

Livestock Insects—Horses

Stable Flies, House Flies and Face Flies

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Identification and Field Biology

Identification and field biology of stable flies, house flies and face flies are discussed in the section on cattle pests. These pests not only feed on horses, but also are intermediate hosts and vectors of internal parasites of horses. The nematodes *Habronema microstoma* and *H. muscae* are all transmitted by stable flies and house flies respectively. Face flies feed on the eye secretions of horses and are vectors of eye worms in the genus *Thelazia*.

Control measures for these muscoid flies are the same as for the pests on cattle. However, horses have sensitive skin, which may be burned by sprays that contain petroleum carriers. Consequently, only insecticides recommended for horses should be used. Masks for horses that cover the face may be the best treatment for face fly attacks on horses. When only a few horses are to be treated, a sponge or wipe may be the most practical way to apply insecticides. Horses perspire, which washes away insecticides or repellents fairly quickly so re-treatment is required at 2- or 3-day intervals.

Insecticides Suggested for Treatment of Flies on Horses:

Insecticide	Application Method	Application Rate	Restrictions and comments
Coumaphos (Co-Ral)	Spray or Sponge	11.6 % ELI 1 pt/25 gal water	<i>Restricted-use Pesticide</i>
(Co-Ral Fly and Tick Spray)	Spray	6.5 % EC 2 qt/50 gal water or 10 oz/4 gal water	For horses not intended for slaughter. No more than 6 treatments per year, no less than 10 days apart.
(Co-Ral)	Spray	25 % WP 4 oz/12.5 gal water	
Fenvalerate (Ectrin)	Spray	10 % WDL 2 oz/12 gal water	Apply 8 oz of diluted spray per horse. Do not apply to horses intended for slaughter.
Methoxychlor	Spray or wipe-on	0.05 % Ready to use	Follow label instructions.
Permethrin			

(Atroban)	Spray	11 % EC 1 pt/25 gal water or 3 tbsp/2.5 gal water	Spray to thoroughly wet animal. Repeat every 10-14 days.
(Buss Off)	Wipe-on, Spray or Pour-on	7.4 % Permethrin + 7.4 % PBO	
(Ectiban)	Spray	5.7 % EC 1 qt/25 gal water or 22 tbsp/1 gal water	Repeat application every 14 days.
(Gardstar)	Spray	40 % EC 5-12.5 ml/2 gal water	Apply 30-60 ml per horse.
(Permethrin II)	Spray	10 % EC 2 oz/3 gal water	Spray thoroughly to wet horse. Repeat in 14-21 days.
Pyrethrins	Mist, spray or wipe-on	0.05-1.0 % Pyrethrins + Piperonyl Butoxide Many formulations of ready to use.	Follow label instructions.
Stirofos (Rabon)	Feed Additive	7.76 % ROL	Follow label directions. Horn and face fly control only.

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Date: 03/28/2003