

# How to Control Flies on the Farm

To reduce the fly population around a horse barn, you have to have the right weapons in your arsenal. Use them along with the tips offered here to win your war against flies.

## Kill Flies at Various Life Stages

These products work together to kill flies at all their life stages:

- Fly predators are tiny wasps that don't sting. They're a completely safe and non-toxic technique of fighting flies, and are a great choice for farms or people who have a number of animals. When fly predators are used with traps, you'll notice quite a reduction in your fly population. Because of their small size and nocturnal habits, you'll never see fly predators and your animals won't be bothered by them. Female fly predators lay eggs inside fly pupae, and these eggs use the contents of the pupae – the developing nuisance flies – as the food source for their own development. The nuisance flies are therefore killed before they can mature. Emerging fly predators breed and increase their beneficial population on your property.
  - Traps do a great job of catching adult flies. Two basic types of traps exist, each designed to attract a different kind of fly. Stable flies are attracted to their traps visually. House flies are attracted to their traps by odor, which is offensive to humans. Both types should be hung outside, away from your barn, near potential fly breeding locations. If you hang traps inside, you'll invite flies in. Generally, traps should be hung less than four feet from the ground, but be sure to follow manufacturer's recommendations to achieve the best results. You may also want to test various sites to see which locations capture the most flies.
  - Sticky traps and tapes without lures catch flies when they land to rest. These can be hung successfully inside a stable, but be aware that you may also inadvertently catch small birds, bats and beneficial insects.
  - Misters and space sprays, such as the Country Vet Dispenser, provide quick knock-down of flies and other insects in your barn. This battery-operated dispenser is inexpensive and easy to install, and it releases insect killing insecticide on a timer.
- ### Actions to Take to Reduce Fly Populations
- In addition to products for fighting flies, you can also take these significant steps to create an unfriendly environment for them:
- Because flies need warm, moist breeding grounds in which to lay their eggs, remove decaying organic matter from your property. Rotting leaves, grass clippings, decaying vegetables in gardens provide attractive environments in which eggs can be laid.
  - For the same reason, maximize heat in your manure compost pile by keeping it piled vertically as much as possible rather than spread horizontally. Turn your pile to introduce oxygen, which is necessary for decomposition. Add lime to speed up decomposition, and make sure your manure pile stays slightly damp. Increased heat makes your manure pile an unattractive breeding area for flies. If hot enough, all but the outer edge of the pile will be too hot to allow flies to lay eggs. You can cover the manure piles with black plastic to further increase heat.
  - If you spread your manure on your property, do it thinly (less than ½ inch thick) so that the matter dries quickly before it can become a fly breeding ground.
  - Remove fly resting areas near your barn and pastures by keeping grass and weeds cut short. Flies rest on long grass to escape direct sunlight.
  - Solve any drainage problems on your property. Remove moisture and debris that accumulates around watering troughs and level areas where puddles occur. Make sure your hoses and pumps don't drip as the moisture there will attract flies.
  - Clean feed tubs and areas where horses eat to avoid a build-up of decaying food crumbs that become attractive to flies.
  - Use ceiling and portable fans in your barn to keep the air moving. Circulating air is difficult for flies to navigate and it inhibits their ability to land on your horse. Stall fan holders enable you to mount a portable box fan at the top of a stall at a 45° angle so that the air streams down over your horse.
  - Keep stalls free of manure and urine as the odors are attractive to house flies. Products such as Odor-No-More, Bye Bye Odor

## Tips

- Any insecticide that kills flies may also kill your fly predators.
- You may find it necessary to rotate different products throughout your fly season. A trap or spray that works in one area during spring may not be as effective in the same area in summer.

and Stable Fresh can help you keep your stalls smelling fresh.

- Encourage birds and bats, natural insect predators, to live on your property by hanging bird and bat houses.



### Type of Fly

### What to Use

#### Biting Stable Fly

- Fly Predators
- Bite Free Fly Trap
- Farnam EZ Trap
- Revenge Fly Ribbon
- Country Vet Dispenser



#### House Fly

- Fly Predators
- Farnam Fly Relief Disposable Fly Trap
- Farnam Trap-N-Toss Fly Trap
- Flies Be Gone Trap
- Farnam EZ Trap
- Revenge Fly Ribbon
- Country Vet Dispenser



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