

Apply Insecticides Early For Optimum Fly Control This Year

David Aggett BVMS MRCVS

Seeing large numbers of flies or midges on animals or observing cows kicking in the parlour tend to be the main triggers for applying summer insecticides, but this could be too late for optimum fly control on many farms this year.

Flies, as well as being a nuisance and irritant to livestock, also transmit diseases such as New Forest eye, and summer mastitis and fly strike in sheep. Furthermore Bluetongue virus, which is spread by midges, continues to spread further north in France this spring.

All fly species have to survive the winter in one form or another, in order to breed in the subsequent spring and summer. As last winter was mild, then it is more likely that larger populations of flies have survived and thus the peak fly season may be earlier than expected with greater numbers of flies around all summer long. Thus treating livestock now should both reduce current fly irritation levels and reduce next generation numbers. Applying insecticides early will kill flies and stop them feeding on your livestock, reducing their ability to breed - if a fly doesn't feed then it doesn't develop reproductive organs.

There are two main groups of flies which cause problems for cattle producers. Firstly there are flies which bite and feed on blood, and secondly flies which feed on secretions from the eyes, nose, udder and sweat on the animal's coat and skin. One of the most common flies in England affecting cattle is the face fly. It looks very similar to the house fly and feeds on eye and udder secretions as well as sweat from the body. In doing so the face fly transmits the bacteria responsible for New Forest eye disease. It has several breeding cycles throughout the spring and summer laying its eggs in fresh dung - adult flies emerge just 7-20 days later.

The head fly is responsible for transmitting summer mastitis and can cause intense irritation when feeding en masse. It usually has only a single breeding cycle per summer and lays its eggs in soil, manure and in decaying vegetation. The male flies actually emerge first so early treatment of cattle with insecticide will reduce their numbers thus helping control fly populations later.



As well as treating cattle early, it is also important to keep on top of the fly and midge populations all through the summer months. As the different fly and midge species have different breeding cycles it is likely that livestock will be troubled throughout the warmer months, so regular re-applications of insecticides are necessary as the summer progresses.

A variety of pour on insecticides are available for use in cattle. This season we are stocking both Spotinor and Butox Swish, both of which contain the pyrethroid deltamethrin. Spotinor has the convenience of just a 10 ml dose per animal and provides protection against flies for between 4-8 weeks. Butox Swish requires a 30 ml dose per adult animal but has a slightly longer duration of protection of 8-10 weeks, necessitating less frequent re-applications. We have negotiated competitive prices for these two products so please ring the farm office for details.



Barbers Meeting Eleanor Price BVSc MRCVS, Veterinary Surgeon



On Wednesday 19th April Friars Moor hosted a meeting on behalf of Barbers in the Exchange in Sturminster to discuss antibiotic usage.

All dairy farmers from the Barbers supply chain were invited and we were so pleased to see so many businesses represented. We held a discussion and interactive session on how we can reduce the overall usage of antibiotics on dairy farms, including selective dry cow therapy, calf health and transition cow management. In addition to this we discussed how the usage of critically important antibiotics can be reduced and displayed data proving how well this has worked on Friars Moor farms. With antimicrobial resistance such a key global issue it was brilliant to engage with so many of our farmers and talk about practical solutions and how we can all play our part.

Friars Moor Veterinary Clinic 60th anniversary



On April 1st we celebrated our 60th birthday! It was a brilliant day filled with cake, balloons, a laugh at old photos and much merriment!

Going forwards we are building up to our competition for clients with our 60th theme. This will all culminate with the pinnacle of our celebrations and the Gillingham and Shaftesbury show on Wednesday 16th August. Keep your eyes peeled for further updates and how to enter.

Spotinor



Early treatment of cattle can help reduce insect populations. Treating early in the season will both reduce the first wave of attack and cut next generation numbers. If you can kill flies early

or even stop them feeding on your livestock, you will reduce their ability to breed.

Please call the practice we have a great price for the product.

Also available Butox Swish



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