



Fly time and milk production. Bulletin no. 48

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WISCONSIN BANKERS' FARM BULLETIN

Fly Time and Milk Production

By

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A BREEDING PLACE FOR FLIES.

Manure left to stand in piles about the yard results in heavy loss of fertility
and affords a breeding place for flies.

File this bulletin where you can find it

Distributed by

Wisconsin Bankers' Association

G. W. Dudley

Chairman Agricultural Committee,
West Salem

George D. Bartlett,

Association Secretary,
Pabst Building, Milwaukee

Fly Time and Milk Production

Flies cause heavy losses.—An unbelievable amount of money is lost each year by the dairymen of Wisconsin because of flies.

That the keeping of flies along with dairy cows is expensive can be determined by anyone who cares to investigate.

HOW NOT TO HAVE FLIES

Don't breed them.
Don't feed them.
"Swat" them at every opportunity.

If a herd will drop in production anywhere from 5 to 20 per cent with the coming of "fly time", and this at the season when production should be most abundant and economical, it should be apparent to all that flies collect or cause heavy tax.

That we are troubled less by this pest than in some less favored sections is cause for congratulation, but we should not, and need not, be satisfied with conditions as they are. In fact there is still less excuse for our neglect of a matter which in many cases means the difference between profit and loss in summer dairying.

Protect the dairy cow.—The cow is the most important part of the dairy equipment. The more or less expensive buildings and fittings we buy on her account are to assist her in the production of milk and butter fat, to extend her period of usefulness and to reduce the labor necessary to her care.

In brief, all this outlay of cash is to make the keeping of these cows more profitable. We invest dollars hoping to some day see them return accompanied by others of their kind. This is all well and good but don't blame the cow if she cannot give milk and fight flies at the same time. The latter is not her job. That is yours if we will persist in breeding the "pesky" things.

Flies are not necessary evils.—Flies are pests no matter how you consider them. The poor esteem in which they are held is indicated by the general slogan, "Swat the fly." It is a good one, too, and should be obeyed early and often.

We have all seen, however, that flies are less prevalent on some farms than on others. Of course, there must be a reason for this. If their presence is due to some cause which can be

removed then flies need not be present in such numbers as to be a plague.

The fact is, that flies are most troublesome on farms where the least care is taken in the disposal of waste material and they find least encouragement on premises where the strictest cleanliness is the rule. The favorite hatching place of the fly is the fresh manure pile and it swarms about wherever animal or vegetable matter is left to decompose.

FLIES ARE UNPROFITABLE

Because

They reduce the milk flow.
They carry disease germs.
They make the walls unsightly.
They are poor advertisements.



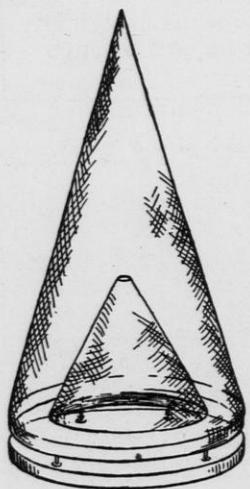
THE DIRECT ROUTE.
From barn to field as produced.

An ounce of prevention best cure.—The best control is prevention. The best time to "swat the fly" is before he becomes one. Therefore, remove their breeding places, which are manure piles or refuse dumps. Clean up any spots where they may congregate, and destroy eggs or larvae. By so doing the nuisance is attacked at its source which is always the effective way of handling such a problem and other precautions for protecting live stock from annoyance have some chance of accomplishing the desired end.

At home in the manure pile.—"Swat" the manure pile and thus effectively swat the fly. Perhaps we have over-emphasized the value of the manure pile. If so it is not intentional for it is the manure and not the pile that is worth saving.

The more direct the course of the manure from the stable to the land the better; for the valuable elements are then fixed in the soil where they are needed instead of being wasted through leaching or fermentation. The manure-pile is an eater

of fertility and a breeder of flies. Either is cause enough for its removal. Any dairyman would consider himself outraged if required to pay a license fee of \$25 to \$50 for maintaining a manure pile on his premises for purposes of ornament. True, still he would not have to be the owner of many cows before he would lose that much through wasted fertilizer and increased flies.



HOME-MADE FLY TRAP

Made out of wire netting
and nail keg hoop.

Protect the cow.—The cow and her surroundings ought to be scrupulously clean. This means better milk, better health for the herd, and less inducement for flies to come "from the neighbors". Flies must be kept out of the stable as much as possible. If the stable is darkened and well screened the comfort of the herd will be improved.

Fly sprays give some relief.—As a temporary measure of relief we have many mixtures to be applied to animals as sprays. These are intended to drive away the flies and many of them are useful for this purpose. If applied as the cows enter the stable or before milking they are an aid in keeping the pests on the outside and give the animals some respite at milking time. The objections to the sprays are the offensive odor, bad effect sometimes caused on the hair or skin and the short duration of the protection.

THE OLD MANURE PILE

Oh! The pile of manure that stood by the barn
We remember it well from a boy!
How it smelled to the skies, plagued us with flies
And took out of farm life the joy!

The pile of manure that stood by the barn!
It didn't look pretty, I know.
While sunshine and rain made fertility wane
And flies made our milk check run low!

The pile of manure that stood by the barn!
It is gone, we will see it no more.
Our fields are more green, fewer flies are now seen
And peace can be had while we chore!