Introduction

The horn fly has been a relatively easy parasite to control because it spends so much time on the host animal. Use of insecticides on the animal generally provides good control if control measures are applied with diligence. Horn fly control in the past has relied on the use of insecticidal dust, sprays, back rubbers, boluses, and ear tags. Recently, horn fly resistance to insecticides has become an increasingly common and more difficult problem to manage. Pyrethroid resistance has been demonstrated in at least twenty-four states in the United States. The misuse of ear tags has greatly increased the degree of resistance in horn flies to insecticides (primarily pyrethroids but more recently organophosphates).

Current recommendations to deal with horn fly resistance call for the removal of ear tags as soon as the efficacy of the tags starts to wane. This removal will prevent the release of sublethal levels of insecticide for prolonged periods and will reduce the likelihood of resistance development. If significant resistance already exists on the farm, no pyrethroids or organophosphates should be used on the premises depending on the type of resistance. Alternative control measures using insecticides to which no resistance has developed are recommended.

Control with IVOMEC® (ivermectin) Pour-On

IVOMEC Pour-On will control horn flies for up to 28 days after dosing. Horn flies are exposed to ivermectin via contact with the skin and haircoat of treated cattle. They are also exposed to ivermectin via ingestion of blood and tissue fluids. The mechanisms of this activity are not definitively understood; however, the end result is lethal to horn flies.

IVOMEC Pour-On controls a wide range of internal and external parasites -- a list which includes horn flies, but is not intended to be used solely as a horn fly control product. It should be used in a year-round program designed to control all important internal and external parasites of cattle.

IVOMEC Pour-On should be used as an addition to ongoing horn fly control activities. Its strategic use may reduce the intensity of other horn fly control
activities needed.

**Parasite Control Recommendations**
The following year-round parasite control program has been developed to control both internal and external parasites of cattle in a cow/calf operation. This program includes gastrointestinal (GI) nematodes, lungworms, cattle grubs, biting and sucking lice, sarcoptic mange and horn flies. This program will work equally well in spring or fall calving operations. A different regimen may be more suitable for replacement heifers or stockers, where management conditions generally require more intensive parasite control than the typical cow/calf operation. If liver flukes are present on the farm, a slight modification of the following programs is recommended to include the use of IVOMEC® Plus (ivermectin and clorsulon) and/or CURATREM® (clorsulon) Drench.

**Southern United States**
This program is a strategically timed treatment program designed to control all important parasites of cattle. The program calls for spring, mid-summer and midwinter treatments. Suggested treatment dates are provided but are not restrictive.

**Spring** - A spring treatment with IVOMEC Pour-On is designed to control GI parasites and horn flies. This treatment can help reduce parasites in the extremely susceptible young calf. This treatment should be applied between April 1 and May 1.

**Mid-summer** - The mid-summer treatment with IVOMEC Pour-On is designed to control GI parasites, especially inhibited *Ostertagia* (brown stomach worm), cattle grubs and horn flies. If this treatment is used, an early fall treatment should not be necessary. If the mid-summer treatment is not applied, a fall treatment is essential. This treatment should be applied between July 1 and August 1.

**Mid-winter** - The mid-winter treatment is designed primarily to control GI parasites and lice. During this period, cows are stressed due to cold, wet weather, poor nutrition, heavy exposure to internal parasites and lice, and must support a developing calf. This treatment is designed to reduce stress due to parasites so that cows can come through the winter in better condition. This treatment is also intended to reduce pasture contamination and exposure of young calves to internal parasites. This treatment is best applied between December 15 and February 1.

When IVOMEC Pour-On is used in the above treatment program, excellent control of internal and external parasites, including horn flies, can be achieved. Horn fly control can be further improved by the addition of other products. The following program is recommended:

**Spring** - IVOMEC Pour-On and either self treatment devices for horn flies (dust bags or back rubbers) or insecticidal ear tags. Treat cows* in spring calving herds, cows and calves in fall calving herds. If the calf is 2 1/2 months of age or
older (200 lbs. up), treatment is recommended.

**Mid-summer** - IVOMEC Pour-On (cows* & calves) and remove ear tags.

**Fall** - If additional horn fly control is needed in the fall, use sprays, dust bags, back rubbers or IVOMEC Pour-On.

**Mid-winter** - IVOMEC Pour-On (cows* and calves - when present)

This program effectively controls all important parasites of cattle including horn flies.

**Northern United States**

This program calls for spring, mid-summer and fall treatments as follows:

**Spring** - Cows* should be treated in the spring with IVOMEC Pour-On to help prevent the spring buildup of parasites on pasture and the subsequent heavy exposure to young, susceptible calves. This treatment will also control lice and horn flies.

**Mid-summer** - Treatment of calves in midsummer will further reduce the number of parasites acquired by young calves throughout the grazing season. This can allow for maximum weight gains at weaning.

**Fall** - Fall treatment of cows* and calves is critical to the success of this program. This treatment is designed to control inhibited larvae of the brown stomach worm (*Ostertagia* spp.), biting and sucking lice, and horn flies.

When IVOMEC Pour-On is used in the above treatment program, excellent control of internal and external parasites, including horn flies, can be achieved. Horn fly control can be further improved by the addition of other products. The following program is recommended:

**Spring** - IVOMEC Pour-On (cows*) and either self-treatment devices for horn flies (dust bags, back rubbers, etc.) or insecticidal ear tags.

**Mid-summer** - IVOMEC Pour-On or IVOMEC Injection (calves). If additional horn fly control is needed, recharge self-treatment devices.

**Fall** - IVOMEC Pour-On (cows* and calves) and remove ear tags.

**References**


*Because a withdrawal time in milk has not been established, do not use in female dairy cattle of breeding age.*

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