

# Recommendations for treating outbreaks of Fly Strike by the Wohlfahrtia Fly



Cow  
Version

## THE DISEASE

Concerns the larvae (maggots) of the Wohlfahrtia Magnifica fly, which multiplies during hot and dry periods. The maggots are laid directly on the animal by the adult fly. The fly is attracted to all secretions (blood, vulvar secretions) which explains the principal sites of infection, being vulva, belly button, wounds from ringing and tagging). The maggots are found pressed tightly together and penetrate deeply into flesh wounds.



Wohlfahrtia Magnifica

## TREATMENT

Any treatment authorized for external parasite infection, must be used at the recommended dose, and must come in contact with the maggots, but which is not always the case when the maggots are stacked tightly and deep into the lesions.

**For a successful treatment it is necessary to:**

### Day 1

- Remove and dispose of all visible maggots with tweezers. Any untreated maggots on the ground can continue their life-cycle. It is very important to remove all maggots and destroy them.
- Apply the recommended dose of product, following the manufacturer's instructions, directly on to the lesions with their remaining maggots. If possible use a different family of treatment than that which was used in prevention : PHOXIME (sebacil®)

### Day 2

- Verify that any remaining maggots in the lesions are, in fact, dead. It may be necessary to remove them with the tweezers in order to prevent the risk of reinfection. Bring the animals indoors if possible for ease of observation.
- Treat open wounds with an aerosol or healing cream to help avoid further infection. Antiseptics and healing creams are available in various forms.

## PREVENTION

To achieve a good level of protection, during the high risk period of Spring to end of October, and depending on climate and conditions, it is vital to organise a complete preventative protocol.

### A) Reduce the risk factors to a maximum

- ↪ Protect or bring in animals at risk during the period when the flies are active : during when animals are in heat
- ↪ During labour – higher risk for COWS around the vulva, and for the calves around the belly button and the ear ring.
- ↪ Identification of animal , and dehorning use disinfecting and healing products on the wounds.

### Infected vulva of pregnant cow



crédit photo : élevage bovin de la Vienne

**Please note farm management practices may differ.**

**Your vet can help you find the protocol that is best adapted to your specific situation.**

## PREVENTION CONTINUATION

### B) Seasonal protection with insecticides or natural insect repellants :

Out of the animals

Mid June to end of June

October to November

Kill the first generation of flies

To protect against further attacks

#### Choice of insecticides to apply Deltamethrine for one

**Dose** : 100 mg per animal to 112.5 mg per 100 kg (maximum 563 mg per animal)

**Frequency** : every 4 weeks

BUTOX®; DELTANIL®; VERSATRINE®; SPOTINOR®; BUTOX® 50/1000 ASPERSION

#### Choice of insecticides to apply or repellent = OXYLIS®

**OXYLIS** : 40-50 ml per bovine animal

Spray application on preferred pest locations.

**Frequency** : every 3 weeks

#### Choice of insecticides to apply (cows) OXYLIS (calves)

During birthing of calves apply an external insecticide on the mother and an insect repellent on the calf – paying close attention to the area around the belly button.

## PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES :

### Operator :

- ↳ Wear gloves and a mask
- ↳ Use footbaths and sprayers in well ventilated areas

### Animals :

- ↳ Respect dose limits
- ↳ Respect precautionary use during the gestation period
- ↳ Respect withdrawal periods

### Environment :

- ↳ Carry out all treatments well away from water courses



Le copil Wohlfahrtia (Steering Committee) bring together breeders and animal health professionals from affected zones. Together they take decisions in the interest of best practice and techniques of care. They direct test procedures, define protocol for collaborative disease resistance, and communicate these to all concerned.

Sheet prepared by the copil Wohlfahrtia, led by FRGDS New-Aquitaine ; with the financial support of the New Aquitaine region and agricultural credit.

