



# TIPS FOR DARKLING BEETLE CONTROL ON LIVESTOCK OPERATIONS

Darkling beetles are a concern in poultry production. They can introduce or spread a disease to a facility and carry over pathogens to the next production cycle if not treated properly.

The darkling beetle can appear on farm in a variety of ways. Adult introduction typically occurs by flight or adhering to vehicles or equipment. Larval introduction (lesser mealworm) can happen through contaminated feed. Both stages prefer a warm environment and feed on organic materials such as feed and litter. These beetle can be found in pen areas when animals are present, moving to cracks in walls and floors when animals are moved out and the temperature decreases

Here are some tips to consider following for controlling darkling beetles on livestock operations.

- **Prevent establishment by keeping the facility closed and in good repair**
  - » Pay attention to the inside of barn walls, floors, ceilings, etc.
  - » Fill cracks and holes that could provide entry points
  - » Darkling beetles inside of walls or ceilings can destroy the insulation through burrowing
- **Clean up feed spills immediately to reduce available food in the pen**
- **Keep feed hoppers covered to prevent beetles from getting in**
- **Treat directly after animals are removed from the barn**
  - » Pull litter and bedding 1 to 2 feet away from walls
  - » Put down insecticide powder or residual spray which beetles will have to walk over to get to the cracks in the walls
  - » Remove manure and clean barn as usual
  - » Before disinfection, turn the heat on temporarily to coax darkling beetles out from the walls
  - » Apply appropriate pesticides, making sure to read and follow all label instructions including re-entry intervals for humans and livestock

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