

Persistent Pest

Face Fly Controls Sought

Near-perfect control of the feed. bothersome and widespread face fly has been achieved—certain organic phosphorus in the laboratory—by adding insecticides pass, largely undigested, through cattle and small amount of some insecticides to dairy cattle make their manure highly

toxic to face fly larvae. These larvae develop only in fresh manure. This research was conducted at USDA's Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Md. Similar studies there indicate this method also may aid in controlling the housefly.

Although no insecticides have been approved for this use (questions concerning residue in meat and milk are not completely answered), scientists consider the results timely and significant.

The face fly has become a troublesome cattle pest in the U. S. and is continuing to spread. Since being found in New York in 1953, the insect has infected nearly all areas east of the Mississippi River and north of Tennessee and South Carolina. During 1960, face flies were found for the first time in Iowa, Missouri, Connecticut, Maryland, Tennessee, and North Carolina.

At Beltsville, entomologists D. W. Anthony and Otelia Bodenstein, and dairy husbandman N. W. Hoozen, fed three insecticides—separately in a grain ration—to Holstein heifers for 5 consecutive days.

Manure collected from the animals was then infested with newly hatched face fly larvae. Few larvae survived after cattle received daily dosages of insecticides.

In the Beltsville experi-

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ments, partial control of the housefly resulted when the insecticides were used at low dosage rates. At double these rates, control approached 100 percent.

Minimum effective rates weren't determined for the insecticides tested. It's believed, however, that even smaller amounts might effectively control the face fly.

Relatively few organic phosphorus insecticides have been screened for this type of control. More research is needed to learn which chemicals are most effective, safest to use, and least expensive.

When these chemicals are found, it's possible minute quantities may be mixed in to salt licks. Then the face fly could be controlled most efficiently. But community effort would be needed for maximum benefits.

Insecticide might not be the only control. The face fly has existed many years in Europe without becoming a serious livestock pest. A possible explanation is that parasites and predators may help control the fly.

There has been no evidence of this pest attacking sheep, goats, or swine at Beltsville.

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FACE FLIES, SHOWN attacking this dairy heifer, are a new pest in the livestock industry causing serious problems for dairy farmers and cattlemen in about 25 states. Closeup shows a female face fly. The insect caused much discomfort to dairy cattle on pastures in Lancaster County last summer. Most spray programs were ineffective against the pest.

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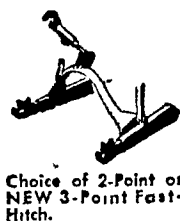
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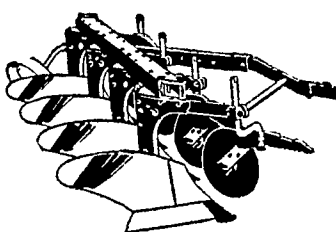


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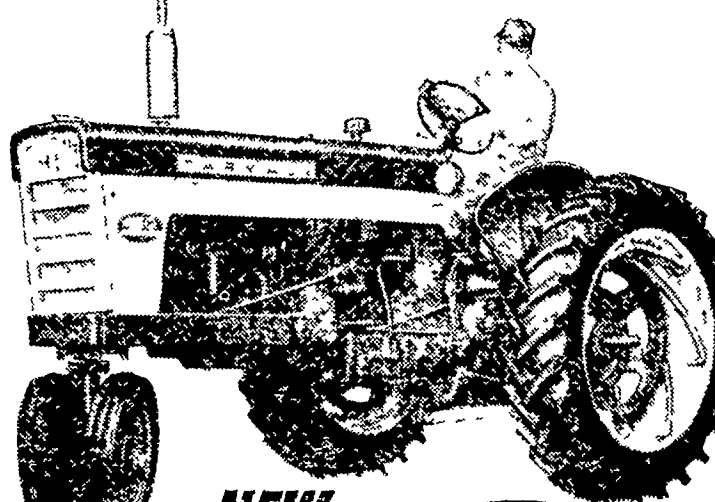
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