

Delaware Equine News

Vol. 22 No.3

www.delawareequinecouncil.org

July/Aug/Sept 2023

Around The Ring at The DEC May 21, 2023 Show

CATCHING FIRE!

The DEC's 2023 Show Series is "Catching Fire"! There were 51 entries of all shapes, sizes and ages. The new Rusty Rider division proved equally popular with many riders



who hadn't shown in years. The next show is July 29th at Pairadice Equestrian in Milton. Come on out and "Catch Fire" with us!!



Photos continued on page 12



1. **Leadline:** Walk-ask a question
2. **Leadline:** Walk/Trot
3. **Leadline:** Walk/Trot/2 point at a walk
4. **Pre-Special Beginner:** Walk + Question
5. **Pre-Special Beginner:** Walk/Trot
6. **Pre-Special Beginner:** Walk/Trot/Ground pole
7. **Special Beginner:** Walk/Trot
8. **Special Beginner:** Walk/Trot/Individual Canter
9. **Special Beginner:** Walk/Trot/Trot or Canter Ground Pole or Crossrail
10. **Green Horse:** Walk/Trot
11. **Green Horse:** Walk/Trot
12. **Green Horse:** Walk/Trot/Ground Pole
13. **Open Beginner:** Walk/Trot
14. **Open Beginner:** Walk/Trot/Canter (No more than 5 to canter at one time)
15. **Open Beginner:** X-Rails (Trotting permitted)
16. **Cross Rail Hunter:** X-Rails (Trotting permitted)
17. **Cross Rail Hunter:** X-Rails (Trotting permitted)
18. **Cross Rail Hunter:** Under Saddle (No more than 5 to canter at one time)
19. **Rusty Riders:** Walk/Trot
20. **Rusty Riders:** Walk/Trot/Canter
21. **Rusty Riders:** 2 Ground Poles r or Cross Rails
22. **AAE:** Walk/Trot/Canter
23. **AAE:** Over fences Z with change of direction
24. **AAE:** Over fences Z with change of direction
25. **Schooling Hunter:** Over Fences 2'0"
26. **Schooling Hunter:** Over Fences - 2'0"
27. **Schooling Hunter:** Under Saddle (No more than 5 to canter at one time)
28. **Child/Adult Hunter:** Over Fences - 2'3" to 2'6"
29. **Child/Adult Hunter:** Over Fences - 2'3" to 2'6"
30. **Child/Adult Hunter:** Under Saddle (No more than 5 to canter at one time)
31. **Child/Adult Equitation:** Walk/Trot/Canter
32. **Medal:** 2'3" to 2'6"
33. **MacLay:** 2'3" to 2'6"
34. **Schooling Jumpers:** Timed First Jump Off 2'0" to 2'6"
35. **Schooling Jumpers:** Timed First Round 2'0" to 2'6"
36. **Schooling Jumpers:** Timed First Jump Off 2'0" to 2'6"
37. **TB Hunter:** Over Fences 2'0" to 2'3"
38. **TB Hunter:** Over Fences 2'0" to 2'3"
39. **TB Hunter:** Under Saddle
40. **TB Jumpers:** Timed First Jump Off 2'0" to 2'3"
41. **TB Jumpers:** Timed First Round 2'0" to 2'3"
42. **TB Jumpers:** Timed First Jump Off 2'0" to 2'3"

Revised

2023 DEC Schedule

Show Dates

May 21, 2023

July 29, 2023

September 9, 2023

****October 8, 2023****

(Rain Date - October 15, 2023)

****Points will be doubled at this horse show!**

Warm Up Will Begin at 8:00AM
Show Will Start at 9:00AM

Pre-entry fees: \$12.00 per class or \$30.00 a division.
One-time post-entry fee of \$10.00, \$15.00 office fee

www.delawareequinecouncil.org
Phone or text entries to Joan Greenberg-631-905-5800
or e-mail: Ngreenberg628@gmail.com



It's State Fair Time



Send us photos and a short paragraph about your time at the 2023 Delaware State Fair



President's Message

Summer has arrived with a vengeance. Air quality for humans and horses is a bit of a struggle but we move forward with our activities. Our meeting place has changed and we hope to have a permanent place soon and for now we meet at the Harrington American Legion/VFW on the highway just south of Rt 14. Our second horse show is July 29th and we're growing in entries at each show with our new venue at Pairadice Equestrian in Milton. Our plan is to continue to have speakers with important information for our members. Volunteers for our shows and other activities are always needed and welcomed. Enjoy your summer.

