

Poultry Pointers

(Continued from Page D4)

life cycle is temperature dependent, requiring 10 days at 85 degrees F, 21 days at 70 degrees F, and 45 days at 60 degrees F.

Adult flies live an average of 3 to 4 weeks, but can live twice this long. They are most active during the day at temperatures of 80 to 90 degrees F and become inactive at night and at temperatures below 45 degrees F.

Resting adults can be seen on the ceiling, walls, posts, and other surfaces inside a poultry house and, outside a house, beneath roof overhangs, on walls, fences, and vegetation. Preferred resting places can be detected by the accumulation of "fly specks," light colored spots formed from regurgitated fluid and darker fecal spots.

Little House Fly
Fannia canicularis (L.)
High populations of the little house fly may occur on poultry farms and become the predominant fly pest in some areas.

The little house fly resembles the house fly, but is smaller (about 3/16 inch) and has three brown stripes on the thorax. This fly is normally associated with litter-type floor housing and open window ventilation.

Like the house fly, the little house fly may invade homes in nearby residential areas, but tends to be slightly less annoying since it does not settle as readily on food or people. Both sexes can be found resting on weeds, branches, or sides of buildings. Adult males show a distinctive aimless hovering or circling flight behavior of long duration within the poultry house or in outside shaded areas. Females flies are less active and more often found near breeding sites.

Since this fly is less tolerant of

hot, midsummer temperatures than the house fly, it often emerges in large numbers in early spring, declines in midsummer, and may peak again in late fall.

The little house fly life cycle is similar to that of the house fly. Eggs are deposited on decaying organic material, especially excrement from poultry, cattle, and humans. Larvae hatch from the eggs in 36 to 48 hours. Unlike the house fly, the larvae are brown, flattened, spiny organisms. Larvae require 8 days or more for development, depending upon temperature and manure conditions. Pupae resemble the larvae in appearance and last about 8 days. The egg-to-adult life cycle typically ranges from 18.5 to 22 days, but may be longer depending upon temperature. In the laboratory, more than one half the adults live 14 days or more. All stages except the egg have been recovered during the winter on Massachusetts poultry farms, although mature larvae predominated. Small numbers of

adults overwinter in cracks and crevices.

Black Garbage Fly

Ophyra Aenescens
(Wiedemann)

Black garbage flies, found in large numbers around poultry facilities, are shiny bronze-black and a little smaller than house flies.

The life cycle is similar to that of the house fly and ranges in duration from 14 to 45 days. Black garbage fly larvae closely resembling house fly larvae hatch from the egg in 12 to 16 hours. Larvae develop in a minimum of 5 days and may prey on other fly larvae.

The pupal stage requires at least 4 days. Adults live an average of 14 to 20 days. Although no overwintering stage is capable of withstanding freezing temperatures, all stages are found throughout the year under suitable conditions.

Unlike the house fly and little house fly, black garbage flies tend to stay on their food source at night rather than rest on the ceiling or outdoor vegetation. Female flies seem to have limited flight activity, yet they have been reported up to 4.4 miles from their breeding areas.

While black garbage fly larvae have been known to exterminate house fly populations, they cannot be considered beneficial because of their large numbers on the farm

and their ability to disperse as adults into nearby communities. Two other species of black garbage flies, *O. Leucostoma*, a widely distributed species, and *O. Capensis*, may be found on Pennsylvania poultry farms. All reports familiar to the author have been *O. Aenescens*.

Small Dung Fly

Sphaerocerids

Small dung flies are very small, blackish or brownish flies that breed in manure and other decaying materials. These flies often occur in large numbers in poultry manure, but do not appear to pose a nuisance on the farm or to nearby communities.

Sphaerocerids are among the first arrivals at new manure. Adult sphaerocerids forage over a broad range of manure moisture content, but predominate at the peak of the manure cone where moisture content is higher. Larval development occurs where moisture exceeds 50 percent.

Control efforts are discouraged because sphaerocerids are not pests and they may be utilized as an alternative food source by beneficial hister beetles.

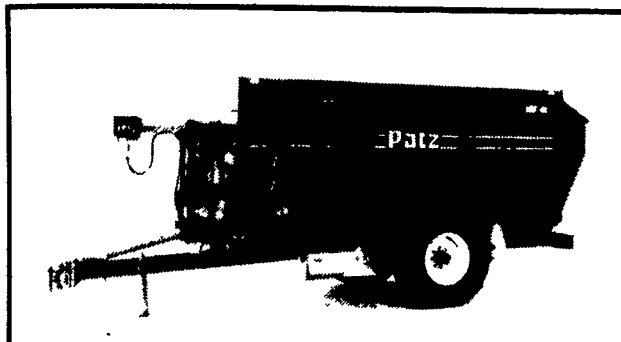
The next article in this series will be on the different types of control. In the meantime, remember that good fly control is dependent on good manure management.

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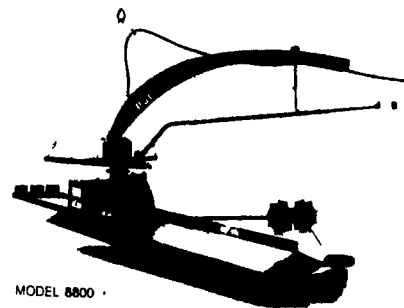
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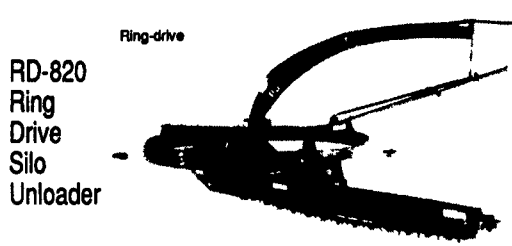
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