



# INSIDER INTEL

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## House Flies in Poultry Production

### Overview

Flies are classified in the family Diptera, meaning two wings; most other insects like bees and wasps have four. There are many species of flies that affect rural residences, hobby farms, and livestock facilities, but the house fly (*Musca domestica*) is the number one pest in terms of frequency. Although house flies are incapable of biting, they are vectors of many human and animal diseases such as avian influenza, *Escherichia coli*, *Campylobacter*, *Clostridium*, and coxackie viruses just to name a few. They breed in moist decaying matter, carrion, spilled feed, and animal waste. Each female can lay up to 500 eggs in batches of about 100.



### Cultural Practices

- Monitor fly populations with jug or sticky traps to determine when to implement or strengthen fly management programs.
- Remove or manage unnecessary harborage (tall grass and brush), breeding sites (manure), and food (wet feed and carrion).
- Organic material that is very dry will not support fly production. You can essentially eliminate fly development in manure by reducing the moisture content to 30%. Proper ventilation, air flow, and reducing moisture sources like leaky waterers is essential.
- Belted layer houses are a perfect example of how removing manure often helps control flies. These barns are often fly-free on the inside.

### Insecticide Solutions

- Residual insecticides like Tirade™ Ultra WP, Antapex™ WSG, and Fraxel™ PSP should be applied to surfaces where flies rest such as walls, ceilings, floors, support posts, fencing, cages or pens, PVC pipes, and electrical conduit. Most of these products can't be sprayed with animals present, but Fraxel can! Don't forget to periodically rotate between insecticide classes to manage resistance.
- Controlling adult flies only treats the symptom, not the problem. Insect growth regulators like Nixlo IGR Concentrate prevent fly larvae (maggots) from developing into adult flies. Tank mix IGRs with residual surface sprays and make application to manure for quicker results. The residual insecticide will kill existing larvae and adult flies, while the IGR prevents any hatching maggots from developing into adult flies.
- Fly baits can be broadcast around the outside of animal production facilities where adult flies congregate and where animals can't consume them. Indoors, fly baits must be applied in bait stations, except for walkways in caged layer houses, where they may be scattered.
- When adult fly blooms occur, it's time to break out the rescue treatment, fogging with synergized natural pyrethrins or pyrethroid that is labeled for application over animals using fogging/misting equipment or automatic mist systems. The fine particles of the fog/mist float through the air, filling up the entire space of the barn, and contacting both flying and resting flies causing fly death in minutes.