A special thank you goes out to Barbara Dixon for donating a demonstration screen to be used during meetings and other times where a presentation is being made.
Ken Horeis, DEC President

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~Welcome New DEC Members ~
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★ **Next DEC Meeting** ★
July 17th
Harrington American Legion Post
17448 S. DuPont Hwy. Harrington

Schedule of Meeting Speakers for 2023
3rd Monday of the Month

July- Dr. Nikki Scherrer, New Bolton Ophthalmologist, Omega Horse Rescue
August-Allison Meadows of the Mounted Police
September
October
November

If you or someone you know would like to present at a meeting, please contact a Board member

DEC July 2023 Meeting Guest Speaker
 Nicole Scherrer, DVM, DACVO
 Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology, New Bolton Center

DEC August 2023 Meeting Guest Speaker
 Allison Meadows of the Mounted Police

No Charge Website Calendar Available

The Delaware Equine Council has launched a Free **Equine-Related Calendar** visible to the whole world. Listing is self-service ANYONE CAN ADD AN EVENT! Membership is not required
 Just go to www.delawareequinecouncil.org and follow the "News & Events" link to our "Calendar" page. Fill out the form at the bottom. Submit for review, and it will be posted within hours

Keep Your Horse Cool: Tips for Summer Riding

By Kentucky Equine Research Staff

Use these tips to keep your horse as comfortable as possible during periods of hot weather.



- Ride early or late in the day to avoid the hottest periods.
- Use cold water hosing or sponging to cool your horse after exercise. It's not true that pouring cold water over hot muscles will cause cramping. Apply cold water, scrape it off, and pour on more to carry heat away.
- Allow your horse to drink during and after exercise periods. Give him a chance to drink, walk him for a few minutes, offer more water, walk, and continue until he has had all the water he wants.
- Think about your horse's condition frequently as you ride. If your horse gets hot and sweaty and is breathing hard, ease up until he recovers. Don't hesitate to cut short a trail ride or jumping lesson; horses can suffer from heat stress and illness just as people can.
- If you accidentally overdo exercise and your horse is still hot and breathing hard several minutes after stopping exercise, make every effort to reduce his body temperature. Get him into the shade, set up a fan if possible, and hose or sponge him with the coldest water you can find. Call a veterinarian if these measures don't improve his condition pretty quickly.
- With older horses or those in obese or unfit condition, be careful to limit exercise in hot weather. These horses may get overheated more quickly and be less able to lose excess heat than their younger, fitter peers.
- All horses should have access to a salt block. If your horse is working regularly in hot weather, consider using an electrolyte supplement even if you don't see a lot of sweat, which can evaporate before it becomes visible.
- Be sure your horse is comfortable even when he's not working. Give him access to plenty of fresh water and a shady spot to rest. Use a fly sheet or fly spray as needed to guarantee he can relax; stamping at flies uses a lot of energy and is hard on legs and hooves. Putting sunscreen on white or light-colored muzzles will keep sensitive skin from getting painfully burned.
- Anhidrosis (not producing enough sweat) is an often overlooked cause of heat intolerance or poor performance. Consult your veterinarian about testing for anhidrosis and possible treatment if you suspect that your horse cannot sweat normally.



Sand Colic in Horses

By: Chris Mortensen, Ph.D.

The ingestion of sand (and/or dirt) can lead to multiple health issues with horses. The accumulation of sand in the digestive tract of the horse can cause chronic diarrhea, weight loss, and colic. Sand Colic is where sand can accumulate in a horse's digestive system and cause either irritation, inflammation, and/or an impaction colic. Surprisingly, sand colic is a leading cause of death in young horses in certain parts of the United States.

How Can Horses Get Sand Colic?

Sand colic occurs more often in areas where there are sandy soils. This is most seen in coastal areas around the United States. Outside of coastal areas, you'll find sandy soil in states such as Texas, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Utah. Estimates are that nearly 8% of the United States is covered in sandy soils.

In regions with less sandy soils, it is estimated of all colic cases that only 5% are caused by sand accumulation in the gut of the horse. However, in these coastal areas or in regions with sandy soils, the estimates can be as high as 30%.

