

External Parasite Control

The Educated Horseman: Management Series



Insects are not only a nuisance — they are also potential disease carriers. It is important to create a management plan that mitigates the health concerns associated with external parasites that also fits your livestock's needs. To reduce external parasites and the variety of health concerns they pose, a multifaceted approach should include:

Moisture control



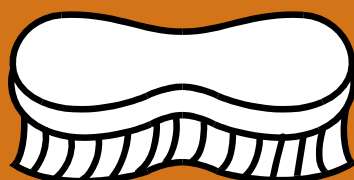
Wet areas are breeding and feeding grounds for insects.

- Keep stalls dry.
- Eliminate standing water in pastures and feeders.
- Repair plumbing leaks.
- Cover rain barrels.
- Create adequate drainage around your barn.

Effective sanitation

Reduce the pest population by reducing their breeding grounds.

- Clean stalls in horse areas daily.
- Feeders should minimize waste.
- Discard wasted feed daily.
- Remove garbage from barn area.
- Cover horse feed.

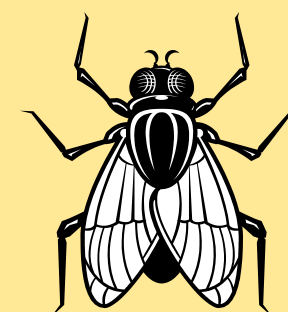


Biological control

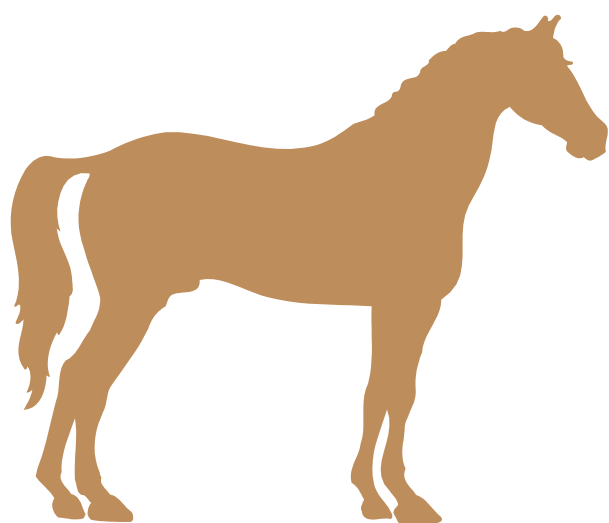
Biological control is another nonchemical method to reduce fly populations. Several species of parasitic wasps may be purchased from commercial companies.

Deposit these wasps near manure piles and other known breeding sites for flies.

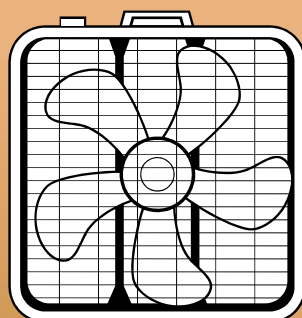
“Feed-through” fly control



Feed additives are available that contain ingredients designed to prevent the development of fly larvae in manure. It is suggested to begin feeding the fly control supplement before fly season starts. Multiple types are available, and research should be done to determine which type is best for your situation.



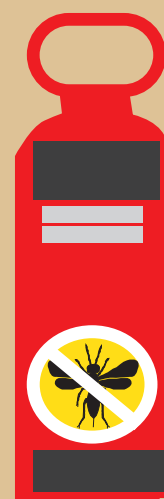
Physical barriers



Use external barriers, such as fly sheets, masks and boots, to provide protection from flies and other biting insects. Blasts of air from fans directed down and outward above doors can help reduce flies from entering barns.

Insecticides

Residual insecticides applied to walls, ceilings and rafters of barns, run-in sheds and other farm buildings can provide up to six weeks of pest control. Space sprays, fogs and mists are valuable in reducing large populations of adult flies. The most common insecticides used are those containing pyrethrins, which are short-acting and must be reapplied frequently.



A successful pest control program will interrupt the insect life cycle, eliminate breeding grounds and control moisture while also utilizing physical barriers and insecticides. While there is no way to eliminate all pests, using a combination of the mentioned methods will reduce the overall pest population.

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Pub. 3377B (online only) 11/17

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