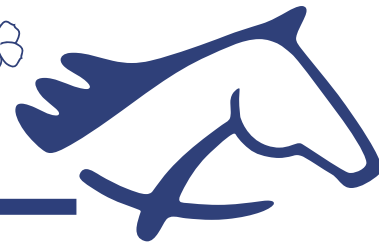


PEST REDUCTION FOR THE BARN



A mosquito and pest reduction plan for your property in addition to equine vaccinations and boosters may help reduce the threat of mosquito-spread disease for our equine companions.

Barn Swallows are often regarded as pests, but in fact can be a huge help in eliminating flying insects. There is often a noticeable reduction of flying insects when they inhabit a barn. Barn Swallows are often seen feeding at dusk when the harmful bugs seem to be at their worst. Additionally, when Barn Swallows nest in your barn or home, it is considered to be good luck for those who live there!



Bats feed exclusively on insects, devouring more mosquitoes and insects than birds or bug zappers. A single brown bat can consume between 3000 and 7000 mosquitoes in a night, with larger populations consuming thousands of tons of potentially harmful pests annually. Bats are misunderstood by many, being considered a menace when in fact they are extremely helpful. As part of your mosquito and pest reduction plan you may want to install bat houses near your barn to encourage them to nest.

Vegetation control is another important consideration in mosquito control. Make sure that your shade areas do not take over near your barn, cut back bushes and trees that are not needed to specifically to provide shelter and shade. Mosquitoes will hover and breed in these damp shady areas. Standing or stagnant water should be eliminated as these are the largest breeding grounds for mosquitoes. Empty any containers that will hold water regularly such as old wheelbarrows, flower pots, tire swings and similar items. Bird bath water should be changed often. Clean your gutters and check under shrubbery for hidden stagnant water containers. Goldfish can be very useful in large water troughs as they will feed on the mosquito and bug larvae on the waters surface. Don't forget to clean out the water trough often. Make sure that if you have puddles on your property that you fill them in with topsoil.

One of the more often used mosquito and fly control device we see in barns is a Bug Zapper. These machines attract the pests and then zap them upon contact, killing them. While they seem to "zap" a lot of bugs they generally are moths and large flies so do not rely upon this device to reduce the mosquito population.

You can physically protect your horses from bugs in several different ways. Fly masks are vital and you can also purchase fly blankets, which cover the horses body with a fly resistant mesh, leg wraps are also available. Horse owners can also consider keeping the horses in the barn at peak biting hours such as dawn.

