Altosid IGR Fly Control for Pasture Cattle

Horn flies are the #1 external parasite problem for cattle in North America on an economic basis, with estimated losses at $1 billion annually.

Losses come from reduced grazing time, increased stress levels, exposure to diseases, and the blood loss which reduces gain, reproduction, and/or milk production.

Horn flies are very small, and congregate on the shoulders and backs of cattle. Each fly will take about 40 blood meals a day, and there can commonly be 2,000 and up to 4,000 horn flies on each cow, bull, or yearling. The economic threshold for treatment is 200 horn flies per head.

Horn flies live continuously on the cattle, with the females leaving only to lay eggs in manure that is less than 5 minutes old.

Altosid® IGR can be given to pasture cattle through their feed. It passes through the cattle and works as an Insect Growth Regulator in the manure of the cattle. The eggs laid in the manure will hatch, but the larvae will never grow to be adult flies.

Since horn flies will only lay eggs in manure, Altosid® IGR is very effective at controlling horn flies.

Altosid® IGR is a growth inhibitor, there are no known resistance issues and it is very safe for both cattle and people.

Altosid® IGR will also work on Face Flies, Stable Flies, and House Flies that lay their eggs in manure.

Altosid® IGR does not harm dung beetles, which are important for breaking manure down in pastures.

Since horn flies are small, and have very small wings relative to their body size, they cannot fly very far. For this reason, you can have effective control of horn flies with Altosid® IGR even if your neighbor does not use it.

If cattle run out of feed that contains Altosid® IGR they will put non-treated manure on the ground and a population break of horn flies can result. Be sure to keep Altosid IGR available continuously.

The more consistent the cattle consume feed containing Altosid® IGR, the more effective your fly control will be. For this reason, QLF free choice pasture supplements and Ignite tubs are excellent products for getting Altosid® IGR into your cattle.

For optimum fly control, it is recommended to start feeding Altosid® IGR for 30 days before average temperatures reach 65°F and to continuously feed it until 30 days after the first killing frost.

Altosid® IGR has been shown to be very effective in field trials across the USA. Here is data from two long term horn fly studies comparing cows receiving Altosid® IGR and cows that were not.

![Average Horn Fly Counts - Illinois Study](image)

![Average Horn Fly Counts - Texas Study](image)