



Kansas State University

Beef Cattle Horn Fly Control

Insect pests cost Kansas cattle producers millions of dollars annually. These pest cause financial losses by decreasing milk production and weight gains, by damaging carcasses and hides, and by transmitting diseases. This guide is intended as an aid in selecting the correct insecticide for Horn Flies. In all cases, read the label of any insecticide product before purchase. The directions for use and the limitations noted on a label may work for one farm and not the other. There are 941 insecticides labeled for cattle use in Kansas, this is no way an all inclusive list. Generally speaking, insecticides cleared for use on beef cattle may also be used on non-lactating dairy cattle, unless the label forbids such use. **READ THE LABEL!**

HORN FLIES-Sprays

Amount to mix with

Material	Trade name(s)	3 gal. of water	50 gal. of water	Remarks & restrictions
Coumaphos 25% WP 11.6% EC 42% EC	Co-Ral	1 oz. 2 oz. 2 oz.	1 lb. 1 qt. 1 qt.	Completely wet animal to runoff No time limitations to slaughter
Stirofos 24% EC 50% WP	Rabon	3 oz. 2.5 oz.	1.5 qt. 2.5 lb.	Completely wet animal to runoff No time limitation to slaughter
Permethrin 10% EC 5.7% EC	Ectiban/Permethrin Insectrin/Atroban	2.5 oz. 4 oz.	2.5 qt. 2 qt.	Spray head, neck and shoulders No time limitation to slaughter
Malathion 57% EC		3 oz.	1.5 qt.	Completely wet animal to runoff No time limitation to slaughter
Stirofos +Dichlorvos Ravap 23% + 5.3% EC		5 oz.	2.5 qt.	Apply as a coarse spray No time limitation to slaughter

Horn Flies Backrubbers

Place where runoff will not contaminate water. Force use is more effective than free choice.

Material	Trade name(s)	Rate	Remarks & restrictions
Coumaphos 11.6% E	Co-Ral	10 oz. per 1 gal. of fuel oil	No time limitation to slaughter Approx. 1 gal per 20' of rubber
Material	Trade name(s)	Rate	Remarks & restrictions
Fenbalerate 10% EC	Ectrin	8 oz. per 5 gal. of fuel oil	No time limitation to slaughter Approx. 1 gal per 20' of rubber
Permethrin 10% EC	Atroban Eciban Permethrin	8 oz per 5 gal. of fuel oil	No time limitation to slaughter Approx. 1 gal. per 20' of rubber
Malathion 57% EC	Ravap	5 oz per gal. of fuel oil	No time limitation to slaughter Approx. 1 gal. per 20' of rubber

HORN FLIES–Pour-ons

Material	Trade name(s)	Rate	Remarks & restrictions
Permethrin 1%	Ectiban Atroban	0.5 oz per 100 lbs body weight up to a maximum of 5 oz.	Pour along back line over neck, shoulders & rump. Do not apply more often than every 14 days.
Permethrin 5 mg/ml	Ivermectin Ivomec	1 ml per 22 lbs. body weight	Pour along top line in a narrow strip from withers to tail head; 48-day waiting period to slaughter

HORNFLIES-Ear tags

Insecticide-impregnated ear tags. Horn flies have developed a high level of resistance to all brands of ear tags containing a synthetic pyrethroid (SP) as the active ingredient. Ear tags containing an organic phosphate (OP) do not give season-long control. For these reasons, one of the other treatment methods above is preferred.

Ear tag brand name	Type of active ingredient	Comments
Dominator	OP	For best results, follow label directions exactly
Saber	SP	Do not use fewer tags than labels direct. Use 2
Tomahawk	OP	tags per animal with all brands of ear tags. Tags
Atroban	SP	should be removed in the fall or when no longer
Patriot	OP	effective. Horn fly control need not be initiated
Terminator	OP	until fly numbers exceed 250 per cow.
Ranger	SP and OP	

HORN FLIES—Oral Larvacides

These materials are ingested by the animal, pass through the digestive tract, and are excreted in manure in concentrations high enough to kill fly larvae. For effective fly control with these materials, consider the following:

*Each animal must receive the proper amount at the proper interval.

*Are your neighbors following a fly control program?

*You may need to use supplementary control methods.

Material	Trade name(s)	Method of administration	Remarks and restrictions
Stirofos	Rabon	Feed additive Mineral additive Mixed mineral Mineral block	Animals must ingest proper amount daily for effectiveness, difficult to accomplish unless hand feeding. See label for instructions Bolus products administered with balling gun
Methoprene	Various	Feed additive Mineral additive Mixed Mineral Mineral block Bolus	

HORN FLIES—Dust

Work dust into hair coat. Use gloves and wash hands soon after using.

Material	Trade name(s)	Rate	Remarks and restrictions
Coumaphos	Co-Ral	Thoroughly dust using not more than 2 oz per animal	Do not repeat more often than every 14 days. No time limitation to slaughter
Malathion 4% 5%		2 oz per animal on neck on back	May be repeated at 10-day intervals No time limitation to slaughter
Permethrin 0.25%	Ectiban Atroban Permethrin Insectrin	2 oz per animal over poll, neck and back Rub into hair coat	Use as often as needed No time limitation to slaughter
Stirofos 3%	Rabon	2 oz per animal over poll, neck & back rub into hair coat	Use as often as needed No time limitation to slaughter

HORN FLIES-Dusts Bags-Forced use is more effective than free choice.

Material	Trade name(s)	Remarks & restrictions
Coumaphos 1%	Co-Ral	Do not hang directly over feed, water or mineral troughs. No time limitation to slaughter.
Stirofos 3%	Rabon	No time limitation to slaughter.
Permethrin 0.25%	Permethrin Atroban Eciban	No time limitation to slaughter.

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