

FARM PRACTICE

PEST MANAGEMENT

Description

Pests may cause problems for the farms on which they originate and multiply as well as on neighbouring farms or residences. The most common pests are flies and rodents associated with livestock and poultry farms because feed and manure is typically present in large quantities on such operations. Many insect pests also originate in range pastures and in horticultural and field crops and will move to nearby properties in search of food and breeding sites. A variety of control methods are available to minimize pest populations both on or off the farm.

Nuisance Concerns

The three main disturbances mentioned in the *Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act* are odour, noise and dust. In some circumstances, flies or rodents can be considered to be “other disturbances” in the context of this legislation. In situations where farms can be demonstrated to be the source of large fly populations by virtue of providing optimum breeding environments, the farm could be considered a stand-alone contributor to a localized fly nuisance problem.

Activities and Operations

Fly Control

Elimination of fly breeding sites is the only effective means of preventing buildup of flies. An effective program must include proper storage and disposal management practices. Part of such a program also includes the management of manure at moistures that are less than optimum for breeding. Spoiled grain, grain products and silage must be cleaned up and disposed of quickly. Insecticidal baits and sprays – supplemented by biological control agents, sticky traps, and electrocuting devices – provide only localized and temporary fly control if proper management of breeding sites is not in place.

See also Farm Practice: [Manure Storage and Use](#)
[Mortality Disposal](#)
[Pesticides](#)
[Storage of Farm Supplies and Products](#)
[Structures](#)

Rodent Control

Most rodent management programs focus on minimizing the amount of food that is available. If necessary, trapping and poisoning may be required.

See also Farm Practice: [Farmstead Maintenance](#)

[Feeding and Watering](#)
[Storage of Farm Supplies and Products](#)
[Structures](#)
[Pesticides](#)

Other Insect Pests

The appropriate crop production guide should be consulted for the latest pest management programs and practices. Abandoned orchards should be removed or sprayed to avoid a proliferation of pests and diseases that could impact other commercial orchards.

See also Farm Practice: [Pesticides](#)

Legislation

Information on federal and provincial legislation can be found in Appendices B and C. Acts, regulations and bylaws that regulate or may affect pest management practices include, but are not limited to, the following.

Federal Legislation

The *Pest Control Products Act* ensures the safety, merit, and value of pest control products used in Canada.

Provincial Legislation

The *Integrated Pest Management Act* regulates all aspects of pesticide sale, transport, storage and use.

Local Government Legislation

Local government bylaws may be in place to address the control of pests.

Publications

Publications that provide further information on pest management include, but are not limited to, the following. Refer to Appendix D for details.

British Columbia Environmental Farm Plan Reference Guide
British Columbia Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) Guide
Control of Insect and Related Pests of Livestock and Poultry in British Columbia
Fly Control Around Buildings
Fly Control for Dairy Barns
Fly Control on Egg Production Farms
On-Farm Food Safety
Rodent and Bird Control in Farm Buildings
Rodent Control on Agricultural Land in BC