

Checklist for Fly Control in Horse Facilities and Other Small Livestock Operations

Horse and small livestock owners should be particularly mindful of fly control on their operation during the summer months. Horses and other small livestock (e.g., goats or sheep) kept in stables and corrals are pestered by two major fly species: the house fly and the stable fly. Mixed feces, urine and bedding provide excellent fly breeding material. In general, a clean and tidy facility will have less fly problems than a messy one.

Fly populations are a mix of various lifecycle stages (egg, larva, pupa, adult). Therefore, it is important to clean out stalls and barns regularly, preferably every other day, in order to effectively disrupt the fly lifecycle and prevent fly outbreaks. Controlling flies also involves the maintenance of manure piles such as covering the piles to prevent moisture infiltration and seepage and managing areas where there may be wet, spilled feed. Accumulated manure in corrals can be a source of house flies and stable flies, but it is also a source of face flies, horn flies, deer flies and horse flies – known as pasture flies. It is important to know what the different flies look like so you can best determine where the flies are coming from and remove the source of the population.



Using fly baits, residual wall sprays, space sprays and sticky fly ribbons will help reduce the number of adult flies present in the area. If or when insecticides are used, animals should be removed from the area prior to application and all label instructions strictly followed. Remember, controlling just the adult portion of the population will only result in short-term control of the population. It takes the control and removal of fly breeding habitat to effectively reduce fly populations.

The following checklist is a tool for you to use in monitoring fly populations and in routine maintenance of key fly breeding habitats on your operation. Please feel free to photocopy and use the checklist as part of your fly management program to:

- identify sites where flies are breeding on your operation,
- locate the potential source of a nuisance fly outbreak, or
- use as a weekly cleanup and maintenance checklist during the summer months to ensure the effective control of fly populations on your operation.

Remember to keep these checklists as part of your records to confirm the action you have taken to control fly populations on your operation.

For more information regarding fly monitoring and control options, refer to the Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development publication, 'A Guide for the Control of Flies in Alberta Confined Feeding Operations'.

Fly Monitoring

Potential fly breeding areas: Manure

- corners and edges of stalls
- piles of manure and bedding
- wet bedding
- under waterers
- under feed mangers
- build up in corrals
- build up along fence lines (particularly noticeable when other horses are present in adjoining fields)

Potential fly breeding areas: Feed

- wet spilled feed
- old feed in bunkers or mangers
- around and beneath stored hay bales
 - where hay bales contact the soil

Recommended Control Methods:

- clean stalls frequently
- ventilate well to dry bedding
- clean up manure-mixed soil from underneath waterers and feed mangers
- clean up spilled feed frequently
- compact and cover piles of stored manure and used bedding
- provide concrete aprons around and under waterers
- grade yard to prevent puddles and areas of standing water in livestock areas

Additional Control Options:

- indoor and outdoor fly bait stations
- indoor fly sticky traps
- residual insecticide spray on adjacent vegetation and buildings
- misting for adult fly control as needed*
- treatment with larvicides†

* It is important to follow all label directions for product use to ensure personal safety, the safety of others and the safety of livestock.

† Check with your local retailer regarding product options and product registration for use in Canada.