

Survey shows cattle producers rely on insecticides

UNIVERSITY PARK — Some 3,000 Pennsylvania producers of dairy and beef cattle are convinced insecticides help control animal pests and increase profits. The farmers were surveyed recently in a project of the Agricultural Experiment Station at Penn State.

Most dairy and beef cattle producers in the study applied insecticides to animals or housing when insect pests were present in large numbers or when animal discomfort was noticed.

Few of the farmers found any harmful effects from insecticides on animals being treated or on workers applying the insecticides.

"Costs of all insecticides were quite minor for both beef and dairy herds in comparison to other production costs," declared Lowell L. Wilson, professor of animal science.

Although the farmers indicated insecticides were a necessary part of their management programs, manure removal and cleanliness

also were cited as essential for adequate pest control. Other management practices, such as clipping grass and weeds around animal housing facilities and in pastures, also helped reduce pest problems.

The goal of the project was to help U.S. Department of Agriculture personnel evaluate the benefits and safety factors of insecticides used on livestock.

Both dairy and livestock farmers considered horn and face flies as

the most difficult to control in pastures and the ones causing the most losses in weight gain and carcass quality as well as milk production. Thus, horn and face fly treatments were used most frequently, followed by insecticides for stable and house flies. However, where dairy cattle were confined in barns or sheds, stable and house flies were a serious problem.

In general, sprays were the most popular form of treatment. For horn and face flies, the primary insecticides were pyrethrins and dichlorvos. These insecticides also were used widely as mist sprays on dairy farms. Beef producers used methoxychlor and malathion most often as sprays.

Most farmers said they felt using a few different insecticides, applied by various methods, gave the best results—compared to one

insecticide applied by a single method.

Backrubbers were used as well as sprays in treating horn flies. On dairy farms, backrubbers most often contained malathion, dichlorvos, Clovop, or ronnel. Beef producers used backrubbers treated with ronnel, toxaphene, methoxychlor, or crotoxyphos.

Making the survey was Holly W. Barr of Washington, Pa., graduate assistant in animal industry. Faculty members involved were Harold W. Harpster and Lowell Wilson in animal science and Charles W. Pitts and Clarence H. Collison in entomology.

For additional information on the study, or other aspects of controlling pests on livestock, contact Clarence H. Collison, 106 Patterson Building, University Park, PA. 16802

BEAT THE SUMMER HEAT...

SPRINKLER COOLING SYSTEM

(Not Fogger)

FOR HOGS

THE PROBLEM

When the temperature goes up, one of the first ways your body reacts is by breaking out in perspiration. That's nature's way of cooling off.

It's different with hogs. High temperatures cause them a great deal of stress because they can't sweat. When under this stress due to heat, hogs will lose their appetite, weight gains drop, there is poor feed conversion, conception rate is reduced and pens become a mess. All of this adds up to lost profits.

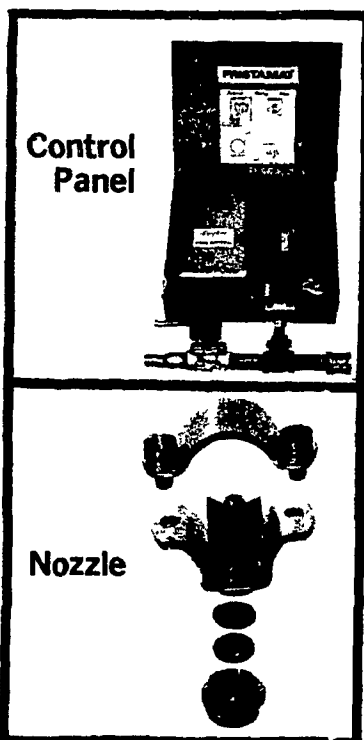
THE SYSTEM:

The sprinkle cycle is turned on automatically whenever the barn temperature rises above a preset level 72° F. Throughout this "on" period the control functions to permit sprinkling to occur for a preset time period each hour. (2 minutes/hour is recommended for best results.) When the barn temperature drops below 72° F the cycle is automatically interrupted.

The nozzles are clamped to a plastic pipe strung over the gutter of slatted area at the rear of the pen. Each nozzle covers a 5-6 foot diameter area which usually means one nozzle per pen. The nozzle assures a coarse droplet spray pattern which is important for maximum cooling. A fine mist of fog is not desirable in geographical areas of generally high summer relative humidity.

THE SOLUTION:

When the temperature is above 72° F even ventilation can't cure the stress that results. But a sprinkler cooling system can help your hogs where nature fell short, giving them a chance to cool off. It sprays them with coarse water droplets to reduce their body temperature. The idea is simple, but extremely effective.



THE PROOF:

	Control Hogs not sprayed	Hogs Sprayed 1 min per hr above 85°F	Hogs Sprayed 1 min per 1/2 hr above 70°F	Hogs Sprayed 1 min per hr above 70°F
Average daily gain per hog	1.37	1.62	1.62	1.72
Average daily feed consumption per hog	5.84	6.77	6.72	6.67
Lbs feed per lb grain per day	4.38	4.18	4.16	3.89
Lbs feed save/hog	0	22	22	49
Days earlier to market	0	1	11	15

Research done at Ridgetown College of Agricultural Technology in Ontario and at the University of California have shown these results:

* These figures are calculated on hogs from 100 lbs up to 200 lbs



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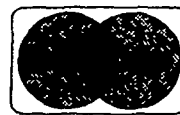


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