

Sanitation is key to fly control

UNIVERSITY PARK — Sanitation is still the key to effective fly control, according to Clarence Collison, Penn State extension entomologist.

"Chemical control works best in conjunction with good sanitation practices," Collison said.

He listed the four major requirements that are needed to maintain a good program to control flies. These are:

- The basic foundation of good sanitation.
- Proper use of pesticides.
- A manure management system that effectively handles wastes.
- Adequate moisture control.

Collison explained that it is important to know the type of fly that must be dealt with in any control program.

For example, horn flies and face flies have spongy mouths and are only located on the animals during the time of feeding on mucous secretions.

Other types, such as stable flies, have piercing mouth parts and suck blood and are usually found around the animal's legs and belly.

Dust bags, back rubbers and chemically treated dusting ear tags can be utilized for horn fly control. While a single ear tag per animal can be effective up to 70

percent for several months, two such tags can provide complete effectiveness.

But Collison recommends:

"If you use ear tags, make certain that the attachment tool is dipped in alcohol between each animal application."

Face flies are considered among the most difficult to control since they spend very little time on the animal.

Among prevention measures are providing shade and keeping cows in the barn. A control program can include daily hand treatment, dust bags and oil-base back rubbers.

To control houseflies a com-

bination of sanitation, regular manure removal and insecticide treatment of the adult flies can be used.

"Keeping barnyards dry is important to control houseflies," Collison said.

"They breed in manure that is 35 to 85 percent moisture and proper drainage can help significantly to control them."

Thus, manure storage becomes

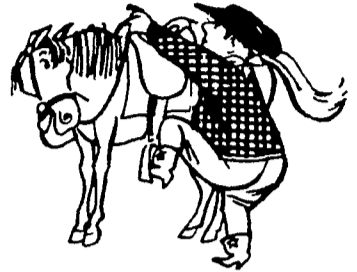
an important item in the control of houseflies.

"Breaking the reproduction cycle of flies is still basic to any control program," Collison said.

The entomologist also points to one of the newer methods of control, the use of pyrethroids.

These can be effective, he said, but primarily on painted walls or white washed surfaces. Also, they don't show any larvae control.

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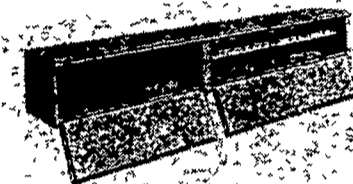
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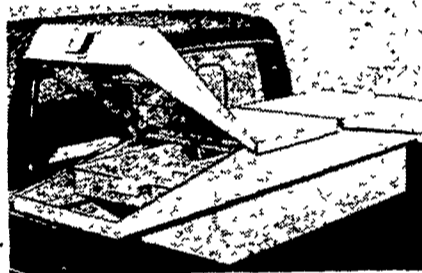
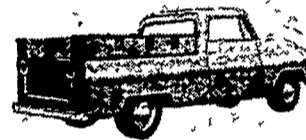
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