



Flycam Pty Ltd

Specialising in Integrated Buffalo Fly Control on Cattle,
Y-TEX Livestock Identification & Pest Control Products



FLYCAM FACT SHEET NUMBER 7

THE Y-TEX INSECTICIDAL EAR TAG ROTATION STRATEGY

1. International experts agree that the strategic alternation of chemical classes is helpful in the prevention of insecticide resistance in buffalo flies. The level of resistance to an insecticide usually declines to a low level in a fly population, if that insecticide is not used for two or three years.
2. The two most common insecticides used in insecticidal ear tags are the organophosphates and the synthetic pyrethroids. To help identify these chemical classes Y-TEX Corporation have purposefully named two of their insecticidal ear tags being used in Australia, Optimizer (OrganoPhosphate) and PYthon (PYrethroid). Another of Y-TEX's tags is the WARRIOR Tag – an Organophosphate based tag.
3. A THREE-year rotation strategy is recommended: TWO years with an OP tag and ONE year with a pyrethroid tag. The reason for using the OP tag for a longer time is that the Haematobia species, to which Buffalo Fly belongs, develop resistance more slowly to organophosphates than they do to the pyrethroids.
4. It is important to strictly adhere to this tag rotation program. Repeated use of the pyrethroid tag will inevitably lead to increased resistance and potential product failure. It is also important to adopt a tag management program.
5. The recommended insecticidal ear tag management program consists of:
 - a) tagging all the animals in a mob
 - b) applying the recommended number of tags to each animal
 - c) removing the tags at the end of the efficacy period
 - d) adopting the above tag rotation strategy
 - e) synchronizing your insecticide applications with your neighbours

6. The strategic timing of the application of insecticidal ear tags is very important because all insecticidal ear tags release a high proportion of their insecticide during the first month after application. In most areas of the Buffalo fly zone, peak fly populations occur during the months of January through to March. If insecticidal ear tags are applied in December, they will be highly active during this period. If they are applied any earlier, i.e. October/November, their effectiveness will be diminished due to insecticide depletion during the peak fly period. The subsequent release of sublethal doses can contribute to a build-up of insecticide resistance.

7. REMEMBER!

TWO YEARS WITH AN OP TAG AND ONE YEAR WITH PYTHON

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