

# Promising NEW Bird Repellent Tested in Dairy Barns

Avian Control® Bird Repellent, is the leading non-lethal bird repellent in the U.S. fruit and vegetable growers market. With word of its success growing, dairymen told Avian Enterprises, LLC, the owner of Avian Control®, that the dairy industry was in desperate need of a field tested and proven, EPA registered, bird repellent.

According to the United States Department of Agriculture, Wildlife Services:

*Birds of many species congregate at dairies and feedlots, especially during winter months. Birds consume and contaminate livestock feed with dual impact, reducing milk production and increasing feed and medical costs. For example, 1,000 starlings can eat up to 40 pounds of food per day. Because birds concentrate on the high protein portion of dairy cow feed, they deprive cows of proper nutrition, resulting in decreased milk production. Additionally, bird droppings in feed and water can transmit harmful diseases and reduce feed consumption.*

In late 2015, dairymen began using Avian Control® to successfully control problem birds. Typical applications included spraying or misting the feed aisle, feed bunkers and upper areas of the barns where birds perch.

**At the same time, The Ohio State University Extension Service invited Avian Enterprises, LLC to participate in a study to determine the effectiveness of using an automated time-release misting system to apply Avian Control® Bird Repellent in a large-scale dairy barn operation.**

The success of automated time-release misting of repellent, as reported by The Ohio State University Extension Service (see below), motivated Avian Enterprises, LLC to introduce a new time-release metered aerosol spray system, Avian Fog Force™ TR, as a lower cost alternative to fixed location automated misting machines. This revolutionary version of Avian Control® Bird Repellent is dispensed at predetermined times during daylight hours from aerosol

cans mounted in programmable spray dispensers that can be placed throughout the dairy barn. Avian Fog Force™ TR is easy to use, affordable and will repel birds even in the largest dairy barn operations according to Avian Enterprises, LLC Executive Vice President, Steven Stone.

Avian Fog Force™ TR will be available in late fall in time for the 2016/2017 winter dairy barn season according to company officials.



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**Reader Inquiry No. XX**

**Rory Lewandowski, Ohio State University Extension Educator, arranged for a large dairy barn operation in Wayne County, OH (over 2,000 dairy cows in one facility) to test the effectiveness of Avian Control® Bird Repellent using the BirdBuffer Q3™ automated time-release misting system, manufactured by Bird Buffer LLC of Everett, WA. This unit dispensed bird repellent approximately 300 feet into the dairy barn. The results of this study as reported by Lewandowski are as follows:**

On many dairy farms in the area, bird control is problematic in the winter. Birds move in from fields and roost in barns and feed on the ration provided to cows in a free stall situation.

During the winter of 2016, I worked with one of our dairy operations to set up a trial with Avian Control® to test its effectiveness in a large-scale dairy situation. This is a farm that typically has multiple thousands of birds that invade its free stall barns. We used a stationary mounted misting system that released product on a timed schedule. We had two barns side by side, separated by

perhaps 100 to 125 feet. In one barn we used the Avian Control® product and not in the other. This was not a replicated or scientific trial, just observation based.

The winter was unusually warm and we did not see high numbers of birds in either barn until we hit a couple of colder snaps. On those occasions when I did bird counts there were very few birds, typically less than 1 to 2 dozen in the treatment barn and maybe



*To keep birds out of an 800-ft. freestall dairy barn, an Ohio State University researcher misted Avian Control® Bird Repellent from the rafters with a Bird Buffer Q3 time-release system.*

150 to 200 birds in the other untreated barn. Still not very many birds! Then one day the farmer asked me to take a look at their other dairy facility located about ½ mile away. I was shocked at what I saw. In those free-stall barns there were tens of thousands of birds. I literally could not see the ration because it was covered by birds. Birds were roosting on every surface in the barn and bird droppings were visible on the cows themselves.

The farmer told me that typically birds are equally divided between his two facilities but it appeared that this year the birds were avoiding one set of barns and all gathering in the other barns. Could this be due to the Avian Control® product? Obviously I can't say for sure, but something caused this change in behavior and use of the Avian Control® Bird Repellent product seems likely. I do believe that these observations indicate that the Avian Control® product shows promise in possibly providing a bird control option for dairy operations and deserves more study, farm trials, and development of effective product dispersal methods in a free stall dairy barn.