

Guidance on Fly Control and the Use of Insecticides – August 2011

The latest update from ourselves and our consultant entomologist on the control of Common (CHF) and Lesser Houseflies (LHF) is as follows :

1. Fly control experts working elsewhere in the country are reporting increased resistance to pyrethroids, particularly in LHF. **We are also starting to see this in East Devon.**
2. LHF are difficult to control as adults – neither the knockdown sprays nor residual insecticides are reliably effective.
3. LHF hibernate over the winter and therefore it is particularly important to remove any manure harbouring pupae.
4. Only very few CHF hibernate.
5. Many farmers using deep pit systems regularly remove the manure throughout the cycle – eg. every 4 weeks or so. This is a very effective control measure and farmers should get the birds used to vehicle noise as soon as they re-stock the sheds.
6. Use of insecticides as a means of control is unsustainable – there is no viable alternative to keeping the manure dry by preventing water getting into the pits.
7. Physical control methods are preferable to chemicals – try Electric Fly Killers in the egg packing rooms and pits, but there must be enough of them to be effective, or the Fly Catcher Turbine which “hoovers up” airborne adults.

Insecticides in common usage include :

1. **Neporex** – pyrethroid based – larvicide used as 500g dissolved in 5 litres water applied to 20m² manure in knapsack sprayer. Start in March and repeat 3 monthly or monthly during infestation. Granules may be applied to small wet patches.
2. **Dimalin-flo** – non-pyrethroid based insect growth regulator – for larvae.
3. **Oxyfly** – pyrethroid based – adult knockdown – applied as space spray : 50ml in 5l water per 200m². Repeated weekly during infestation.
4. **Twentyone** – non-pyrethroid organophosphate adult knockdown – applied as space spray.
5. **Spy** – adult residual bait applied as paste onto boards and vertical resting places, particularly in the pits. Needs refreshing every 2 weeks during the summer.
6. **Quickbayt** – used as Spy.
7. **Extreme Professional Fly Killer** – pyrethroid based contact killer with residual activity. Effective knockdown for CHF and LHF but cannot be used around live animals. Used neat in ULV spray system.

Application should alternate between pyrethroid and non-pyrethroid – **but** resistance build up, particularly in LHF, may mean that none are effective. It is therefore essential that farmers assess the effectiveness of the insecticides used by monitoring adult numbers and examining the manure for dead larvae a few days after treatment.