



Current Report

Cooperative Extension Service • Division of Agriculture • Oklahoma State University

Horse External Parasite Control Suggestions

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Pest management plays a key role in the control of the horse external parasites. It involves a knowledge of the pests and control methods.

This information is presented in OSU Extension Facts No. 7015 and 7016, Parts I and II, "Horse External Parasite Control Series." There are two very helpful topics at the end of Part I entitled "Fly Control on the Horse Ranch/Farm" and "Control of Flies on Horses." Internal parasite information can be found in OSU Extension Facts No. 7936, "Controlling Common Endoparasites of the Horse."

Pesticide control suggestions in this current report should be viewed as a supplement to the other means of control, not the only control method. Parasite resistance should always be a consideration in pesticide product choices. It is a good practice to rotate pesticides or use alternative means of control when these are feasible options.

Pesticide Products for Horse Parasite Control

There is a wide variety of pesticide products of very similar formulations registered for the control of the horse external parasites, particularly the nuisance and blood-sucking flies. To simplify information in this publication, mostly active ingredients, with some brand or trade names, are used. No endorsement is intended, nor is criticism implied, of similar products not named.

Information in the comments columns are not complete and are to be used as guidelines, not as replacement for labels and labelling. Check labels for the names of active ingredients suggested on the many brand names sold.

Use Pesticides Safely

Read and follow label directions !!! The pesticide user is always responsible for the results of insecticide applications to his livestock, crops, farm buildings, etc., as well as problems of pesticide drift and

contamination. All horse owners should use only products registered and labelled for specific uses in the control of horse parasites.

The wearing of proper safety equipment in the application of pesticides is of utmost importance to prevent pesticide poisoning. In case of poisoning, contact your local Poison Control Center--several local hospitals have been designated across Oklahoma to provide pertinent information on all types of poisoning. **The Poison Control Centers are listed on the back of OSU Extension Facts No. 7453, "First Aid for Pesticide Poisoning."** If unavailable, contact as follows:

- 1) Oklahoma Poison Control Center
Oklahoma Children's Memorial Hospital
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
405/271-5454 or toll free 1-800-522-4611
- 2) National Pesticide Telecommunications Network
1-800-858-7378

More information:

For more information on related subjects, call, write or visit your OSU Extension Office and ask for the following fact sheets:

- No. 7001, "Common Ticks of Oklahoma."
- No. 7007, "Biology and Control of the Face Fly."
- No. 7012, "Mosquito Control."
- No. 7451, "Agricultural Pesticide Storage."
- No. 7454, "Check Your Pesticide Labels."
- No. 7457, "Toxicity of Pesticides."

The Oklahoma Beef Cattle Manual, which has a chapter on external parasites of beef cattle, is available for \$5.00.

HORSE EXTERNAL PARASITE CONTROL SUGGESTIONS

INSECT AND TIME OF TREATMENT	INSECTICIDE AND DOSAGE	METHOD	COMMENTS
Horn Flies (April to frost) Lice (winter-spring) Ticks (spring-summer) Winter ticks Black-Legged Tick (Oct.-Jan.)	Coumaphos (Co-Ral) 1 oz 25% WP in 3 gal. of water. 2.0 oz of 11.6% in 3 gal of water. Dioxathion (Del Tox) (Delnav) .10 to 15% Mix according to label instructions since several formulations are available. Malathion (Cythion) 0.5% - 4 oz of 57% EC in 3 gal water	Spray Spray Spray	Do not treat animals less than 3 months old or those that are sick or stressed. Do not use in conjunction with oral drenches or other internal parasite medications or with pyrethroids or their synergists or other organic phosphates. Repeat as necessary. Follow carefully all instructions and precautions on labels. Wet horse thoroughly, do not allow animals to drink from spray pools. Do not contaminate feed, water, water utensils or feed troughs. Do not use on slaughter animals.
Ear ticks (All year)	Coumaphos (Co-Ral) 5% dust 3% foam Ronnel 2.5% aerosol Lindane 3.0% aerosol	Dust Spray-foam Aerosol Spray	Apply into ears with puff duster. Direct foam into ears. Spray into ears. Apply to ticks in ear.
Horn Flies Stable Flies Horse Flies Deer Flies Mosquitoes Face Flies (April to frost)	Above materials will also control these pests. Stirofos (Rabon) and pyrethrins 1.27% Ready-to-Use Pyrethrins 0.05-.01% + piperonyl butoxide 0.18% + repellent Ready-to-Use Permethrin Permethrin II 10%EC Ready-to-Use Ectiban 5% Wipe-on Overtime 10%EC Ready to Use Tech-Trol 1%	Wipe-on Mist spray or Wipe-on Spray or Mist Sponge on thoroughly. Repeat as necessary. Spray or mist Repeat as necessary Wipe-on or mist	Follow label instructions. Use unlined rubber gloves and possibly other safety equipment when applying spray-on and wipe-on insecticides. Follow label instructions. Repeat as necessary. Wet horse thoroughly following label instructions. Repeat as necessary. Follow instructions carefully. Follow instructions carefully. Follow instructions carefully.
Flies and Mosquitoes	Atroban .025 to 0.05% 1 pt in 25 or 50 gal water Fenvalerate Ectrin 10% WDL 0.1%-8 Tablespoons in 3 gal water	Spray Repeat as necessary Spray	Apply about 8 fl ozs as light spray with attention to face, head, neck, chest and withers. Do not treat animals intended for slaughter.
Black Flies	Stirofos (Rabon) 1% liquid Ready to use Petroleum jelly Vanilla Extract Avon® Skin So Soft	Wipe-on Wipe-on Wipe-on Wipe-on	Apply to ears and face for control of black flies and face flies. Prevents feeding and promotes healing. A repellent. A repellent.

