



# DAIRYINFO

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*Taking Service to another level*



## **Flies Threaten Udder Health...**

Biting flies that congregate on the teat ends of heifers and cows are more than just a nuisance.

*"Research has shown that horn flies transmit mastitis-causing bacteria as they feed on teat ends, causing lacerations of the tissue,"* say Dr. Stephen Nickerson, professor of animal and dairy science at the University of Georgia, and Dr. William Owens, professor at Louisiana State University Agricultural Center. *"Such lesions become an ideal place for bacteria to colonize and eventually enter into the developing udder."*

In fact, research with heifers shows that the incidence of mastitis infection is 70% with teat scabs and abrasions caused by flies, compared to 40% in heifers without these problems. Similar rates may be noted with more mature dairy cows, especially lactating cows.

The good news is that mastitis infections can be minimized with appropriate fly control. Researchers have examined numerous ways to do this.

In one study conducted during the spring and summer, insecticide tags reduced fly populations by 60% during the first two months after placement. Animals fitted with tags also had a lower incidence of new intra-mammary infections during the first two months after placement compared to controls.

*"In animals with tags, the incidence increased from 8.6 to 15% over two months, while the incidence increased from 17.2 to 52.4 % in controls,"* say Nickerson and Owens.

Keeping the incidence of heifer mastitis under control is important to future milk production.

*"Researchers found that if bred heifers infected with *Staphylococcus aureus* were left untreated, they produced 10% less milk in early lactation than those receiving therapy,"* say Nickerson and Owens.

In addition to tags, calves, heifers and cows (dry and lactating) may benefit by having fly control products added to their feedstuffs. Products such as **IGR FARM PACK\*** and **RABON®\*** have proven to be effective when added to custom premixes or included when mixing feed on-farm.

The **DCHA Gold Standards II**, developed by the Dairy Calf & Heifer Association, advocate for practices that control internal and external parasites, such as pesky biting flies. Control measures may vary based on your farm location; however, control of flies is critical to any farming operation and the potential incidence of disease transmission (among other concerns). Consult your Renaissance nutritionist and/or herd veterinarian for appropriate fly-control measures that best suit your operation.

Plan this spring, summer and fall to control flies around the farm. This can have a positive impact on your veterinary bills, as well as the overall health and productivity of your entire dairy herd... and all the livestock on the farm!

*\*These products are available from Renaissance.*

*(Edited from an article by the Dairy Calf & Heifer Association)*

**Proper ventilation** is critical throughout times of summer heat and humidity – in fact all year-round! Regardless of the season, there are four important considerations when it comes to ventilation in facilities. These include: air exchange, air control, flexibility and building construction. Air exchange is simply the replacement of inside air with outside air, either by use of fans or “naturally” with wind and a continual flow of air through a facility. Control is necessary when either external or internal conditions warrant it. This can be as simple as turning fans on or off... or controlling the position of sidewall curtains, etc. You also need flexibility to better accommodate cow comfort year-round, along with ensuring your facilities are constructed in such a way as to enhance ventilation and maintain a quality environment for your entire herd. Maximize ventilation this summer and help keep your cows “cool.” You will appreciate their continued performance all summer long... all year long!

*(Edited from an article on barn ventilation by Susan Wood Gay, Virginia Tech Extension)*



*Interested in discussing topics in this newsletter, or want to do a better job feeding and managing your cows? Call me! From calves to heifers, dry and lactating cows, my goal is to help you.*

*That's Renaissance's commitment!*

**VOLUME 1 – Number 3 – June 2011**  
**THE TEAM FOR RESULTS**  
**SOLUTIONS FOR SUCCESS!**

# JUNE is DAIRY MONTH!

I'd like to say "THANK YOU!" for all your efforts in providing high quality milk and dairy products every day of the year. You are helping to feed America and the world! This month is set aside to honor your efforts and to recognize the outstanding contributions you make, along with everyone who works in the dairy industry. Renaissance Nutrition joins me in applauding your work and saying...

**"Thank you for a job well done!"**



## FARM SAFETY ~ an important issue

Contrary to the popular image of fresh air and peaceful surroundings, a farm is not a hazard-free work setting. Every year, thousands of farm workers are injured and hundreds more die in farming accidents. The National Safety Council lists agriculture among the most hazardous industries in the nation. You can help improve farm safety by increasing everyone's awareness of farming hazards and making a conscious effort to prepare for emergency situations including fires, vehicle accidents, electrical shocks from equipment and wires, and chemical exposures. Be especially alert to hazards that may affect children and the elderly. Minimize hazards by carefully selecting the products you buy to ensure that you provide good tools and equipment. It may be worth your time to write up procedures and protocols for safety on your farm, ensuring that every family member and employee (or visitor) knows and understands the importance of this issue... and what to do to avoid concerns, or how to deal with any emergencies.

Better safety and health practices reduce worker fatalities, injuries, and illnesses as well as associated costs such as workers' compensation insurance premiums, lost production, and medical expenses. A safer and more healthful workplace improves morale and productivity!

Contact us for more information.



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**CHECK IT OUT!**

