

Vectors and Pest Control

ABC UW- Oshkosh Operator Training 2019
OshKosh, WI
June 10-14

Bernie Sheff, PE



Vector Control Goal

Ensure the natural inhabitants of the area around the digester do not negatively impact the operation

- Birds
- Flies
- Rodents
- Varmints



Aim is to **prevent infestations before they occur** and to **reduce the availability of food, water and shelter** sufficiently to make the movement patterns and **behavior of the pest predictable.**

Key Operation: Good Housekeeping

The key to controlling the habitat for pests is good housekeeping.

- Buildings should be neat
- Limit ground cover
- Trash must be under control
- Dumpsters should be clean
- Keep areas free of clutter
- Move unused equipment



Continual Attention

Examples of items to be addressed:

- Stacks of pipes, pallets and wood
- Leftover food and food waste
- Poorly managed substrate receiving/pits
- Clutter inside/outside of buildings
- Dead & decaying organic material
- Puddles of water
- Decaying material at edge of piles
- Stacks of tires
- Long weeds and grass



Bird Control

Birds are carriers of disease to facilities and transfer disease from one location to another:

- Effective bird control is very difficult
- One way to control birds is to make the habitat less attractive
- Another are noise/predator options
- Approved/regulated use of poison is another method where allowed
 - Bait the birds to feed and then change the feed with poisoned feed
 - Starlicide Complete- registered for controlling starlings and blackbirds
 - Care must be taken to avoid harming songbirds and other nontarget species.

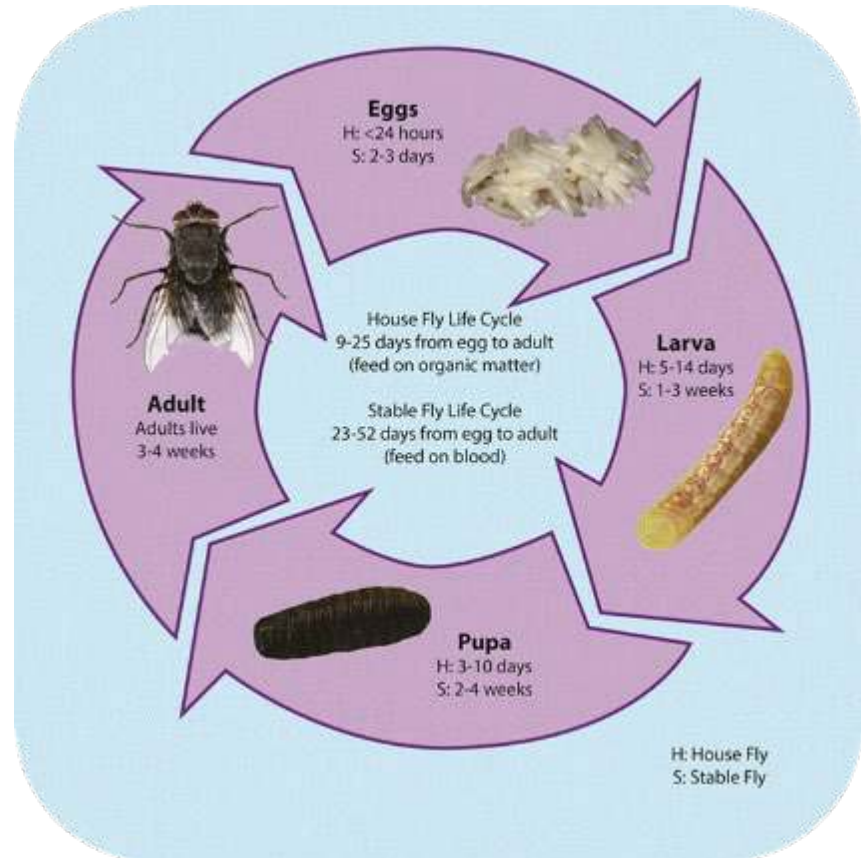


Fly Control

Flies bite and feed on exposed tissue. Flies can bother both human and animal populations. They carry disease and can be a serious issues in a community if not properly controlled.

Fly control program has four distinct phases:

- Protect the local animal and human population
- Area spraying
- Removal of larval habitat
- Maintenance to reduce attractants



Fly Control Methods

Protecting the local population is done at living and resting area of the human or animal population.

- Animals should be sprayed twice a week using approved insecticides until the frost kills off flies

Area spraying conducted 2x-week using ultra-low volume sprayer (ULV)

- Spraying should be done in early morning or late evening

Regular cleaning of larvae preferred habitat

- Wet organic piles, moist areas at edge of piles, unattended manure piles

Lime can be used as fly larvicide

- Applied early in the fly season
- Inspected at weekly intervals
- Cover the edge of feedstock piles and all vegetative material

Keep grass/weeds as low to reduce number of flies and other flying insects

Rodent Issues/Control

Rats and mice carry disease and cause building and equipment damage by gnawing while living in and around the feed/buildings.

Removal of habitat is primary method of control

- When minimizing habitat, rodent behavior becomes more predictable
- This allows for poison to be placed in effective locations

Put poison in bait boxes on paths leading to and from feeding locations



Varmint Issues/Control

Varmints (racoons, possums, squirrels, coyotes, foxes, skunks, etc.) can transfer disease as well as impact worker safety and facility operations.

- Often considered a secondary problem caused by presence of other pests or availability of food
- Controlling smaller pests and food sources results in less varmints
- Varmint control is often achieved by either hunting or trapping

