

Steps to take to prevent breeding of flies

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I REFER to the report, "Tourists upset over house flies" (*The Star*, Aug 9), where it was reported that holiday makers, including guests at premier hotels were upset that their vacation was spoilt by flies.

According to locals, flies began appearing at the onset of the wet season some three weeks ago.

Mentri Besar Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan, has blamed the problem on the "open concept poultry farming" practised by some businesses. He added that while new investors must use a closed farming concept, existing farmers were given time to gradually move to the closed farming concept.

Fly breeding occurs when the poultry droppings are wet and not when it is kept dry. Poultry droppings can get wet due to rain beating into the open poultry sheds, from leaking poultry drinking water containers or drinking nipples.

They can also be caused by excessive moisture in the dropping itself.

This can be prevented by the following steps.

Firstly, the floor of the poultry shed should be cemented for easy cleaning.

Secondly, the roof of the sheds should be extended sufficiently on both sides to prevent rain water beating into the sheds and wetting the poultry litter (poultry manure/poultry droppings). Thirdly, a layer of sawdust should be spread daily over the poultry droppings to absorb excessive moisture in the droppings to keep them dry.

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