Pest Management Policy - Flies

Life cycle

Flies progress through 4 life stages: egg, larva (maggots), pupa, and adult. For some species, these stages can take less than 2 weeks to occur in warm weather. Pig housing provides attractive conditions for flies, with plentiful food, breeding sites and warm temperatures all year round especially in temperature-controlled buildings.

Monitoring of adult and larval flies using appropriate monitoring methods will be carried out twice a week in peak times (April to October) and once a week at other times as outlined in Fly Policy – SOP.

The process of monitoring is below, please note this is also clearly outlined in the Fly Policy - SOP:

1. Mark out 1x1m squares
2. Count number of flies in square.
3. Record the number of flies using The Fly Monitoring Record.
4. Act depending on results.

The Fly Monitoring record will be used to document the findings.

High Risk times for fly infestation are prolonged periods of warm weather. In terms of infestation numbers, as outlined in the Fly Policy – SOP, a count of less than 5 flies per square can be considered normal, whereas numbers above 20 per square indicate a problem to be investigated.

Potential fly breeding areas:

- Corners and edges of pens
- Under and around feeders, water drinkers and any other fixtures and fittings
- Moist spilled feed under or around feeders and troughs
- Accumulated manure under slatted floors and along perimeter of slatted floors
- Feed spillages
- Moist litter under and around fixtures and fittings
- Deadstock bins/storage
- Areas under overgrown vegetation around sheds with degrading plant material

Preventing and controlling fly infestations:

- Clean up spilled feed regularly from under troughs, augers, and feed bins. Attention needs to be paid to areas under the bins as historically this area has been overlooked.

- Keep the area around the sheds clear of vegetation.

- Deadstock is transported from the shed to the incinerator in a covered container, placed into the incinerator and incinerated the same day.

- Mix the slurry and empty it regularly ensuring no crust is formed. This is to be done at the end of every batch of pigs.

- Ensure all equipment is well maintained.

- Report any faults with equipment immediately to managers for them to be rectified as soon as reasonably possible.

- All-in-all-out system in sheds allowing buildings to be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected between batches (floors, walls, ceilings, fixtures). Paying attention to areas where dirty material may collect, such as the corners and edges of pens and under feeders.

    - Pre-soak all areas with a detergent to cut through the grease level.

    - Allow the surface water to drain off as much as possible prior to the application of a disinfectant.

    - Disinfect all areas, using a DEFRA approved disinfectant, following the manufacturer instructions ensuring it is made up to the correct concentration and that the correct volume per square meter of surface is applied.

    - Allow the whole shed time to dry, resting the area for as long as possible before restocking as the drying period will greatly improve the disinfection programme efficiency.

- Add ‘MS Schippers Maggot Death Concentrate’* into the slurry system before each batch (16 weeks for finisher pigs and 8 weeks for nursery pigs) Note: The effect will not be immediately visible because it only affects fly maggots so existing flies are unaffected.

- Paint ‘TwentyOne’* onto the walls at the start of each batch and reapply mid batch if needed (effective for up to 10 weeks). Flies are attracted to the applied areas and upon contact and ingestion with ‘TwentyOne’ are killed quickly.

- Fly rolls will be placed in sheds to catch adult flies.

- As a last resort a spray insecticide can be used with a knockdown action which is applied throughout the pen.

* Alternatives to Twenty-One and Maggot Death will be trialled and if found to provide a better result will be used going forward. In addition to this, product will be changed from time to time to prevent a build up of resistance to the active ingredients.

Additional Management Practices

- Cover staff will also be aware of the Pest Management Policy and trained accordingly so monitoring and control measures will still be effectively carried out in the absence of regular staff members.

- Unit Managers will share knowledge, experiences and discuss issues in relation to pest control in order to ensure best practice.

All members of staff must adhere to the pest management policy, those that do not will face disciplinary action.

I hereby confirm that I have read and understood the policy above.

Name	Sign	Date