

From: Holscher, Kenneth H [ENT] [mailto:kholsche@iastate.edu]
Sent: Monday, April 02, 2012 1:45 PM
To: Ted Trewin
Subject: Fly Identification

Ted,

I can't be totally positive on the identification of the flies you submitted that were collected at 16366 Wendover Road in Madrid. To me, they look more like face flies than they do house flies. Face flies only develop in the summer in fresh, undisturbed, cattle manure. As such, they are associated with pastured cattle where they feed on the facial area of the affected animals. In about mid-September they will leave pastures and will fly for miles and miles in search of a protected location to overwinter. They are attracted to houses that sit on a hill or a slight rise where they will then squeeze under the siding, around the windows, into the attic, etc. where they will spend the winter. They, along with the cluster fly, make up the group we generally refer to as "attic flies". In early spring they will start to emerge from their overwintering locations. At this time some of the flies may find their way into the interior of the house where they will fly to the windows and eventually die within a day or two. Those that make it to the exterior of the house will "hang around" the house for a few weeks until the temperatures increase. At that time, they will then fly in search of cattle on pasture.

If the flies in question are face flies they should be starting to disburse from the exterior of the house very shortly. If they are house flies, this will not be the case. Unfortunately, because house flies will develop in any type and amount of decaying organic matter it may be extremely difficult, if not impossible, to determine where they are originating. And, unless this can be determined, it will be equally as difficult to manage or control their numbers.

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