



By making use of waste food and meat byproducts, an Ohio company is turning black fly larvae (left) into high protein feed for fish, reptiles and exotic birds.

Fly Larvae Turned Into Fish Food

An Ohio company is turning black fly larvae into high quality feed for fish, reptiles and exotic birds. The black fly larvae convert waste food and meat byproducts into high protein feed. Initially marketed for specialty markets like zoos and exotic pet owners, the high protein feed will soon hit other markets.

"We are bringing in 6 tons of material a day to feed the flies and larvae," says Cheryl Preyer, EnviroFlight, LLC. "We are running at full commercial scale and trying various feedstocks. Eventually, it will handle 100 tons of feedstock a day."

Preyer explains that while the output is a high protein food regardless of input, the fatty acid profile shifts depending on the source. She says the larvae can handle food waste that otherwise might go to the landfill.

"We had a trial using a batch of material that had sheared metal parts in it, and the larvae just ate around the metal," says Preyer.

EnviroFlight has patented technology to breed black flies inside year round, hatching out eggs and harvesting larvae. Once collected, the larvae is dried and ground for use as feed. The larvae-based feed has more than 40 percent protein and 46 percent fat. The fat can be easily removed for other uses. When the oils are extracted, protein jumps to 70 percent.

Demand is equally huge. Fish farms alone are estimated to need 158 million pounds of feed per day. Supplying that need has resulted in over fishing worldwide. Insect larvae are a natural diet for fish.

The larvae eat twice their body weight and expand about 5,000 times in 2 weeks. Larvae eat about 90 percent of the food provided to them, leaving behind a fiber byproduct called frass. It can be used as a low-fat feed or as a high quality 5-3-2 plant fertilizer.

The only thing holding back wide-scale production and use of the company's product is federal regulatory approval. Ironically, current feed rules are geared toward keeping bugs out of animal feed.

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Hoof Cinch Eliminates Founder Pain, Realigns Hoof

Horse owners have a new, inexpensive option to relieve the pain - and to fix - founder and laminitis. Hoof Cinch is a patented, U.S.-made metal band that tightens around the front part of the hoof to prevent the hoof from flexing, which eliminates the pain.

"We are bringing the hoof back to normal," says Chuck Potter, a Minnesota farrier who invented the device after a year of research and development with his business partner, veterinarian Dr. Jan Doelle, DVM.

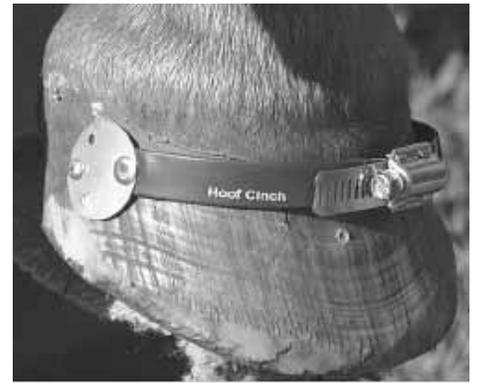
Instead of expensive traditional treatment involving nerve blocks, sedation and shoeing, without a real solution for fixing the rotation, a \$60 Hoof Cinch set can be installed in minutes, and provide instant pain relief.

"Once it's rotated, the coffin bone (main foot bone) cannot be moved back to its original position," Potter says. "The Hoof Cinch stabilizes the hoof wall and forces the hoof wall growth back toward the coffin bone. As the hoof wall grows down along the coffin bone, it realigns with the rotated coffin bone. Since we cannot move the coffin bone back to the hoof wall, we move the hoof wall back to the coffin bone."

After many hoof dissections with Dr. Doelle and learning how the hoof flexed, Potter experimented with his device and the proper placement.

The response is usually immediate.

"The very first was a mini horse that had gotten foundered and couldn't use her front feet at all. I made up tiny cinches and the next day she was running everywhere," Potter says.



Metal band tightens around front part of hoof to keep it from flexing.

Potter emphasizes that the Hoof Cinch doesn't fix the underlying problem causing laminitis or founder, so horse owners must work with a veterinarian to do blood testing and come up with a treatment plan with medicine and/or diet.

The Hoof Cinch is easy to install and remains on the hoof for at least 12-16 weeks, while the horse is in treatment and to allow the bone to realign. The bands come in three sizes for miniature, standard and draft horses. All sell for \$60 (plus \$5 shipping) for a set of two. Both the front (and sometimes back) hooves need the cinches to avoid stressing a good leg.

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Reader Inquiry 95



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Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, J & D Lawn Tractor, 1254 N. 2150th Ave., Mendon, Ill. 62351 (ph 217 440-8365; admin@jndlawntractor.com; www.jndlawntractor.com).

Reader Inquiry No. 96