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SVC NEWSLETTER



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INSECT CONTROL 101

The cooler, wet weather at the beginning of the summer has provided the perfect environment for flies and mosquitoes to live and breed. With the growth of these populations comes insect bites and carcass trimming that can cost producers up to \$8/pig. There are so many options available for insect control that it can be overwhelming when designing a program.

Dr. Mike Catangui, a livestock entomologist and parasitologist from IVESCO, has put together a few fact sheets to guide producers and veterinarians in designing a program that will work for their situations. Below are a few options for fly and mosquito control based on some of Dr. Catangui's recommendations.



HOUSE FLIES AND DARK-EYED FRUIT FLIES

Outside the Barn: A couple of options:

Apply Optimate® CS as a residual spray on surfaces where adult flies rest.

Mixing Rate: 1 oz. of Optimate® CS/gallon water. One gallon will spray approximately 1000 square feet.

Apply as a residual spray using a backpack sprayer. Make sure that the spray does not drift into the building when animals are present inside.

Apply Tempo SC to spray the perimeter of the building.

Mixing Rate: 16 ml of Tempo SC/gallon water

Apply around the perimeter of the building. One gallon will spray approx. 1000 sq. ft.

Inside the Barn: A couple of options:

Apply Microcare 3% CS to pigs and on barn surfaces as a light mist.

Mixing Rate: 4 oz. Microcare/gallon water

Apply ULD BP-100 to pigs and on barn surfaces.

Mixing Rate: Undiluted; apply at a rate of 1 oz./1,000 cubic feet.

Pit Treatment: Treat the pit for fly larvae:

Use Neporex 2 SG as liquid spray or granules

Apply 1 lb. dry granules per 200 sq. ft. or 1 lb./gallon water to treat 200 sq. ft.



MOSQUITOES

Outside the Barn:

Apply Tempo SC spray outside the barn a couple weeks prior to topping if mosquitoes are an issue. Sites may need to be sprayed weekly until the site is closed out.

Mixing Rate: 16 ml Tempo/gallon of water

Apply around the perimeter of the building. One gallon will spray approx. 1000 sq. ft.

Inside the Barn: A couple of options:

Apply Microcare 3% CS to pigs and on barn surfaces as a light mist.

Mixing Rate: 4 oz. Microcare/gallon water

Apply Stryker™ Insecticide Concentrate

Mixing Rate: Mix 2 fluid ounces Stryker™ Insecticide Concentrate/gallon water

Apply mixture to wet the hair of the pigs.



Along with the products that can be applied either on the pig or to the premise/pit, there are also environmental factors that need to be tended to when insects are a problem. The following are all important components of insect control:



- Routine lawn mowing
- Eliminating standing water on the site
- Removing water from curtains on a regular basis
- Leaving the lights off in the barn at night



If you'd like more information on other products or have further questions, please contact your SVC Veterinarian.

SEASONAL INFERTILITY UPDATE



Seasonal infertility refers to the effect of the season on reproductive performance. It is the time of the year that the sows no longer want to be pregnant. This phenomenon is well known and has affected the markets for a long time. It is one of the reasons why less pigs farrow from November to January, resulting in less pigs for sale in the summer months.

There are several factors that account for seasonal infertility. Heat and shortening day length (photoperiod) are two of the main ones.

The heat factor generally occurs in weeks 27-32 of the year. The effects are dependent on the local conditions and how extreme they are. Evaporative cooling remarkably reduces this effect but has not totally eliminated it. It's critical to make sure that all fans are operating at their peak efficiency and that your evaporative cooling system is working.

- Check fans to make sure belts are tight—this can have a tremendous effect on fan output. It's estimated that if the belt is wobbling a little, you are likely losing at least 20-25% efficiency. Also, cones on fans can improve output by 10-15%.
- Dirty fan blades and shutters can reduce fan efficiency as well by up to 25%. Just think...if both belt and dirt problems exist, cooling capacity can be reduced by 50% !! Washing fans and shutters, and checking /tightening belts on fans are things that don't cost much, but could pay big dividends.
- Mineral build up on cool cell pads can greatly restrict air flow—you can determine with air speed meter and/or static pressure. Air should be able to come through freely at 400 ft/minute without driving static pressure above .1 on a non-filtered barn or above .2 on a filtered barn. Replacing cool cell pads may be less costly than paying for the product and labor to clean them, and can be one of the least expensive things you can do to restore air flow to where it was designed to be.
- REMINDER: Semen coolatrons must be placed in a climate-controlled area (also applies to the delivery area). Coolatrons can't keep semen at 60-64 degrees when room temps reach 85-90 degrees. Warm semen leads to premature acrosome reactions, decreased motility, shorter shelf-life and decreased fertility.



The shortening photoperiod is also a problem and seems to have its greatest impact in weeks 27-40. The sows don't want to farrow in the winter so they are more likely to recycle, reabsorb the litter before the skeleton can be calcified and abort. All these things result in sows farrowing during what is considered to be a more favorable season. You need to make sure you're doing a good job of heat checking and identifying these animals early so they can be bred back into the system. Although there is no way to completely mitigate the effect of shortening day length, the use of a timer on the lights can help. Having lights on for 16 hours/day (from 5:00 AM to 9:00 PM) mimics the longest day of the year.

Use your historical records to help you determine the amount of seasonal effect there is on your operation. Then, if space allows, you can compensate by breeding additional animals to make up for the losses. Monitoring conception rates at preg checking can be one of the first indicators that problems are starting to happen, and you need to make adjustments in your breeding targets. ***If you have any questions on how to get your historical performance or evaluate what's happening in your herd, let one of the vets at SVC know so we can help!***

SVC Office Hours: Monday through Friday 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM

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