

# ANIMAL MAGNETISM.

Bite Free<sup>™</sup> draws in biting flies.



Bite Free<sup>™</sup> Stable Fly Traps are scientifically proven to help effectively trap flies that feed on your animals. When sunlight shines through, flies are drawn to the shimmering, translucent surface. Bite Free<sup>™</sup> sticky traps have a weatherproof adhesive surface that won't melt or wash away. These traps are easy to use and work without insecticides or pungent attractants. **Learn more at starbarproducts.com or call 800.347.8272.** 



Controlling flies adds to equine comfort

Place the trap up to 4' off the ground in direct sunlight for best results.

# TRAP STABLE FLIES for Comfortable, Productive Livestock

Stable flies are a biting pest that can be a painful nuisance to animals and humans alike. They pester animals, causing excessive movement or twitching to dislodge the flies from their legs. Not only can they disrupt animal behavior, but their feeding on animals can have a serious impact on bottom lines. A 2006 University of Nebraska study estimates that stable flies are responsible for nearly \$1 billion in losses per year in the North American cattle industry alone. The damaging effects of stable flies can also be felt by horses, beef and dairy cows, and can be found in kennels, as well as homes and gardens.

The stable fly is close in size to the house fly and has similar stripes on its thorax, but with a distinct "checker-board" pattern on its abdomen. In addition to this, they have piercing-type mouthparts that are used to penetrate the skin of their hosts to obtain blood meals. Stable fly eggs are about 1 mm in length and are usually laid in masses of up to 50 eggs, hatching within 1 to 3 days. Larvae prefer fecal material that has been mixed with soil, straw, bedding material, silage or grain, but will also develop in wet grass clippings and poorly managed compost piles. Like house fly larvae, stable fly larvae will migrate to drier areas to pupate. Reducing stable flies can be difficult as their habitats can be widespread. Any approach to control should include proper sanitation to limit potential breeding grounds by regularly cleaning manure, wet hay, spilled feed, etc. Animal pens tend to produce the most potential breeding sites, so monitor these areas most carefully. The pests are also considered strong fliers, and they can reach a property from a nearby location. While eliminating breeding sites can help control the number of flies on a property, fly traps like the Bite Free<sup>™</sup> Stable Fly Trap from Starbar<sup>®</sup>, have been proven to be an effective tool for controlling stable flies.

For best results, place traps approximately 3 or 4 feet off of the ground in an area of heavy fly activity. Place traps in direct sunlight to maximize visibility to stable flies. Place traps clear of grass and vegetation and outside of livestock pens, feeding areas, and paddocks where animals and children won't disturb them. Also place traps every 50–100 feet in large open areas near trees, weeds, bushes and fence lines where stable flies tend to lurk.

Minimizing the impact of stable flies can help animals stay on feed and maintain weight without expending unnecessary energy to dislodge flies. Controlling stable flies is essential to ensuring comfortable, healthier and more productive livestock.

## IT PAYS TO KNOW WHAT YOU'RE UP AGAINST

### **HOUSE FLIES**

feed freely on human food, fresh animal waste and rotting garbage

prefer manure as a breeding source as well as warm decaying organic matter

can spread diseases



HOUSE FLY (Musca domestica)



STABLE FLY (Stomoxys calcitrans)

#### STABLE FLIES

feed on blood, inflicting painful bites on a variety of animals and humans

shown to cause reduced weight gain in cattle and reduced milk production in dairy cows

breed in rotting vegetation and manure/vegetation mixtures

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