Introduction

THE STABLE FLY, *Stomoxys calcitrans* (L.), is a major pest of confined livestock in many parts of the world and decreases production performance in feeder cattle by reducing feed conversion efficiency and weight gains. Furthermore, this bloodsucking fly often becomes a serious annoyance at recreational facilities and may create such a public nuisance that economic losses are incurred by those operating the facilities. Thus, this insect is of considerable economic importance.

As land values continue to increase, more cattle are concentrated on high-density confined-animal facilities. The conditions on these facilities greatly favor the production of stable flies in the resulting accumulations of manure. This fly production problem is further compounded by the urban encroachment upon many of these facilities and the increased use of urban composting. Attempts to control stable fly have relied heavily on insecticides. However, the continual reduction of available compounds, resistance, concerns about environmental and product contamination, and adverse effects on nontarget organisms have stimulated a greater concern for the development of effective and economic integrated approaches.

The symposium was organized to bring together the available knowledge on the various aspects of stable fly research. The symposium included the subjects of biology, population dynamics, movement and dispersal, economic thresholds, and biological and chemical control. This publication records the important points of the symposium and makes the information available to those who have an interest in stable fly control.

James J. Petersen
Gerald L. Greene