HORSE EXTERNAL PARASITE CONTROL SUGGESTIONS (CONT'D)

INSECT AND TIME OF TREATMENT	INSECTICIDE AND DOSAGE	METHOD	COMMENTS
House flies and stable flies around stables	Several Insecticides	Residual sprays to wall, ceilings, posts, etc. Mist Sprays, Baits	Follow label instructions. Protect feed, water, animals, etc. from pesticide contamination.
Bots (larvae in stomach)	Dichlorvos 17.5% several formulations	See labels or veterinarians	Several formulations are available. Some are for use only by or upon order of licensed veterinarians; others may be administered by owner. Check product label restrictions on the particular product.
	Ivermectin 1.87% oral paste	Paste	Refer to specific label instructions.
	Trichlorfon 40% several formulations	Paste and other formulations available.	Do not treat colts less than 4 months old or mares in last month of pregnancy. Do not treat sick or debilitated horses. Do not treat horses to be used for food. Single oral dose in feed 1 month after killing frost. Do not repeat within 30 days.
Bot Eggs (Horse bot flies deposit eggs in late summer to frost)	Malathion - 0.5% Dioxathion (Del-Tox Delnav) 0.15% Coumaphos (Co-ral) 0.06% Stirophos (Rabon) 6.5%	Hand wash or mist spray in warm water.	Hand wash or mist spray in warm water. Warm water will stimulate the eggs to hatch and insecticide will kill newly hatched larvae. After first killing frost, wash front legs, under jaw and chest with warm water only at temperatures below 60°. Cool temperatures will kill newly hatched larvae.
Chiggers and Mange Mites	Lindane 25% WP ¾ lb./50 gal water. Use 2 qts/animal. (Tick pesticides also effective.)	Spray	30-day withdrawal, repeat in 7-10 days. Household detergent added to pesticide mixture will aid in control of chiggers by helping penetrate the waxy cuticle of mites.
Blow Fly larvae (maggots, screwworms)	Coumaphos (Co-Ral) 3% spray foam	Spray	Spray foam directly in wound
	Ronnel 2.5% aerosol	Spray	Apply aerosol directly to wound. Follow label instructions.
	Lindane 3.0%	Spray	

OTHER ITEMS:

- Treat horses annually for sleeping sickness in May. Two treatments, three weeks apart.
- Watch for blister beetles in alfalfa hay. See OSU Fact Sheet NO. 2072, "Blister Beetles and Alfalfa."
- Keep pesticides in safe storage but not with feed.
- Cover feed and water when spraying near them or in enclosed buildings.

NOTE: POTOMAC HORSE FEVER (PHF) is a recent disease of horses that is suspected to be transmitted by an arthropod since it afflicts horses during the warm months of the year. Check with the OSU Entomology or Veterinary Medicine Departments.

The pesticide information presented in this publication was current with federal and state regulations at the time of printing. The user is responsible for determining that the intended use is consistent with the label of the product being used. Use pesticides safely. Read and follow label directions. The information given herein is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the Cooperative Extension Service is implied.



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