

Weekly Article

4-6-2021

Avoid Creating Insecticide Resistance Horn Flies

Hello, my Name is Richard Purdin with OSU Extension, Ag and Natural Resource Educator and Community Development Educator for Adams County. I hope to better inform local producers and the public of the latest news in the world of agriculture. The weather has been quite the roller coaster ride the last 10 days, with temperatures going from highs in 30's last Thursday to highs in the mid 70's this week. Easter Sunday was a beautiful day and dry, this could be a good or bad thing, some weather folk lore suggests a dry easter = a dry growing season and a poor hay crop? With all this warm weather I have really started to notice the flies on the cattle and other livestock, it is hard to believe but they are here, and it is time to start thinking about control. Horn Flies and Face Flies are the most common species of flies that bother our animals in the spring and summer, as we approach late summer the Common Horse fly will become present. Studies show that the proper control of face flies can equal a 15-20 lbs of additional weight gain for weaned feeder calves. The economic threshold for Horn Flies is 200 flies per animal, this is when control needs to start. So, you might be wondering why you must wait until there is 200 flies to start treatment and who in the world is going to be the one that counts those flies? An economic threshold has been set for the Horn Fly due to its continued ability to build resistance to common insecticides used for control. Common products such as pyrethroid permethrin and organophosphate products have become widely used on the farm and come in many different forms such as sprays, impregnated ear tags, and pour over products. The continued use of these products has created a cycle of resistance in the Horn Fly population in turn making results of the treatment unsatisfactory. Here are 5 steps to avoid resistance build up to these products and ways to reduce the Horn Flies' effects on animal health and performance.

1. Rotate insecticides- I preach all the time to crop farmers about the importance of rotating herbicides to reduce resistance weeds. The same goes for insects switching up different products with different active ingredients helps break the cycle of resistance.
2. Use different methods of applications – There are many ways products can be applied, spray on, rubbers, ear tags, feed additives and mineral additives. If feed/mineral additives are use make sure to follow feeding directions on the feed tag and follow withdrawal dates for dairy and slaughter animals.

3. Focus treatments on the most susceptible host. Focusing treatments on lactating animals and younger stock due to having the greatest loss due to the horn fly's effects.
4. Remove impregnated insecticide tags. Avoid leaving insecticidal tags in the ears of the animal once horn fly populations decrease in the fall. Also avoid installing the tags too early in the season.
5. Prevention is sometimes the best cure- keeping the animal's environment clean of manure build up, good nutrition, good shade practices, and clean healthy water can go a long way in decreasing the Horn Flies effect on livestock.

Some other details to go over:

- Youth planning to show livestock at the 2021 Adams county Jr Fair or Ohio State Fair Must complete Quality Assurance training. This year's training will be offered via Zoom upcoming training will be April 13th at 7 P.M. April 28th, at 5 P.M. and May 12th at 5 P.M. to Register go to <https://go.osu.edu/21QA>
- USDA FSA will open a sign-up period for CFAP #2 Assistance program for Livestock, row crop, and specialty crop producers effected by the Coronavirus pandemic. Call (937) 544 -2033 for assistance.
- CRP Grasslands signup will begin March 15th,2021 and conclude April 23rd,2021 contact the farm service agency for assistance in signing up for these programs.

From the field

- Fertilizer applications to pasture and hay fields taking place. Soil Temperature is around 49-50 °F
- Watch for creeping yellow buttercup in pastures.
- Multifloral rose has begun to bud and make small leaves, time for a basal herbicide application.
- Cover crops are growing fast, think about termination steps in the coming weeks ahead
- Presence of slugs in cover crops like rye.
- Winter Annuals like Purple Deadnettle are turning crop field purple.
- Things are getting busy in the garden, good time to direct seed spinach, beets, and peas.