SHOO, FLY!

Fly eggs laid in livestock bedding, feed debris, and manure can mature in as little as seven days, creating huge pest populations that are hard to control. On farms, flies cause damage and control costs that reach over $2 billion each year in the U.S. Painful fly bites can reduce livestock productivity and can spread diseases. Flies can also transmit pathogens such as *E. coli* and *Salmonella* to animals and humans through water and food they have contaminated. Concerns about flies have led to lawsuits, zoning limitations, and animosity between farmers and nearby communities. Traditional control methods are not well suited for certain agricultural practices, facilities, or climates. The evolution of insecticide-resistant fly populations has increased the need for new fly management technologies.

New Data Keep Flies Off Our Farms & Food

In 2007, a group of researchers came together to develop economically feasible and environmentally friendly technology and practices for controlling flies in animal agriculture systems. Effective fly management results in increased profits, a higher quality of life for animals, a safer food supply, and improved quality of life in residential and recreational areas near animal facilities. Adoption of new non-chemical control methods significantly reduces the use of expensive insecticides, cutting costs for livestock producers and reducing harm to the environment.

No-fly Zones

Straw bedding produces about **50 times** more stable flies than compost.

Dealing immediately with egg sites can reduce stable fly populations by **up to 50%** leading to cattle weight gain valued at **$100 per cow**

Disposing of feed debris can reduce fly populations.

All the Buzz

Newsletters, training guides, and webinars give producers tools and information to improve fly control.

National surveys of insecticide resistance help producers select insecticides and other management tools that will be most effective.

Knowing what kinds of weather events and landscape features support fly population growth helps farmers apply control methods in a timely manner.

Fly Traps

A new fly trap removed **2.5 million horn flies** from a herd of 150 pastured dairy cows.

The trap doesn't use insecticide and costs **$1.50 less per cow** than traditional chemical-based treatments.

When exposed to pyriproxyen, female flies can carry it back to egg-laying sites where the pyriproxyfen prevents fly growth and kills developing eggs.

Want to know more?

This project, *Multistate Research Project S-1060: Fly Management in Animal Agriculture Systems and Impacts on Animal Health and Food Safety,* is supported through USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture by the Multistate Research Fund and by contracts and grants to project members. *http://nimss.org/projects/view/mrp/outline/14976.*

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