

Jody G. Holthaus
District Extension Agent
Livestock and Natural Resources

Know Your Enemy-Pick Your Battle

This is true for life in general, but today we're talking about flies on livestock. I've been at war with the flies around our farmstead. I've purchased four different sticky traps, purchased the fly bait stations and now, I'm resorting to making my own bait stations.

I watched some You Tube videos on what to use to bait my soda pop bottle traps. I used sugar syrup with rotten fruit, rotting meat and red colored sugar water. These were the combinations that were supposed to attract flies and wasps or hornets. So far, so good on the flies, not so much on the wasps and hornets. The best thing I have found is the roll of sticky paper, you just keep unrolling it as it fills up with wasp carcasses. Last year, I used the toilet bowl sanitizers, the little cheap ones that clip on the side of the bowl. Those things are supposed to prevent mud daubers in buildings. I think they worked, but they dissolved so fast in the heat.

On our cowherd, I really tried to find an insecticide that was NOT permethrin or pyrethroid. If you look at the products sold in most farm stores, they are all permethrin or pyrethroids. I finally found some product with the active ingredient Coumaphos.

Development of insecticide resistance in horn fly populations is the result of a selection process similar to that used to improve herds. Cattle producers can cull horn flies that are susceptible to a certain group of insecticides by using products with the same mode of action year after year. Surviving or resistant flies are left to breed and produce resistant offspring. As a result, products that once gave good control may no longer kill flies or may lose their effectiveness earlier in the season. Insecticide resistance has become a problem in some areas of the US, particularly with the use of insecticide ear tags containing active ingredients with the same mode of action – attacking the same site in the insect.

Specific steps can be taken to manage resistance, including:

- 1) Target treatment to lactating cows and growing calves because they have the greatest potential for loss to horn flies and the greatest chance for a return from the cost of treatment.
- 2) Rotate among insecticides with different modes of action.
- 3) Wait to treat until there is an average of 200 or more horn flies per animal. This may not occur until early to mid-June. Treating too early, especially with ear tags, may mean poor control in late summer when the flies are most abundant.
- 4) Use alternative insecticides and application methods late in the season to reduce the percentage of overwintering flies with resistance.
- 5) Remove insecticide ear tag as soon as horn fly numbers begin to decline in the fall. This reduces the amount of time that flies are exposed to a product and allows the number of susceptible flies to increase late in the season.
- 6) Change application methods regularly. Use dust bags, back rubbers, pour-ons, or sprays rather than relying continuously on ear tags. Continued use of insecticides from the same class in a slow release form (ear tag) may lead to resistance.

David G. Hallauer
District Extension Agent
Crops & Soils/Horticulture

Fall Demonstration Plot Tour

If you look at the KSU Farm Management budgets, the portion devoted to weed control comes in at around 15 percent in corn budgets and almost 22 percent in soybean budgets. It may seem like a lot, but if you fail to put an effective program together, the results can haunt you for years to come. It's one of the reasons why weed control will be the focus of the 2019 Meadowlark Extension District Fall Demonstration Plot Tour, scheduled for Tuesday, August 27th east of Grantville in southern Jefferson County.

K-State Research & Extension Weed Management Specialist Dr. Dallas Peterson will be our keynote speaker, focusing on the topic of Weed Management for 2020 and Beyond. He'll share results from his herbicide rating plots as well as principals to help producers continue to design economical and effective weed management programs. We'll have the opportunity one more time to dig in to his knowledge bank before he prepares to retire later this fall.

We'll kick off the program with drinks at 4:15 p.m. at the site of our 2019 In Season Nitrogen Monitoring plot hosted by Bigham Farms east of Grantville. The plot site is located a mile and a quarter south of Highway 24 on Douglas Road, then a half mile east on 15th Street. We'll discuss this year's nitrogen monitoring program at 4:30, followed by Dr. Peterson's presentation at 4:45 p.m.. Following the program, we'll return to the Kaw Township Building in Grantville for a sponsored meal courtesy of Tarwater Farm & Home and Denison State Bank.

To help with handouts and meal planning, an RSVP is requested by noon on Monday, August 26th – a day prior to the meeting. You can RSVP by contacting the Oskaloosa Office of the Meadowlark Extension District at (785) 863-2212 or e-mailing me at dhallaue@ksu.edu.

Come out and hear about this year's plots while relaxing with your neighbors before fall harvest gets in to full swing. We hope to see you there.

Oak Tree Owners – Check for Twig Dieback

KSU Horticulture and Plant Pathology Specialists have recently noted numerous cases of twig dieback on pin oaks and other oak species. It is caused by a fungal disease called *Botryosphaeria* canker, and causes affected trees to exhibit wilting or “flagging” of terminal growth on the ends of branches.

The dieback may be somewhat hidden by the fact that it only extends about four to six inches down the twig. Leaves will bend back towards the twig and then turn brown, remaining attached to the tree. If you inspect trees closely, you should see a visible transition from healthy (light green in color) to diseased (brown/black coloration) tissue.

Chemical controls measures typically aren't necessary. The damage is minor and only affects branch tips. Dead twigs on small trees may be pruned off if desired.

August 16, 2019

Cindy Williams
Meadowlark Extension District
Food, Nutrition, Health, and Safety

Cindy will be out of the office on extended leave after the death of her husband. Thank you for your understanding. We all look forward to her return and her articles.

Nancy C. Nelson
Meadowlark Extension District
Family Life

Helping Children Cope with Tragedy

Natural disasters, family changes such as divorce, death, serious injury, or community violence can be traumatic for both children and adults. Everyone needs time to process traumatic events.

Children often experience disasters differently than adults and they need to have developmentally appropriate explanations of them. Engage with children to help them process tragic events, practice coping skills, and build resiliency. Here are some helpful resources:

Disasters: Children's Responses and Helping Them Recover by K-State Research and Extension, <https://www.bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/MF3196.pdf>

Coping with Stress and Violence, resources compiled by The National Association for the Education of Young Children, <https://www.naeyc.org/resources/topics/coping-stress-and-violence>