The most common cause of sand accumulation in the digestive tract of horses are those that are fed on the ground. Hay or horse feed fed directly on the ground in areas with sandy soils puts these horses at greater risk. As they pick up the feed with their very tactile lips, horses will also pick up sand and/or dirt. Additionally, if feed is put on a small feed pad or in a small feeder, feed can get pushed or knocked off into the sand and horses will ingest sand when eating them off the ground.

Another contributing factor for sand colic is when horses are kept on poor quality pastures. When plant availability is low, horses will graze the plant down to near the soil. Under conditions with poor quality pastures, horses will tend to pick up soil as they graze. They also can accumulate sand in the gut by drinking water with sediment in it.

Signs of Sand Colic in Horses

Rather than pass all the sand into their feces, sand can begin to accumulate in the gut of the horse. Generally, the sand will accumulate in the large colon. This can result in impaction or also result in a twist (volvulus) and displacement of the large colon. Signs of sand colic are very similar to any other bout of colic and can include:

- Abdominal pain. Often horses will nip at their sides with colic and can be seen with raised tufts of hair along their abdomen.
- Abdominal distension.
- Diarrhea.
- Weight loss.
- Distress with rolling, pawing at the ground, groaning, and sweating.

Another way to evaluate a horse's risk to sand colic is to check their feces. Sand will be present in horse feces, which can either be observed directly or through dilution. Fresh feces not contaminated with ground material can be diluted in water. For example, placing fresh feces in a bucket and mixing will help free up any sand. Then if any sand is present it will settle on the bottom of the bucket or other holding vessel used.



Continued on Page 8

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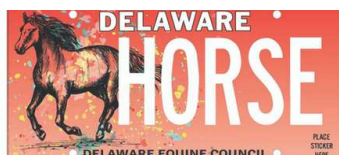
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Article Submission

Do you have something interesting happening in the equine world?

Send articles and information for the Delaware Equine News to warrington_girls@yahoo.com

Sand Colic in Horses (Continued)

Finally, if you are concerned with sand accumulation in your horse, it is always recommended to discuss this with your veterinarian. They can help check your horses' feces or conduct their own evaluation.

How Horses Are Treated for Sand Colic

From the data we have, about 5% of all horses will suffer a bout of colic every year. As mentioned, of these, and depending on the area of the United States, up to 30% of all colic cases can be due to sand accumulation in the gut of the horse. We also do know that most colic cases are medical in nature and need immediate treatment from a veterinarian.

However, of the most severe cases of colic, only a costly surgery will help the horse survive.

In one study of sand colic cases that required surgery, the veterinarians found sand impaction in multiple locations of the digestive tract of the horses. Of these horses studied, 10% were euthanized during surgery. Of the remaining 90% of surgical cases, nearly all went on to recover and had a 100% recovery rate 1-year after surgery.

Preventing Sand Colic in Your Horses

The first step in prevention is to identify what type of soil your horses are kept on. If you are having difficulty, you can contact your local extension office and they can provide you with advice. It is also worthwhile to have a discussion with your veterinarian and ask them about the colic cases they are observing in your area, as well as the cause.

One of the most important tips for preventing sand colic is to feed your horses off the ground. There should be multiple types of hay feeders available to you in your area. The same advice extends to their horse feed. If ground feeders are used, placing large mats under the feeder is also recommended. You will also want to ensure your horse's water supply is always clean, fresh, and free from any debris or sand/soil.

Pasture quality is also a contributing factor to preventing sand colic. Fresh grass has a high moisture content, which helps soften the feces and improves gastric mobility of the equine digestive tract. High quality forage also helps improve the quality of the hindgut microbes and overall hindgut health. If feeding hay, increased turnout time also helps with gastric mobility.

The evidence for psyllium is still under debate. Limited studies have shown some efficacy in helping to clear sand from the horse's gut and often the amounts fed are much higher than those recommended in commercial supplements. Most studies have shown that it has no effect. Further research is ongoing with testing of individual products and their effectiveness in horses. There aren't reports of adverse events from feeding psyllium, so it can be used as part of a holistic approach to preventing sand colic, but should not be relied upon as the sole intervention.

