



## **Result Demonstration Report**

### **House Fly Control in Beef Cattle**

**Cooperators: Mrs. & Mrs. Keith Taylor**

**Matthew March**

**County Extension Agent Agriculture and Natural Resources Polk County**

**Dr. Sonja L. Swiger**

**Associate Professor and Veterinary/Medical Extension Entomologist**

#### **Summary**

House flies are nuisance non-biting filth flies and are the most abundant insect associated with livestock and congregation areas such as barns. Due to their tendency to aggravate livestock and be potential vectors many producers have baiting programs to help control the population. The objective of this result demonstration is to test the effectiveness of different bait products on the market. Five different baits were utilized for this result demonstration. Bait was placed once a month and dead house flies were counted from July through October. Captivator traps had the highest average mortality counts at 108.33 flies. QuikStrike and Cyanorox had minimal to no mortality counts for all the months for an average of 2 and 3.75 flies, respectively. However, Quickbayt and Gloden Marlin mortality counts was consistently higher for all month and had average mortality counts of 12.75 and 15.25 flies, respectively.

#### **Objective**

House flies are nuisance non-biting filth flies found on all continents except Antarctica. They are the most abundant insect associated with livestock, poultry, and companion animals. Adult house flies are gray and black in color and 6-9 mm long. House flies can occur on virtually all substrates, feed, feces, and vegetation. Facilities that congregate livestock such as barns, dairies, or feedlots will also congregate house flies. When this occurs, house flies become a nuisance and will aggravate livestock. House flies are, also, potential vectors of enteric pathogens. A variety of house fly baits and traps are available on the market. The objective of this result demonstration is to help determine which baits work best in Polk County.

#### **Materials and Methods**

A beef cow/calf operation located on Jack Pate Rd. in the northern part of Polk County was utilized for the result demonstration. A barn utilized by the cattle for shade was used to test the

effectiveness of the different baits. Four different granular baits were used along with a Captivator fly trap. Granular bait was placed in plastic tupperware while the Captivator trap was hung from a rafter. Each bait was placed in a different tupperware. Once a month dead house flies inside the tupperware or inside the Captivator trap were counted. Old bait was removed and replaced with new bait. During the month of July, the Captivator trap fell resulting in no data for July.

### **Results and Discussion**

	<b>July</b>	<b>August</b>	<b>September</b>	<b>October</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Average</b>
<b>QuickBayt</b>	14	13	20	4	51	12.75
<b>Golden Malrin</b>	13	18	14	16	61	15.25
<b>QuikStrike</b>	0	3	1	4	8	2
<b>Cyanorox</b>	5	5	4	1	15	3.75
<b>Captivator</b>	-	140	134	51	325	108.33

Captivator had the highest average mortality, with numbers decreasing in October with cooler weather. QuickBayt mortality numbers, also, decreased in October with cooler weather. QuikStrike and Cyanorox mortality numbers were in the single digits for all months. Of the granular baits, Golden Marlin had the highest average mortality over all months and numbers remained consistent.

### **Conclusions**

Captivator was very efficient in trapping flies during the hottest months of the year. However, once temperatures began to cool in October numbers dropped off steeply. Even with the drop off Captivator still had the highest mortality at 51 for October compared with the next closest mortality being Golden Marlin at 16. QuickBayt, also, experienced a drop off during the cooler months going from 20 mortalities in September to 4 in October. There appears to be no trend for time of year in effectiveness of Golden Marlin as mortality counts remained consistent from month to month. Captivator was the most effective at fly mortality of all baits tested, while Golden Marlin was the most effective of the granular baits.

### **Acknowledgements**

Would like to thank the guidance from AgriLife Extension Specialist, Dr. Sonja L. Swiger, Associate Professor and Veterinary/Medical Extension Entomologist. Would also like to extend gratitude to Mr. and Mrs. Keith Taylor for graciously allowing access to their property and volunteering their time.

Trade names of commercial products used in this report is included only for better understanding and clarity. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by Texas AgriLife Extension Service and the Texas A&M University System is implied. Readers should realize that results from one experiment do not represent conclusive evidence that the same response would occur where conditions vary.