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HOW AND WHEN TO GET YOUR IPM PROGRAM STARTED

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The most critical time in initiating an integrated pest management program for layers is in the spring. The temperature will be increasing and conditions for fly development will be optimum.

Many of the high-rise houses will be scheduled for clean out in the next several months, so producers must be ready to attack the fly control problem in the chicken houses.

The manure should be spread and plowed in as soon as possible. After the house has been cleaned out and new birds are being put in place, the producer should develop a routine for managing the fly populations.

The following list is a general guideline for initiating a pest management program in high-rise layer houses.

1) After clean out and disinfection, fog the house to kill the remaining flies.

2) Spray walls with residual insecticide.

3) Put chickens in.

4) Order pupal parasites. One parasite for every two chickens. The parasites should arrive in one week and then the parasites should emerge in 5-7 days. Parasites should be released weekly for 4 weeks. If you have had good results using Cyromazine (Larvadex), you may want to start feeding at the beginning of the cycle; however, if your results with the feed through have been questionable, I would wait for research results on the degree of resistance of Cyromazine to the house fly in Pennsylvania.

5) Put up monitoring traps or spot cards (5 x 7 inches) to assess the fly population. At least 10 jugs or cards should be hung evenly throughout the pit. Fog when the number of flies exceeds 250 flies per trap or 50 spots per card. Do not spray on the same day you release parasites. Early fogging is important early in the life cycle to keep fly numbers as low as possible.

6) Develop routine monitoring schedule for leaky waterers. *Good manure management is essential.*

7) Routinely look for larval development in the manure. If maggots are found, you can do one of two things: Shovel maggots into wheel barrow and take outside and destroy or spot spray with larvicide. Inspection of the pit should be done at least twice a week for the first eight weeks or until coning has occurred and drying of the manure has begun.

8) Continue all of your monitoring chores and fog as needed. This series of chores, if done regularly, will provide adequate fly control in a high-rise layer house. Keep

records of all pest management applications as well as the pertinent management chores that apply to pest management. Records of the number of flies caught in the monitoring jugs or the number of spots on the spot cards could prove to be valuable data if problems should emerge. These data will also provide the information necessary to do a financial analysis of the pest control costs.

9) Remember that the first 8 weeks of the cycle is the most important for establishing good fly control. As the outside tempera-

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Bolstered by widespread interest and industry leader endorsement, the American Baldy Beef Council is on target with its July inauguration date.

Formed by the American Polled Hereford Association (APHA), the Council is offering alternative

ture rises and the fans run more, the better the manure will dry out. This, along with other management techniques, will help reduce the fly population in the houses and will set the stage for a good fly control program for the remainder of the fly season.

If you need help in conducting the fly control program, contact your county agent or the Department of Entomology at Penn State, (814) 863-7789.

Where trade names appear, no discrimination is intended, and no endorsement by Cooperative Extension is implied.

ways for cattlemen to add value to their cattle, cut costs, and produce quality beef through marketing and certification services for Baldy cattle.

"I'm convinced the Polled Hereford breed and its breeders are on the right track with their Baldy program," said Dr. Bill Mies of Texas A&M University, an industry-recognized expert on total quality management. "Pursuing 'excellence every time' is how we reach the quality level consumers are demanding from our product. The APHA Baldy program is a tool that should be embraced fully."

Initial services provided by the Council include a marketing service for superior Baldy cattle, which are universally recognized

as the animals most in demand by producers and feeders. The program also features a certification plan which allows for quality and genetic documentation throughout the production chain.

"A nationwide network of qualified, professional sales representatives will create a direct link with producers on a local level," said Dennis Schock, APHA vice president who is in charge of the Baldy program. "Baldy sales representatives will offer certification and marketing services and will serve as advisors for the production of high quality, profitable Baldy cattle."

For more information, contact the American Baldy Beef Council, 11020 N.W. Ambassador Dr., Kansas City, MO 64153, (816) 891-8400.

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