

More Insecticide Information

We frequently receive questions concerning the appropriate chemicals to use in the CowBuddy[®]. As great as they are, the steel and ropes do not kill the flies. Insecticide kills the flies. You **MUST** use an effective insecticide and correctly install the CowBuddy[®] so that the cattle are required to pass through the ropes several times each day. The CowBuddy[®] should not be hung from a shade tree with the hope that every cow will somehow understand its function and voluntarily use it on a regular schedule. To be effective, the fly control system must continuously work for all members of the herd.

Your insecticide dilution will have one or more active ingredients and a base to act as a carrier for the active ingredients. Diesel fuel, used motor oil, etc. are not the correct base materials. Fuels, sprays, and other thin materials will run through the ropes and/or quickly evaporate. Used motor oil may contain chemicals that could hinder or neutralize the insecticide. Furthermore, certain solvents may irritate the hide of the animal and increase insect attraction. A veterinarian grade mineral oil is the correct base that will saturate the ropes in an effective manner.

Here in Florida, it would be safe to say that we have our share of insects. At Campbell Farms, we use Permethrin[®] Cattle Pour-On (1% permethrin) or sometimes (for persistent flies) we mix our own dilution using permethrin and veterinarian grade mineral oil. Although we have seen commercial pour-ons with rates as high as 7.4% permethrin, we've never found it necessary to use a concentration nearly that high (or expensive). You want to control the flies with the weakest dilution possible to save money, because the active ingredient is much more expensive than the base material. Your local large animal veterinarian can give you the best direction and advice for your particular area.

Remember, you are **ALWAYS** legally responsible to carefully follow **ALL** directions and environmental guidelines with respect to the use of insecticides, the use of insecticides on animals (including withdrawal times), and the proper disposal of chemical containers.