

# 1981 LIVESTOCK INSECTICIDE EAR TAG DEMONSTRATION FOR HORN FLY CONTROL

D. D. KOPP, H. J. MEYER and R. J. MARTIN

Livestock insecticide ear tags have been available for about four seasons, but tags impregnated with synthetic pyrethroids were not available until the spring of 1981. Ectrin® Insecticide Cattle Ear Tags containing the insecticide fenvalerate have federal registration for usage. Two other livestock insecticide ear tags, the Atroban® Cattle Ear Tag and Gardstar® Insecticide Ear Tag containing the insecticide permethrin, are also available to North Dakota livestock producers under North Dakota State labeling.

Burroughs Wellcome Company provided NDSU with sufficient tags to set up a field demonstration on 75 head of Charolais cross steers on the Albert Schumacher and Sons farm in Logan County, North Dakota. The animals were tagged on April 28, 1981. Each animal was tagged with a single tag placed in one ear using an

---

*Dr. Kopp is Extension Entomologist, Dr. Meyer is assistant professor, Department of Entomology, and Martin is Logan County Agent.*

---

Allflex Tag Applicator. A neighbor's herd of untreated animals was used as a control. Fly counts (the average of three or more animals per herd) were made with binoculars throughout the summer.

## Fly Counts—Logan County

	Atroban Tagged	Untreated
May 15	0	0
May 29	0	20
June 4	0	70
June 19	3*	80
July 2	6*	90
July 17	5*	225
July 31	6*	300
August 26	5*	325

\*Flies present on legs only (probably stable flies).

## Conclusions

These data are from one year's trial and were not replicated. They are, however, consistent with the results reported in other states. The retail cost of treatment with one tag per animal is about \$1.25 per head. Another advantage to this method of treatment is that tags can be applied before the stock is turned out to summer pasture. More producers are taking interest in this method of protecting cattle from horn fly populations during the summer months.