

July 8, 1985

The Codorus Township Board of Supervisors held a special meeting on July 8, 1985 at 7:30 PM in the Township Office. Board members present were: Leroy Thoman, Charles Wehrly and Larry Luckenbaugh. Also present were Clarence Collison, Entomologist from Penn State University Extension Service and Anthony Dobrosky, York County Extension Service plus approximately thirty residents and interested parties. The purpose of this special meeting was to have Dr. Collison speak to the residents concerning the enormous amount of flies in certain areas of the Township.

Chairman, Charles Wehrly, called the meeting to order.

Dr. Collison told the audience that today was his second trip to the area and that he had visited several farms and homes. He had also returned to some of the places where he found fly maggots during his trip to the farms on June 19. He reported that all owners of livestock have flies, but not one of these places were the amount of flies abnormal. He also checked James Bailey's chicken operation again today where hardly a fly was found in the chicken houses. Since Mr. Bailey uses True Grit Blue and Larva-Dex, he is keeping the flies under control. Dr. Collison stated that he could not say what condition the manure was when Mr. Bailey did his Spring Cleanout. At that time Larva Dex had been banned. It was found that Bailey is running a well managed operation, while some farmers are doing nothing for controlling flies. Most of the cattle farms in the area have more flies than the Bailey chicken farm, although no more than the normal amount were found at any one place.

Dr. Collison feels that mostly everyone in the area is trying to keep flies under control. He stated that grass clippings, compost piles, garbage, excrement are all suitable for fly development. Flies need moisture to breed and fresh cattle and chicken manure are suitable breeding mediums for the fly development. Farmers were told that sawdust and strawbedding help to break down moisture to below 60%. Moisture above 85% liquid is not a fly breeding problem.

Liquid manure causes more odor and is economically harder to handle since more loads are necessary. This area is a high density agricultural area, thus more flies than some areas are to be expected.

There are four stages for fly development (1) eggs, (2) larval or maggot, (3) cocoon stage, and (4) the fly. If the life cycle can be broken during the first three stages, you can control flies, but it is a never ending battle to control adult flies when the life cycle has not been broken.

Affluent from septic tanks is another breeding source, and a few places were found on today's visit where affluent was coming to the surface, but this was not a viable breeding spot.

Any livestock facility environmentally controlled with temperatures of 60 degrees or above is suitable for fly breeding and dairy farms can be a year round breeding place.

Farmers in this area have a problem at cleanout time due to the limited amount of land for spreading and some farmers have to wait until their wheat crop is harvested before they have a place to spread the manure.

No till farming is being pushed over the last few years, and although this can be advantageous to farmers, it may contribute to the fly problem if the manure is not distributed right.

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On Dr. Collison's trip on June 19, some fields were found to have maggots, but after checking these same fields today, there was no evidence of a problem. If the manure is thinly spread and dry, the fly cycle cannot be completed. Farmers present were advised to take action before cleanout time by using whatever products are on the market for fly control. There are more products available for chicken farmers than for cattle.

Some of the residents in the audience stated they had used True Grit Blue, but found it wasn't working for them. Dr. Collison told how to use the chemicals in a gallon plastic jug and one person stated that by adding a little sugar to the chemicals, more flies would be attracted to the jug.

Dr. Collison and Anthony Dobrosky stated they had checked an area from North of Jefferson to halfway beyond Sinsheim to Chestnut Ridge to $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles East of Rt. 516 on this trip. No one source of fly breeding was found. Dr. Collison told the residents that flies are attracted to aluminum and wood of light colors and that upwind from farms can increase the amount of flies. He stated that there are numerous reasons for an increase in the fly population in the last couple of years - mild winters, early warm springs, the suspension of Larva Dex for two years.

Kim Burton asked if the large number of birds in the area contributed to the problem. Dr. Collison stated that there was no evidence of birds causing a problem in the places where he checked. Harvey Kornstein asked if the spreading of manure thinner would help solve the problem. According to Dr. Collison, this would help since the sun takes the moisture out of the manure when it is spread thin.

The fly problem is very complex and there is no simple solution. However, due to good sanitary conditions, no diseases are caused by flies.

Dr. Collison stated he was against any aerial spraying since it would only be temporary relief, it would kill off beneficial insects.

The best solution right now is for all home owners and farmers to do everything possible to control the flies. All farmers must make a combined effort to do every thing they can to help control the flies.

Larry Rossi wanted to know if there was any thing that could be done to enforce better sanitation, in case the residents and farmers fail to keep their places in a sanitary condition. Dr. Collison stated he was not in a position to enforce any laws, but that there are Governmental agencies that would send inspectors out to check if there was a health hazard. However, more and more legislation is being enacted to protect the farmers and it would have to be proved that a definite health hazard existed and nothing was being done to correct or improve the situation.

The Board agreed to have Dr. Collison, Tony Dobrosky, one of the Supervisors and some of the farmers form a committee to work out a plan for monitoring the fly problem before cleanout time next Spring. This monitoring would take place over about a month's time. This program should start as early as mid-January, during the fly off-breeding season.

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David Miller stated that he feels there is another breeding source that has not been found and Dr. Collison feels this could be possible, although the hot spot was not found during his two visits to the area.

Mr. Dale Keeny stated that boxwoods draw flies, as well as cooking odors and all animals.

Mrs. James Bailey asked if all the residents were satisfied that their chicken operation was not the source of the fly problem. Residents were invited to take a tour of the Bailey chicken operation once the ban is lifted.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 P.M. on motion of Leroy Thoman and second by Larry Luckenbaugh.

Respectfully submitted,

Goldie Day

Goldie Day, Secretary