

## PARASITOSSES IN THE DAIRY CATTLE HERDS IN LATVIA

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**Abstract.** *The aim of our study was to investigate the prevalence of gastrointestinal parasites in cattle in Latvia. Research was carried out covering all Latvian territory during the period of 2013 until 2014. A total 80 dairy farms were examined, including 2612 coprological samples from dairy cows and cattle from six months to one year old. Research activities were carried out in three different dairy farm groups: small (up to 25 cows in the herd), medium (up to 100 cows in the herd) and large (more than 100 cows in the herd). Coprological samples were investigated at the LUA, Faculty of Veterinary medicine, Institute of Food and Environmental Hygiene, Laboratory of Parasitology. A standardized oviscopic and larvascopic methods were used to detect helminths. The invasion of extensive margin (IE) was calculated as a percentage. Evaluating the invasion of extensive margins in dairy farms, it was found that in small farms cattle were infected with digestive system strongylida (IE 24.2%), cryptosporidium (IE 21.9%), eimeria (IE 14.3%), moniezia (IE 8.8%), dictyocaulus (IE 3.1%), strongiloides (IE 1.1%) and trichuris (IE 1.1%), but in medium size farms – with eimeria (IE 31.1%) cryptosporidium (IE 23.4%) and digestive system strongylida (IE 22.5%). Less often were diagnosed fasciola (IE 3.1%), strongiloides (IE 2.4%), moniezia (IE 2.4%), trichuris (IE 1.6%), and paramphistomum (IE 0.8%). In large farms eimeria (IE 22.1%), cryptosporidium (IE 18.6%), digestive system strongylida (IE 9.6%), moniezia (IE 9.1%), strongiloides (IE 3.2%) and trichuris (IE 1.7%) were found. Conclusion. Irrespective of a farm type the farm cattle was infected with eimeria, digestive system strongylida and cryptosporidium.*

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**Key words:** parasitoses, cows, prevalence, Latvia.