum* monthly (from June to September), were analyzed using quantitative McMaster method (Roepstorff and Nansen, 1998). Coproculture was also performed to identification genera/species of gastrointestinal nematodes (van Wyk *et al.*, 2004).

The sheep were commonly infected with coccidia (*Eimeria* sp.), tapeworms (*Moniezia* sp.) and gastrointestinal nematodes (Strongylida – with predomination of *Haemochus contortus*, *Nematodirus* sp., as well as *Capillaria* sp. and *Strongyloides* sp.). The level of infection of Strongylidae nematodes changed from relatively low in June to high in September. Invasions of coccidia and other nematodes maintained on low level during the study.

Obtained results shows that, despite the common opinion, gastrointestinal nematodes infections may pose a serious threat for native breed sheep flocks.