

Fenceline

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Livestock-Natural Resources

Adaptation to Survive

Animals have adapted their body parts to survive in their environment. For instance, bird's beaks are an example. You have the small pointed beaks on the birds like woodpeckers, so they can hammer into trees to capture bugs, you have the large scooping kind of beak, on birds that eat small water animals. At our farm we seem to have a kitten that has "adapted" to survive.

The Holthaus' clan seem to have a thing with animal ears. They love to pet ears on dogs and cats, or whatever animal is in question. Stories of their growing up years, my sister-in-law was best known for her liking of cat ears. We seem to have a kitten, which has adapted the harsh Holthaus environment. This kitten has an extra ear flap. It has two normal ears, and then below its right ear is an extra ear flap. I'm trying my best to get my sister-in-law to take this kitten, after all it's perfect for her!

Flies have been a nuisance insect for thousands of years. They affect human welfare because they can transmit diseases. Flies such as the common house fly are classified as filth flies because they breed in rotten food, manure, and garbage. A fly can mature from egg to adult in as few as ten days. This quick maturity can cause a severe fly problem in a short period of time. Getting rid of flies long term begins with proper sanitation and exclusion. An effective fly control program begins with sanitation and exclusion management.

Sanitation is critical in a good fly management program. The goal in sanitation is to remove or prevent any medium where fly larvae will develop. It's also important to remove things that are attractive to adult flies such as garbage and animal waste. Moisture is a critical factor in any fly breeding material. Good drainage is also important, where possible.

- Keep garbage cans and dumpsters clean. Keep tight lids on the garbage cans. Flies are attracted to odors. Keep garbage cans as far away from doors as possible to keep them from moving into the structure.
- Repair window screens and doors. Openings to buildings should be tightly screened with mesh screens.
- Pick up pet waste in the yard. Flies love to breed and lay eggs on this material because of the moisture content.
- In home kitchens, restaurants and commercial kitchens, drain flies can become a problem..
- Dead rodents and birds can increase a fly problem. Remove the carcasses, because flies lay eggs on decomposing rodents and fowl. The eggs become maggots (larvae) and the maggots become adult flies.
- Do not over water indoor potted plants. The soaked soil will provide a perfect breeding area for gnats. Keep the pots well drained.
- Keep outdoor areas cleaned. Clean away any soiled bedding, decaying plant, straw animal matter.