

# Top 4 Targets for Fly Control Success

One of the keys to a good defense against flies on any cattle or dairy operation is to know which flies are causing problems and affecting herd health. In cattle production, four key fly species are considered to be the most economically significant: the horn fly, face fly, stable fly and house fly. A variety of products created specifically for fly control are available, including on-animal treatments, facility and environmental treatments, and feed-through products.

## HORN FLIES

**Additional Potential Impact:** Decreased feed intake can lead to reduced weight gains and reduced milk production. Horn flies have also been implicated in the spread of summer mastitis.<sup>1</sup>

**\$1 billion**

The amount U.S. livestock producers **lose annually** due to the horn fly<sup>1</sup>

**20-30**

**Number of times a day** just one biting horn fly can take a blood meal from a calf<sup>2</sup>

**18%**

Amount up to which the horn fly **can reduce yearling weights**<sup>1</sup>

**10-15 lbs.**

How much **higher calf weaning weights** were when horn flies were controlled on mother cows<sup>2</sup>

**15-50 lbs.**

**Amount of weight-gain advantage** yearling cattle with horn fly protection had compared to heavily infested animals<sup>2</sup>

## STABLE FLIES

**Additional Potential Impact:** Male and female stable flies are blood feeders that deliver painful, irritating bites on the legs and belly of cattle.

**\$2.2 million**

**Estimated annual losses** experienced by producers as a result of stable flies<sup>3</sup>

**30-40%**

**Percentage of decreased milk production** resulting from stable fly feeding<sup>4</sup>

**0.48 lbs.**

**Amount of decreased weight gain per day** for an animal affected by stable flies<sup>4</sup>

**0.44 lbs.**

**Amount of decreased weight gain** per day for steers not protected with an insecticide treatment<sup>5</sup>

**139 kg**

**Median annual per animal production losses** of milk for dairy cows in cases confirming stable fly infestation levels<sup>3</sup>

## HOUSE FLIES

**#1 Ranking of house flies as the biggest nuisance pest** for dairy and confined animal operations<sup>8</sup>

**Additional Potential Impact:** House flies can also transmit the bacteria that causes mastitis in dairy heifers, which can then spread from animal to animal.

## FACE FLIES

**\$10-12**

**Amount less per hundredweight** that calves with pinkeye sell compared to healthy calves<sup>6</sup>  
Face flies can transmit *Moraxella bovis*, which is the bacteria that causes pinkeye in cattle

**12-14**

**Average number of flies** on the face of an animal that it takes to potentially reduce the amount of time an animal grazes by as much as an hour a day, which can affect weight gain<sup>7</sup>

**Additional Potential Impact:** Female face flies annoy livestock by congregating on the animal's face, where they tend to cluster around the eyes, mouth and muzzle.

	CONFINED CATTLE		PASTURE	
	HOUSE FLY	STABLE FLY	HORN FLY	FACE FLY
POTENTIAL IMPACT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can cause aggravation, reduced feeding, pen avoidance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can cause blood loss, reduced weight gain or weight loss, reduced milk production</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can cause painful bites</li> <li>• Can cause reduced feeding, reduced weight gain or weight loss</li> <li>• Implicated in spread of summer mastitis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can cause reduced grazing, weight loss</li> <li>• Can transmit <i>Moraxella bovis</i>, the cause of pink eye</li> </ul>
REST ON	Manure, soil, fences, weeds, trees, buildings, etc.	Barn walls, fences, weeds, etc.	Cattle	Barn walls, fences, weeds, etc.
BREED IN	Manure, moist/decaying materials	Manure, moist/decaying materials	Fresh manure	Fresh manure
FEED ON	Manure, old feed, waste, sweat, tears	Blood (cattle)	Blood (Cattle)	Saliva, tears, nasal mucus
WHAT TO LOOK FOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flies on structures and animals, around feed</li> <li>• Constant cattle movement</li> <li>• Bunching, tail switching</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flies on lower legs of cattle</li> <li>• Cattle stomping or bunching</li> <li>• Constant cattle movement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flies on backs/sides of cattle</li> <li>• Bunching, tail switching</li> <li>• Visible irritation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flies on face of animal, especially around eyes/muzzle</li> </ul>
WHERE TO TREAT	On Animal <i>Ear Tag, Pour-On, Spray, Dust</i>	On Animal <i>Ear Tag, Pour-On, Spray, Dust</i>	On Animal <i>Ear Tag, Pour-On, Spray, Dust</i>	On Animal <i>Ear Tag, Pour-On, Spray, Dust</i>
	Facility <i>Spray, Bait, Dust</i>	Facility <i>Spray, Bait, Dust</i>	Feed-Through <i>Oral</i>	Feed-Through <i>Oral</i>
	Environment <i>Spray, Bait</i>	Environment <i>Spray, Bait</i>		
	Feed-Through <i>Oral</i>	Feed-Through <i>Oral</i>		

## References

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