Take Home Message

The saying goes, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." This holds true for horses under risk of sand colic. It is critical that you know what types of soil your horses are housed and fed on. If you determine your horses may be at risk, then ensuring their feed is up off the ground, or, at minimum, fed on a large mat, can go a long way in preventing sand colic.

Cellulitis in Horses: Causes and Treatment

Posted by Madonna Morrison, DVM | Aug 12, 2022 | Article, Diseases and Conditions, Horse Care, Lameness, Lower Limb, Other Skin Problems, Skin Problems, Vet and Professional

Learn how to control this rapidly progressive infection within the horse's subcutaneous skin layer.

It can be a startling discovery to find your horse with one leg doubled in size and non-weight-bearing. Don't panic. Call your veterinarian, and be prepared with answers to questions he or she might ask:

- Where is the swelling located?
- Does it include any joints?
- Is it the same on both sides of the leg?
- Any wounds?
- History of trauma?
- Was your horse wearing bandages or boots?
- How lame is the horse?
- Any recent injections?
- Have you applied a topical ointment or salve to the leg?
- Does your horse have a fever?
- Is the area warm or hot, firm or soft?
- Does light or firm pressure cause pain?
- Is there any drainage or leaking?
- Has this happened before?

Cold hose the limb, and prevent your horse from moving around, if possible, until your vet arrives.

The most common causes of acute severe lameness include abscesses, fractures, laminitis, septic (infected) joints, or **cellulitis**.

Cellulitis is an infection within the subcutaneous skin layer (contains connective and fat tissue), not regular edema (fluid swelling).

Certain clues can indicate your horse has cellulitis. First off, the limb will be very painful to the touch—to the point your horse might pull his leg away so quickly he hops sideways. It will be firm and hot. He'll be very lame, though most of the pain occurs when he moves the limb, due to the pressure. In some mild cases the horse might be able to bear weight on it.

Most affected horses have a fever. In comparison, a horse that is "stocked up" is not severely lame and typically has a softer, cooler swelling called pitting edema (pressing it leaves an indent).

Cellulitis can be rapidly progressive if you don't address it quickly. It often affects only one limb, most frequently a hind limb. Severe cases can cause abscessation, resulting in ulceration, skin sloughing, and even bone and synovial (joint) tissue infection.

Cellulitis can progress to inflammation of the lymph vessels, known as lymphangitis, which can permanently damage the lymphatic circulation and make cellulitis more likely to occur in the future. Other complications can include thrombosis of the small vessels resulting in tissue necrosis (death), supporting-limb laminitis, and sepsis.

So, what causes this subcutaneous disruption? The inflammation had to start somewhere. Most cases involve bacteria entering through undetectable microtraumas to the skin, though cellulitis can also occur following an injection.

Continued on Page 9

Cellulitis in Horses: Causes and Treatment (Continued)

A Staphinfection can occur from blunt trauma alone. Pastern dermatitis (aka scratches) is a common culprit. Veterinarians have also noted cases following application of a poultice or topical counterirritant that resulted in cellulitis and skin necrosis 48-72 hours later.

Treatment

Treatment involves reducing inflammation, controlling the infection, and preventing further infection. Your veterinarian might ultrasound the leg to look for foreign bodies or fluid pockets. He or she might open the skin or wound to allow for drainage—critical for any wound, necrotic/infected area, or abscess—and debride (remove damaged tissue) and lavage (flush) the area as necessary.

Your horse should receive non-steroidal anti-inflammatories such as phenylbutazone or flunixin meglumine. In the case of a noticeable wound, fluid pocket, or drainage, your veterinarian might also collect a culture or use a Gram stain to choose the appropriate antibiotic, though this is not always possible.

In very severe cases veterinarians might administer steroids or diuretics. Pentoxifylline can increase blood flow. If you still detect heat and pain in the limb, perform hydrotherapy. Though often not possible in the acute phase, moving around is beneficial for the horse; the stretch and release of the muscle tendon unit helps stimulate lymphatic resorption and outflow.

Depending on the rate and severity of progression, you might apply a bandage or a sweat if your horse will tolerate it. Monitor the bandage to ensure it does not become restrictive. Persistent cellulitis of more than a week might result in a chronic enlarged limb.

