

# Horn Fly Control Method Comparison On Beef Cattle

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## Introduction:

The horn fly is a blood feeding pest of pastured beef cattle. A high population of horn flies can have a negative impact on the productivity and profitability of beef cattle enterprises. The horn fly is responsible for losses of beef cattle performance in the millions of dollars each year. The economic threshold for horn flies is more than 200 flies per animal. A demonstration was done to compare 2 methods of horn fly control. One method being insecticide impregnated ear tags and the other method using a VetGun to apply insecticide. A comparison was made of the efficacy of the methods and the cost.

## Hypothesis:

Insecticide impregnated ear tag will be the most effective and economic method for maintaining horn fly populations below economic threshold as compared to using the VetGun insecticide program.

## Procedures:

- 1) Locate three isolated beef cattle herds.
- 2) Place insecticide impregnated ear tags in cows ears according to label instructions and Implement VetGun program according to label instructions.
- 3) Observe and record fly populations on 10 cows within the herd every two weeks during the horn fly season.
- 4) Continue demonstration procedures for one season.
- 5) Compile and summarize results.

## Results:

Figure 1. is a table showing the average number of flies per cow every week where applicable.

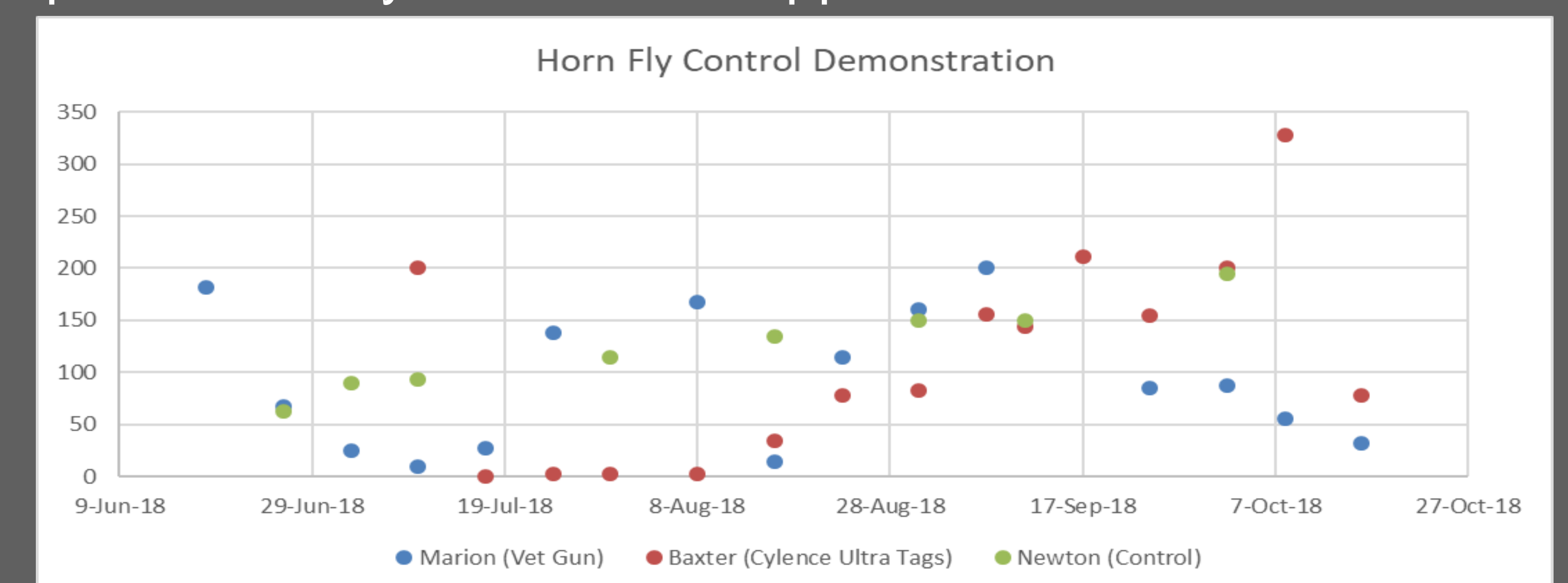


Fig. 1

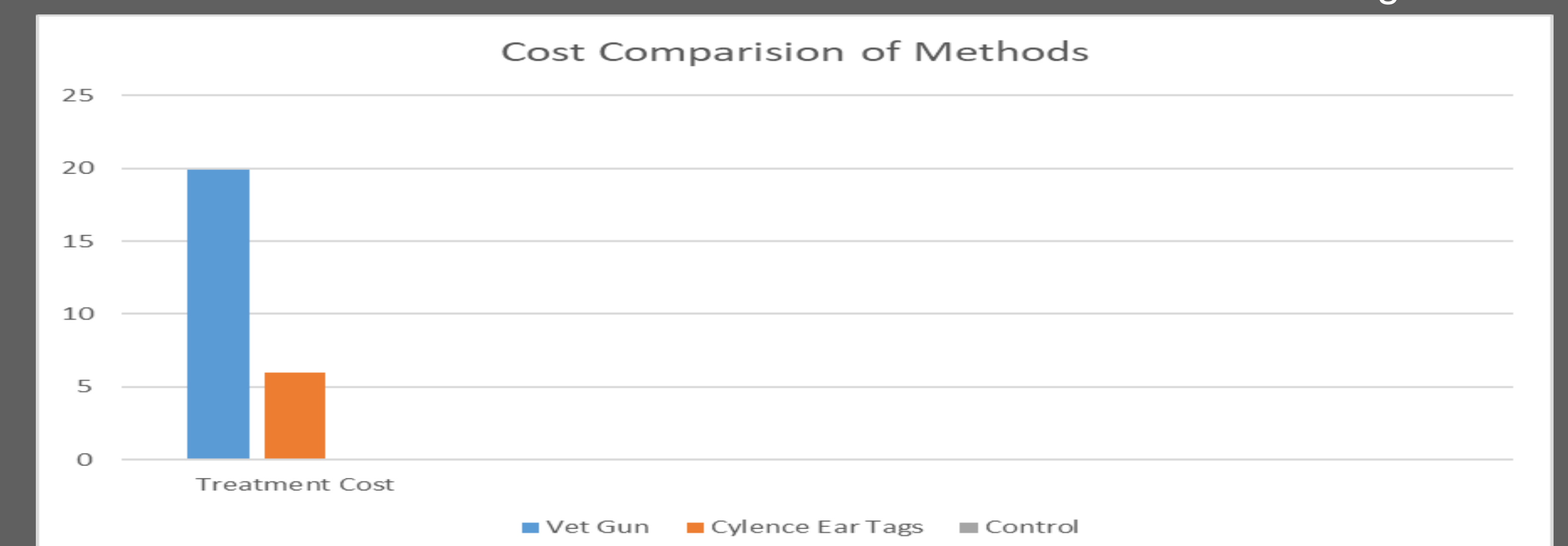


Fig. 2

## Conclusion:

Based on the results from this demonstration both methods can be an effective way to keep horn flies below threshold throughout the fly season. However, the VetGun method proved to be more expensive per head with it costing \$19.95 per head as compare to \$5.99 per head when using insecticide impregnated ear tags.

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