

Dairy Parlor Management: Fly Control

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Face Fly



Horn Fly



House Fly



Stable Fly

Fly infestation can cause losses in the millions of dollars per year through decreased milk production and disease. Keep these best management practices in mind to reduce fly populations and improve cattle health and efficiency.

Adopt these quick and simple steps to prevent fly damage within and around the parlor!

Everyday Control

- Clean and sanitize all milking equipment after each use including dump pails and hoses.
- Clean the parlor floor in between milking groups if heavy manure and flies are present.
- Discard filter socks, paper towels, gloves and other trash promptly.
- Keep all trash cans covered and cleaned out regularly.
- Keep dirty cloth towels in a confined area and clean promptly after use.
- Turn on fans in the holding pen and parlor to help remove flies.
- Maintain clean surroundings in the parlor, holding pen, return alleys and barn to limit fly habitats.

Long-Term Control

- Use an effective insecticide including pyrethroid ear tags or feed-through insect growth regulators for chronic fly problems and a pour-on for occasional fly problems. Read the product label to ensure it is safe for lactating cows and works for the fly you want to control.
- Appropriately rotate active ingredients with insecticides to prevent resistance from developing (veterinaryentomology.org/vetpestx).
- Install fans in the holding pen and/or parlor.
- Conduct routine maintenance to ensure fans are operating effectively.
- Keep a fly identification guide handy for necessary instruction based on fly species (see Extension fact sheet W 818 or veterinaryentomology.org).
- Install a fly-catching device (vacuum, fly paper, etc.) at the holding pen entrance or the exit alleys.

Disclaimer

This publication contains pesticide recommendations that are subject to change at any time. The recommendations in this publication are provided only as a guide. It is always the pesticide applicator's responsibility, by law, to read and follow all current label directions for the specific pesticide being used. The label always takes precedence over the recommendations found in this publication.

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