



# The Pennsylvania IPM Program



## Scouting Techniques for On-Farm Fly Controls

Gregory P. Martin, Ph.D., PAS Penn State Cooperative Extension – Capital Region

### Introduction

Fly control using Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is the goal for those farms that are trying to reduce the use of pesticides as the primary control method for pest insects found on the farm. By using IPM principles of scouting, control application & review, the producer can anticipate when concentrated efforts are called for, and analyze how effective a control method could be.

### Methods

*Spot Cards:* White 3 x 5 inch cards are placed within the house at five locations. These cards will hang for one week, and then will be examined to count regurgitation spots on ½ of the card. Three cards minimum should be placed in equal spacing over the poultry cages in the middle of the house row. Two cards minimum should be placed in the pit of a deep-pit house. Average the number of spots per card. A spot count average of 100 or greater should be a point of concern and further action for fly control should be initiated. Spot cards can be filed for future reference and review if need be.

*Moving-Tape:* A short fly tape roll/ribbon is opened and held by hand as the observer walks the full length of the poultry house center aisle and then return. Should the tape become filled before the return trip, a second tape may be used. Counts are normally expressed as counts/linear measure of the house. Typically ribbon counts of over 80 flies is symbolic of high activity.

*Baited Jug:* A trap made of a plastic milk jug with 1½ inch holes drilled into the top is hung in three locations along the center aisle. A suitable fast-acting bait should fill to ¼ inch in the bottom of the jug. The jugs are monitored each week. Flies can either be counted individually or a measure of the depth of dead flies could be made. Be sure to replenish the bait bi-weekly to ensure freshness of the attractant.

### Reminder

Diligent scouting is the key link to good IPM for fly control in poultry housing. Be sure to log all average counts to assist in decision making as it relates to fly control.

#### **Gregory P. Martin, Ph.D., PAS**

Extension Educator, Poultry – Capital Region [gpm10@psu.edu](mailto:gpm10@psu.edu) 717 394-6851

**SWAT** – Is an integrated team of extension educators, industry, and farm individuals interested in animal IPM and the control of flies in rural and suburban locations. For more information on IPM, please review the PA IPM website at: <http://paipm.cas.psu.edu/index.html>