

Guidance for Farmers

Dealing with Flies



This leaflet provides:

- Fly prevention information
- Monitoring and recording matrix
- Contact information for further advice

*"North Kesteven District Council
is committed supporting safe,
clean and healthy farming"*

Fly Management Information

Flies can be a significant problem in farming for a number of reasons:

- They affect farm productivity as they cause distress to production animals. In case of a heavy fly infestation this can result in reduced egg production and a drastic reduction in feed intake that has a negative impact on the animal's growth.
- They spread costly disease. Flies can transmit over 100 pathogens as well as viruses & bacteria. Amongst the diseases that can be transmitted are salmonellosis as well as avian influenza. Eventually, flies reduce farm incomes through lower productivity and increased treatment cost.
- The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act of 2005 amended the Statutory Nuisance provisions in the Environmental Protection Act 1990. It gives local authorities the power to check business premises to investigate complaints of flies 'being prejudicial to health or a nuisance' and issuing an abatement notice where premises fail to comply.



Fly prevention and appropriate measures for in poultry facilities

The key to avoiding fly infestations is managing water and moisture in the manure and frequent manure removal if appropriate. Premises which keep manure dry or regularly remove it rarely experience serious infestations, and almost never need to use insecticides. All installations should aim to achieve this situation. High risk periods for fly infestation in poultry laying units are the first few months after a new flock has been introduced, where that period coincides with warm weather. For example, introducing a new flock into a house in April poses a risk of fly problems within a few weeks that may then persist for most of the summer. This is a result of the combination of rising temperatures, low initial predator numbers, and manure that tends to be wet in the initial period whilst the flock settles.



- Operators should ensure they have a sufficient stock of insecticide products, and the resources to use them if required, over this high risk period.
- Poultry laying units should adopt the following preventative steps where appropriate:
- Where appropriate, manure should be frequently removed from the site
- Manure remaining on site should be managed to keep water content below 50%, i.e. it is dry and friable. This may be achieved by monitoring water drinkers for leakage; preventing water ingress into the building; ensuring good ventilation of manure holding areas, and ensuring the livestock is healthy
- Certain feeds result in wetter litter, and the producer should take action to deal with constantly wet faeces
- Removal of manure/litter from the building and transport off site should comply with current Codes of Practice.
- Broken eggs and fallen stock should be removed daily
- Cleaning up feed spillages daily, where possible. If this isn't possible, the operator should monitor the spillage area more closely for flies
- Incorporating fly screening into buildings if possible and where it won't affect ventilation
- Training staff in monitoring and treating fly infestations
- Frequent monitoring of adult and larval flies should be carried out, an example of a monitoring record is on the rear of this information leaflet

Farm Fly Monitoring Record

Site name:
Date animals in:
Main fly species assessed:

[illegible]

State chosen monitoring methods

Location of monitoring points	
Adults	Larvae
1:	1:
2:	2:
3:	3:
4:	4:
5:	5:
6:	6:



Contact Information

Should you have any concerns or wish to discuss fly issues with North Kesteven District Council, you can contact the Environmental Protection unit below:



01529 414155



ehteam@n-kesteven.gov.uk

This document is available in large print Braille audio tape electronic formats such as CD or in a different language. Our website is ReadSpeaker enabled. For a copy please contact Environmental Protection at the Council using the following options:

Phone: **01529 414155**

Fax: **01529 413956**

Web: **www.n-kesteven.gov.uk**

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