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Electronic Version of Newsletter Available

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Farm Advisor

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To simplify information, trade names of products have been used. No endorsement of named products is intended, nor is criticism implied.

Environmental Stewardship Short Course June 13, 17, 20

Another Environmental Stewardship Short Course (ESSC) will be held for dairy producers in June. All classes will be held at the Glenn County Cooperative Extension Office, 821 E. South St., Orland. Class dates are June 13, 17, 20 (Friday, Tuesday, Friday) and run from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.

This is probably the last time the class will be offered at no cost to dairy producers. Because the ESSC certification is linked to the California Dairy Quality Assurance program, the same representative from the dairy should attend all three classes. If you have attended classes previously, but didn't complete all three, now is the time to attend the class you missed.

The goal of the ESSC 1 is to provide producers with sufficient information so they can comply with water quality regulations that pertain to animal feeding operations. The curriculum was developed to address 19 of the top 20 problems that regulatory agency staff has identified.

The course is offered to dairy producers throughout California in three two-hour sessions. Producers are encouraged to ask questions and participate in discussions. An individual receives a certificate of participation when they have attended all three classes.

Each dairy participant will:

- Review pertinent laws related to manure management and water quality
- Assess the risk of water contamination from manure management
- Estimate needed storage for liquid manure
- Estimate existing liquid manure storage capacity
- Develop a storm water pollution prevention plan
- Devote time to think about manure management
- Develop an emergency manure management plan
- Learn how to sample manure sources for nutrient content
- Estimate average nutrient application to land
- Review how to survive a regulatory inspection



Dairy producers must have completed the short course before they can ask for their dairy to be certified for the California Dairy Quality Assurance Program. If producers want to have their dairy certified for the California Dairy Quality Assurance Program, they need to call the CDQA evaluation hot-line (530) 574-0524 to request the third party evaluation.

To sign up for these classes, or if you need any special accommodations or have further questions, please call the Glenn County Cooperative Extension Office at 865-1107.

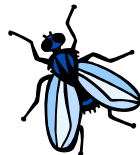
Energy Savings Program Available to Dairy Farmers

A six month old program that offers \$1,500 cash incentives to California dairy farmers is being enthusiastically received by area dairy producers.

The program offers cash incentives to those producers who have not already installed variable speed drives (VSDs) on their milking vacuum pumps. Participants must purchase their electricity from Pacific Gas & Electric, Southern California Edison or San Diego Electric.

Modern dairy operations annually require about 300 kwh of electricity per cow. With roughly 1,400,000 California cows producing 33.6 billion pounds of milk each year, electricity is a huge budget item for California dairy producers.

Sixty-one California dairy farms are installing variable speed drives through the program. In 2003, the EnSave program has room for another 30-40 farms. An energy conservation program funded by California ratepayers under the auspices of the California Public Utility Commission, EnSave offers \$1,500 cash incentives to farmers to install the energy efficient equipment. EnSave, is an agricultural energy conservation company hired to run the program.



The largest electricity use on dairy farms in California and across the country is the milking operation. Historically, large motors are sized to generate the maximum necessary vacuum needed. Those same motors run at maximum RPM throughout the several hours required to milk the entire herd. With the addition of a VSD, the motor runs only fast enough to meet the instantaneous vacuum need. Typically, dairy producers experience a savings of 65% - 75% on the electricity needed to run the milk vacuum pump.

Dairy producers in other states have been very enthusiastic about similar VSD Incentive Programs because of the very swift return on investment. In the past two years, more than 440 New York dairy producers have installed VSDs through an EnSave program much like California's. A comparable VSD program in Michigan, also run by EnSave, was fully subscribed last week by 107 dairy producers just 90 days after it was announced. Some large dairy producers have claimed that their energy savings pay for the new equipment in less than six months.

Farmers interested in learning more or applying to the program, should call EnSave at 1-800-732-1399 and ask to speak with Helen. This program expires on December 31, 2003.

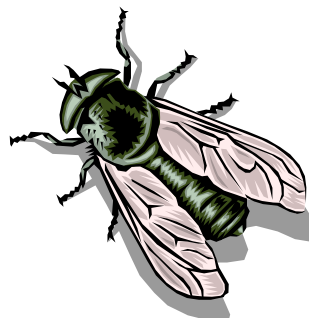
New Insecticide Products for Control of House Flies

by Alec C. Gerry, Ph.D., Extension Veterinary Entomologist, University of California, Riverside

Fly baits (or scatter baits) have been used by animal producers for many years to manage house fly as part of an integrated pest management program. At times of the year when house fly populations were high, these baits could be used

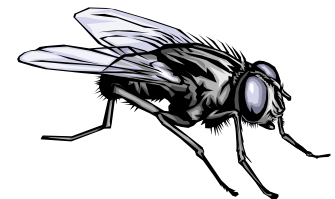


to supplement the primary fly control techniques of sanitation and manure management. Fly baits were used by scattering the bait granules on the ground near animal pens and corrals or by placing them into bait stations. Until recently, all fly baits registered for use in California were similar. All of the baits contained the fly killing chemical Methomyl and the fly pheromone attractant Muscalure to attract flies. Baits differed only in the size, shape, and color of the bait granules, and perhaps in the composition of feeding attractants added to the granular bait. Recent studies by University of California researchers have shown that house fly resistance to the Methomyl insecticide used in these products is very high in many house fly populations in California. This resistance may explain the failure of these Methomyl baits to kill house flies that has been noted by producers over the last 5-10 years. Recognizing that the Methomyl baits were no longer performing as well as they had prior to the 1990's, it was clear that new chemical baits were needed. In response, two new fly bait products have become available in California. The two products are a fly bait strip called "QuickStrike" produced by Starbar and a granular fly bait called "QuickBayt" produced by Bayer Animal Health. Like other fly bait products, these new products contain the fly pheromone Muscalure as well as feeding attractants. What is new about these products is that they both use new chemical insecticides to kill houseflies. Both of these products can be purchased through local farm and feed stores. QuickStrike is a bait strip with the fly bait material housed within a plastic strip frame. QuickStrike contains the fly killing chemical Nithiazine which offers a fast knockdown of flies that eat the bait. The bait strip can be placed near animal pens and corrals out of reach of the animals and is best placed low to the ground and near areas where flies already congregate. QuickBayt is sold as a granular bait containing the fly killing chemical Imidacloprid (the same chemical used to control fleas on dogs).



Imidacloprid also offers a fast knockdown of flies that eat the bait. QuickBayt can be scattered on the ground or placed into a bait station near animal pens and corrals. QuickBayt can also be mixed with water and painted onto surfaces to kill resting flies. Painted surfaces should be cleaned or repainted after 2-3 weeks to prevent flies from rapidly developing resistance to the Imidacloprid chemical. This granular bait is best used by scattering the bait on the ground in the vicinity of animal pens where flies tend to congregate. Although these new products have not been tested by University of California researchers to ensure that they work, it is presumed that these new products will outperform the old Methomyl products as flies should not be resistant to the new chemicals. As with all chemical products, read the label prior to use and follow label instructions for use and storage. Also, please keep in mind that chemicals are the means of last resort for management of house fly. A proper sanitation and manure management program should ensure that house fly populations are kept low through most of the year.

Dr. Gerry is a newly hired extension veterinary entomologist at the University of California at Riverside. He specializes in the management of arthropod pests of confined livestock and in the control of insect and tick transmitted diseases of animals.



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