



TECH TALK

Get Started with Altosid IGR: Now just 2-3 Cents per Animal, per Day

Article Provided By:



Spring is here, which signals the annual emergence of horn flies on cattle operations. These overwintering pests wreak havoc on cattle operations by feeding on cattle with painful bites and spreading disease-causing bacteria. Without a fly control program in place, horn flies can take a significant toll on the comfort of animals and an operation's bottom line. That is where Altosid IGR® comes in. Now priced at just 2-3 cents per animal, per day, Altosid IGR®, provides ranchers with the most convenient and cost-effective solution for protecting cattle from profit-eating horn flies. Using Altosid® IGR, the original horn fly insect growth regulator (IGR) that has no known cases of insect resistance in nearly 50 years of use, following the "30/30 Program" from Central Life Sciences, cattle producers can start controlling horn fly populations before profitability is affected.

THE TIMING

The 30/30 Program encourages operations using Altosid® IGR to start including the feed-through fly control product in their feed or supplement early in the spring, 30 days before the average daily daytime temperatures reach 65° F. This is the point at which overwintering flies begin to appear, officially marking the start of the fly season. Precisely planning exactly when to target the overwintering pupae can be difficult given the unpredictability of season weather patterns. For example, it is common for many regions of the country to experience several weeks of warm weather before the final frost in spring. The 30/30 Program ensures an ideal window of treatment with Altosid® IGR, helping to protect against the unpredictability of an early or late start to the spring season.

THE FEED

When starting with a 30/30 Program, begin feeding Altosid® IGR at the labeled rate of 1.13* mg per kg per day. The active ingredient in Altosid® IGR works to interrupt the horn fly life cycle by passing through the cow to the manure where horn flies lay their eggs. By administering Altosid® IGR 30 days before the expected start of spring, you can ensure the product is already present in manure when fly emergence begins.

Because Altosid® IGR is administered as a feed-through solution, implementing feeding best practices can also enhance the efficacy of the product. Some of these best practices include using a feeder for every 15 to 20 animals to increase the accessibility of the feed-through solution to the entire herd. Another proactive feeding tip is to place feeders where cows congregate such as near watering or loafing areas. Be sure to closely monitor feed consumption for a few days, and adjust the number or location of feeders if necessary for proper consumption. Ensuring appropriate consumption is key to an effective 30/30 Program, and stopping the suffering of your herd brought about by horn flies.

*Consult product label for exact information

THE COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION

Countless studies have shown that flies can cause serious economic damage to beef operations. Infestations can reach as high as 4,000 horn flies per animal, but a level of even 200 flies per animal can impact your bottom line. Protecting against losses from horn flies has never been more critical.

By following a 30/30 approach, producers can get ahead of the fly population in the spring before it builds to a level that exceeds the economic threshold. When incorporated into a complete integrated pest management (IPM) program, the use of Altosid® IGR with a 30/30 approach can help producers account for the unpredictability of the seasons and significantly lower fly populations while increasing cattle comfort and profitability.