Prevention

Ways to prevent recurrent cellulitis include monitoring for and cleaning wounds properly. If lymphatic damage has occurred, any future wound can potentially cause cellulitis. Other preventative measures include keeping the skin dry. You might place gravel in paddock areas that tend to get muddy to reduce moisture. Avoid drying out skin, however, with shampoos that might lead to cracking. Finally, keep the horse moving regularly and exercise him to maintain circulation.



Visually Evaluating Horse Hay

Article By: Chris Mortensen, Ph.D.

Horse owners are always looking out for what is best for their animals. This is especially true when deciding on their horses' diets and purchasing hay. Good quality hay is the foundation of a horse's feeding program, providing them with essential nutrients, and critical to maintaining gut health. However, not all hay is created equal. To ensure horses receive the best possible nutrition from their forage, every horse owner should have the ability to visually appraise hay carefully and correctly.

What Does Good Quality Hay Look Like?

Appraising hay goes beyond just simply looking at a hay bale and evaluating it on its outward appearance. Rather, it involves not only assessing various visual indicators, but also can provide insight into a hay's freshness, nutritional content, and suitability. Knowing how to visually appraise hay can help you make better informed decisions on where you source your hay.

There are some general key factors when conducting a visual appraisal of hay. These are important as they not only help evaluate a hay's nutrient quality, but also its palatability for your horses.

General guidelines on visually appraising hay include:

- **Color.** Good, fresh hay for horses should appear greenish to yellowish in color. Any hay that is dark, grey, excessively brown, or even with bleached patches should be avoided.
- **Texture.** Good horse hay should be soft and pliable to the touch. Hay that is "poky" or brittle can indicate the hay is too mature with lower nutrient content.
- **Smell.** Fresh hay should have a sweet and pleasant aroma. Any musty or moldy smells can indicate very poor-quality hay. It is critical to remember to never feed moldy hay to horses, as it can cause severe digestive upset.
- **Leafiness.** Good quality horse hay has a high leaf-to-stem ratio. This means the hay (especially legume hay, like alfalfa) has a high content of leaves as compared to stems. Alfalfa leaves should also be softer and not "shatter" due to being too dry.
- **Stem thickness.** The stems of good quality hay should be thin and flexible. Thicker stalks are an indication of hay with a lower nutritional value.
- **Dustiness.** When picking up hay or an individual flake of hay, there should not be excessive dust. Too much dust can irritate horse's respiratory tract, especially those suffering from heaves or allergies.
- **Debris free.** Any hay suitable for horses should be free from trash, weeds, mold, or other foreign materials.
- **Blister beetles.** While rare, alfalfa hay produced in North America can potentially be infested with blister beetles, which are toxic to horses. While ranging in size, adult blister beetles can be as long as 2 inches in length. You can check with your hay supplier if purchasing alfalfa to ensure it is free from blister beetles.

These are general guidelines and should be applied uniformly to an entire shipment of hay. While there may be some minor differences amongst individual bales of hay, the quality should be consistent throughout.

Other Factors to Consider When Appraising Hay Quality

While visual appraisal of horse hay can help in evaluating its quality, looks can sometimes be deceiving. For example, a bale of hay greenish in color is usually desired. This generally means the hay was cured under optimal conditions. Yet, green hay can sometimes be devoid of key nutrients.

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July 29-Making Strides Hunter Jumper Series at Breezy Run Farm, Church Hill, MD

Aug. 5-CBHSA Horseshow at Horse Power Show Hunters, Greenwood

Aug. 19-CBHSA Horseshow at Glendale Riding School, Easton

Aug. 20-ESWWSA/First State Coon Hunters/Delmarva Miniature Horse Club, location Denton 4H Park Denton MD

Sept. 9- DEC HORSESHOW at Pairadice Equestrian Center, Milton, Houston, contact Joan at touchngong@msn.com to pre-register

Sept. 10-CBHSA Jumper show at Pairadice Equestrian Center, Milton

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Sept. 16-17-DAHA Fall Spotacular Appaloosa, Palomino & Open All Breed Show, held at Delaware State Fairgrounds Harrington DE. Call Tammy @ 302-526-6944 for more info

Sept. 24-DEC Member Appreciation Day Ride & Drive, Redden State Park Headquarters, lunch provided, pre-register via website or call Stan @ 302-684-3966

Sept. 30- CBHSA Medal Finals & Hunter Classics at Glendale Riding School, Easton

Sept. 30- Making Strides Hunter Jumper Series at Breezy Run Farm, Church Hill, MD

Oct. 7-CBHSA Jumper Classic at Glendale Riding School, Easton

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Oct. 28-Making Strides Hunter Jumper Series at Breezy Run Farm, Church Hill, MD

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EEAP Info



Visually Evaluating Horse Hay (Continued)

Additionally, hay that has been partially sun-bleached and may appear more yellowish in color, can be just as high, if not higher in nutrients than some outward looking, green-colored hays. This is why the visual appraisal should also include looking inside the bale of the hay. While the outside may be yellowish due to sun bleaching, inside might be more green, soft, and pleasant smelling.



