BATTLING POULTRY PESTS

INSECTICIDE ROTATION IS CRITICAL

INSECTICIDE RESISTANCE

Insecticide resistance is a major challenge in poultry pest control. Resistance is a genetic change in an insect's susceptibility to an insecticide. This change results in failure of the product to give good control when used according to the label.

Resistance develops through over use (or misuse) of an insecticide. Repeated use of insecticides having the same mode of action (MoA) against the same pest will produce resistance to that insecticide. When an insecticide no longer affects the pest in the expected way at all — regardless of dosage —then the pest is resistant.

IRM

Insecticide Resistance Management (IRM) is a strategy whose goal is to maintain the efficacy of valuable insecticides. IRM tries to minimize resistance to any one type of insecticide.

In practice, one of the easiest IRM strategies to understand and use is "rotation." Rotation is simply alternating the insecticides you use. In poultry production, where you're making multiple insecticide applications per year, you really need to alternate products from different MoA classes.

HAVE A PLAN

For example, if you're using an organophosphate like Pyrofos® 20 or Pyrofos® 42, after you've applied this for 3 flocks (or used it for 6 months,) you should "rotate" to an insecticide belonging to a different class or mode of action, such as Dominion 4L (neonicotinoid class). Then after treating several flocks with Dominion® 4L, you would "rotate" to a pyrethroid such as Cyzmic® CS.

Having a rotation plan and sticking with it are one of the most important things poultry producers can do to preserve the activity of the small number of insecticide MoA's that are available for pest control.