

# Del. extension offers fly control tips

NEWARK, DE — Now that the emergency exemption for the use of Larvadex has been withdrawn for a second time, poultry growers are faced with the problem of maintaining fly populations at very low levels in order to prevent the spread of avian influenza and other diseases.

"It seems more doubtful than ever that Larvadex will eventually be available for commercial use," says University of Delaware extension entomologist Mark Graustein. "The EPA won't approve any state labels for its use so we'll have to wait for full federal registration, which could be one to two years away—if ever. In the meantime, its going to take work, but producers can achieve adequate fly control with proper management and the insecticides that are available."

The specialist says an integrated pest management approach will be needed to maintain fly populations at low levels. Growers have several options, depending on their circumstances.

Proper manure management is essential, first of all. Frequent

removal of manure is one alternative—this will deprive flies of a place to breed.

"Unfortunately, most growers can't clean out manure often enough during hot summer weather to make this procedure effective," Graustein says.

Another alternative is the use of a liquid manure system. However, few farmers have a lagoon or the equipment necessary to manage a liquid system.

By far the most practical approach to manure management is to reduce as much as possible the moisture from accumulating manure. House flies develop poorly in manure with moisture below 25 percent.

"Normally," says Graustein, "we recommend maintaining moisture between 25 and 80 percent. This allows some flies to breed and develop but also encourages the buildup of parasites and predators which can help control them." However, because of the threat of avian influenza, tolerating even a moderate fly population to encourage biological control is not advisable. Graustein

suggests that growers use active ventilation, absorbant materials, and keep water systems, roofs and drainage in good repair in order to reduce manure moisture. If fly populations get out of hand, he recommends manure be removed from poultry housing.

He also recommends making routine applications of residual insecticides to walls, ceilings, and posts. Be sure to alternate the compounds used in order to slow the development of fly resistance. Ectiban, Hard Hitter, Insectrin, Overtime or Permethrin alternated with Ravap, Cygon or Baytex should give good control, Graustein says.

At the same time use premixed dry baits—Goldin Malrin and True Blue Fly Grits placed at a rate of 4 tablespoons in an empty plastic milk jug with four 2-inch diameter holes in them. Hang the jugs from roof supports or place them on walkways at a rate of one per 1,000 square feet. Place extra bait at the front and back of the poultry house.

Graustein says growers should be equipped to apply a space spray

for adult fly control, in case populations get out of hand.

Fly populations can be monitored using speck cards to determine if a spray is needed. Simply attach plain white 3 x 5 index cards to rafters with tape or tacks. When the adult flies rest on the cards, they leave specks of excrement. Place a single card at the front of each house and check it daily.

Graustein says it's important to keep records on the fly population for each house, as tolerable fly populations will probably vary. The threshold for applying a space spray may be as low as three to four specks per day or as high as 16 to 20. Because of the threat of avian influenza he recommends growers use the lower threshold.

Vapona (DDVP) is the primary insecticide to use, although Dibrom or pyrethrins can be used if flies are resistant. Use a .5 percent Vapona mist or fog.

Even with the best manure management, the entomologist says there are always spots of wet manure where fly larvae thrive. Use insecticides only where maggots are numerous. For their control he recommends applying Intercept at a rate of one 3.67-ounce packet with 5 to 10 gallons of water. This should be enough to treat 2,000 square feet of manure. Cygon (or Defend), malathion or Ravap can also be used but Intercept is preferred in order to reduce the development of resistance to the adulticides.

## 4-H swine show slated

PARADISE — Chester and Delaware County 4-H'ers are busily preparing for the 1984 Chester-Delaware 4-H Swine Show and Sale. Held at the Vintage Sales Stable in Paradise, the two-day event will feature 120 well-fed market hogs.

The show will begin at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, August 10, and the sale will begin at 9 a.m. on Saturday, August 11. Judging the show will be

Chet Hughes, Lancaster County extension livestock specialist. The 4-H members would like to encourage businesses and individuals interested in purchasing a hog to attend the sale.

Vintage Sales Stable is located on Route 30 about four miles west of Route 41. Further information can be obtained by calling the Chester County extension office at 215-696-3500.

## USDA announces wool support prices

WASHINGTON — Support prices for wool and mohair for 1984 marketings are 1.65 per pound for shorn wool and \$5.169 per pound for mohair, according to Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block. Mohair is being supported at the same percent of parity as wool.

Block said pulled wool will continue to be supported at a level comparable to the support price for shorn wool through payments on unshorn lambs.

As in past years, he said, shorn wool payments will be based on a percentage of each producer's returns from sales. The per-

centage will be that required to raise the national average price received by all producers for shorn wool in 1984 up to the support price of \$1.65 a pound, he said. In 1984 shorn wool prices are expected to average around 75 cents per pound compared to 61.3 cents in 1983.

Mohair payments will be calculated in a manner similar to wool. Block said projected prices indicate payments will be necessary for 1984 marketings. Mohair prices during 1984 are expected to average around \$4.75 per pound compared to \$4.05 in 1983.



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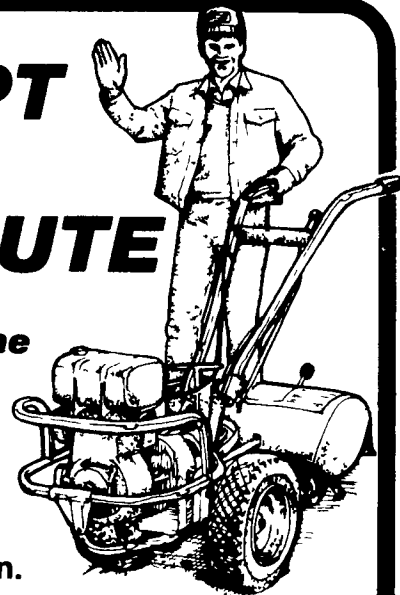
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