All in all, a visual appraisal is important in determining the quality and suitability of hay for horses. Where a visual appraisal falls short is with an exact analysis of individual nutrients within that hay. Yet, some inferences can be made on nutrient quality by a visual inspection. When owners test their hay, they receive a hay analysis and receive information on:

- Moisture content. The optimal range is 10-16%. If the hay is too dry (lower than 10%) it will be poky and brittle upon appraisal. If the hay is too wet, it is susceptible to molding.
- Crude protein. Difficult to evaluate visually. However, a higher leaf-to-stem ratio would be a good indication of more protein in hay. This is because the leaves contain most of the protein in a forage.
- Fiber. Hay with too high fiber content is less desirable for horses. This would appear as a more mature hay with thick stalks and a lower leaf-to-stem ratio. Much of the fiber in hay is stored in the stalks and not the leaves.
- Non-structural carbohydrates (NSC). The NSC of hay is dependent on growing conditions and cannot be evaluated visually.
- Macro and micro minerals. This would be difficult to evaluate via any type of visual appraisal. Therefore, a hay analysis would be needed to receive these values.

Summary

Again, hay testing is the only way to be confident on the exact nutrients in hay. Yet, the visual appraisal can give you some confidence in the hay you purchase. It also will help in reducing any hay loss due to spoilage or mold. All leading to significant savings for you over time.

Finally, it is always worth mentioning to store your hay in a dry, well-ventilated area up off the ground. This will help reduce the formation of mold and reduce the chance of wicking moisture up off the ground. A good hay barn will also help keep the hay shaded from direct sunlight to avoid further sun-bleaching and loss of any nutrients. Additionally, a good pest control program is always advisable to reduce hay contamination.

Effective Fly Control Strategies for Horse Barns

Article By: Nicole Rambo, Ph.D.

Flies are a major nuisance around the barn. They annoy the horses and if you have ever been bit yourself, you can easily understand why – it hurts! Some horses will even drop weight rapidly during the summer because they spend more time running from the flies than they do grazing.

In addition to making the horses miserable, flies can also spread serious diseases like Equine Infectious Anemia. There is no silver bullet to completely eliminate flies, but through a multi-pronged approach, we can decrease fly populations to keep horses and humans alike more comfortable, as well as decrease the risk of disease transmission.

A core feature of a good fly control program is good housekeeping – well, barn-keeping. Remove manure and wet bedding from stalls, prevent feed spills and keep water and feed buckets well-scrubbed.

You can also directly address the fly population by disrupting the life cycle of flies through fly parasites, insects that attack the flies during their developmental stages, or feed through fly inhibitor products.

Feed through fly products can be very effective and do not affect the horse. They are excreted in the manure, which is where flies lay their eggs. These products inhibit the eggs from developing into adult flies. If a feed through fly control product interests you, we'd recommend Essential K® with Fly Control.

For Essential K® with Fly Control to be effective, all of the horses on the premises need to be on the product concurrently. For maximum effectiveness, begin using feed through fly control 30 days before fly season begins. If starting a feed through fly control product after flies have emerged, some measure of control will be observed within two weeks but six weeks is required to see full efficacy.

If you are in an area with a high density of horses or other livestock, it is important to remember that your fly control program is only as effective as your neighbor's fly control program. Flies have a remarkable range of flight.

While these approaches help for species of flies that breed in manure and other organic matter, they will not address mosquitoes or horse flies. A comprehensive vaccination schedule, appropriate for the area of the country you live in, combined with the elimination of standing water is the best defense against mosquito-born diseases.

The above approaches can be combined with fly deterrents, such as topical and premise sprays, physical barriers like fly sheets and masks a, well as fly traps to diminish the adult fly population.



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