

Fly Season is Coming Up, Let Famo Feeds Help!

Famo Flier

Spring 2015

Flies are a nuisance to animals and people alike, but they can be controlled. Good sanitation combined with fly abatement products can help suppress a fly infestation.

Most flies reproduce in the *manure*. The most effective way to treat them is to get a product in the manure that controls fly development.

*For confinement cattle choose Clarifly®,
for all the rest choose Altosid®*

Insect growth regulators (IGR) or insect development inhibitors are bio-pesticides that are fed to cattle and pass through the digestive tract into the manure. When a fly lays their eggs in the manure, the IGR interferes with the development of the larvae so that a mature fly will not emerge.

Wet organic matter is also a reproduction area for flies. Anytime something stays wet long enough, flies can emerge and multiply. Cleaning up

around the farm is critical to achieving excellent fly control. Some of the areas to focus on are:

- Pick up spilled feed around feed bins and the feeding area
- Mow grass around buildings on a regular basis – ensuring to not leave clumps of grass
- In pack areas, spread

used pack out onto fields within a few days of cleaning the area

- Make sure all hay is under a roof or cover
- Remove old silage from bunkers
- Watch round bale feeders – an excellent area for fly development – move periodically
- Keep tall weeds or crops away from dairy areas
- Check waterers for leaks to prevent moisture build up

Types of flies and the damage they cause

- *HOUSE FLIES* are known as filth flies and can carry up to 65 different diseases. They are also a major cause of nuisance to neighbors and workers.
- *STABLE FLIES* are blood feeders on the legs of animals, can transmit disease and cause animals to “bunch” in the heat of the summer causing heat stress.
- *HORN FLIES* are blood feeders that can cause mastitis in heifers and dry cows by causing scabs on teats and transmitting bacteria such as *Staph aureus*.
- *FACE FLIES* live away from the cattle but feed around the eyes and nose, transmitting pink eye.

ClariFly® versus Altosid®

While both considered IGRs, ClariFly® and Altosid® are best used in different cattle housing types.

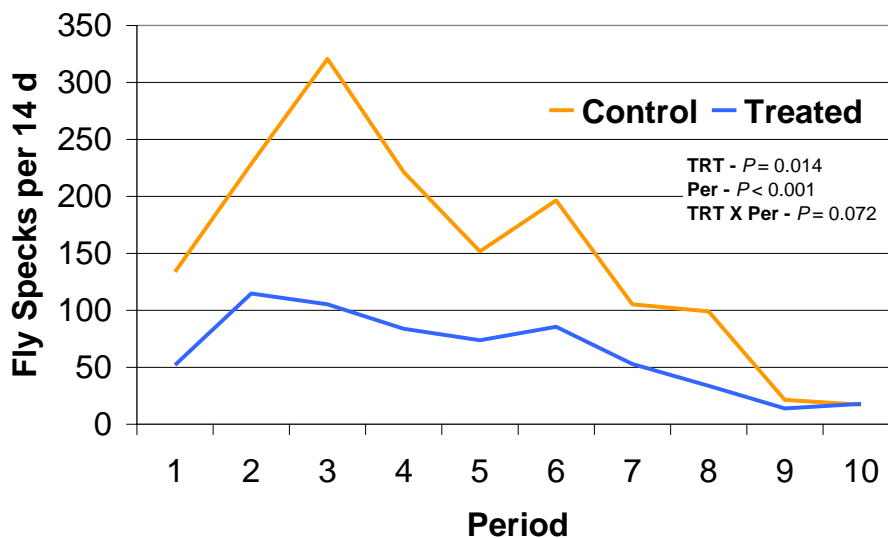
Altosid® is specifically licensed for Horn flies because of their costly impact to cattle producers. Typically, Horn flies are specific to pastured cattle along with Face flies. Because Face flies fly long distances for a meal and are less picky about where they lay eggs, they can be dealt with separately when they become an issue. Horn flies, however, need only reach numbers of 200 flies/adult beef cow to begin costing the producer money. This value is known as the economic threshold, as the adult Horn fly population increases over this threshold, the economic benefits of controlling them offset the cost of treatment. Altosid® is highly effective in controlling Horn fly populations when supplemented at the appropriate levels.

ClariFly® is a larvicide that works more appropriately for cattle housed in confinement.

Benefits of ClariFly® include:

- Controls all 4 fly types
- Can be used in beef or dairy
- Will not harm parasitic wasps
- No milk withdrawal requirements
- Can be fed to calves and heifers/cows
- Can be put into a pelleted feed
- Minimal cost

To illustrate the effectiveness of ClariFly® a study conducted at the Miner Institute in Chazy, NY reported a substantial decrease in fly counts over fly season (see figure). The orange line indicates fly numbers on a conventional fly program (control) and the blue line shows fly numbers on the ClariFly® Larvicide program (treated). Depending on the level of infestation, dealing with all 4 fly types in a dairy operation can result in lost milk production and the intangible costs of disease and aggravation.



Average fly specks counted per notecard positioned in lactating cow housing.

Of the 4 fly types, the one that is the most costly in North America is the Horn Fly. Horn flies cost cattlemen over \$1 billion each year, potentially adding \$30-40/calf in rearing costs. These flies must eat 20 to 40 times/day and rarely leave the host animal. Their bites are particularly painful with their mouth parts being similar to a piercing syringe. Because they are weak fliers, they tend to stay with one group of cattle and if shooed away return immediately to resume feeding.

Horn flies lay their eggs in fresh manure (5 minutes old or less). By including an IGR in the cattle feed, we can stop the Horn fly at the weakest point in their life cycle. Because they are dependent on the fresh manure pat and are weak fliers and typically stay with one group, adding IGR will inhibit the development of the pupae from molting into adult flies.

Both ClariFly® and Altosid® can be fed along with other feed medications. At just pennies a day to add, stop swatting and start feeding your way to a fly free summer. Contact Famo Feeds to add ClariFly® or Altosid® to your summer feeding program.