

# Beak Speak

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## Upcoming Events

Flock Fighters USA will be attending the largest east coast convention for both wine growers and vintners. **Wineries Unlimited, 2003** will be held March 17-18. There will be a "grazing lunch" on the 18th with samples from wineries across the nation. We will be providing demonstrations of our new infused air systems. Stop by booth H248 and let Jeff and Victoria know you get our newsletter!

## Did you know?

- Starlings are a northern bird. Their southern equivalent is the Grackle.
- A breeding pair of Starlings can produce 2 clutches of eggs per year—as many as 10 hatchlings!
- In some locations of the Ohio and Mississippi Valleys, flocks of Starlings have been spotted consisting of 2–3 million birds!

## IA Advances Bird Aversion Technology

Flock Fighters USA is committed to the development of new aerosol delivery technologies that make chemical bird aversion more efficient and successful. Often our developments come at the request of potential clients. Sometimes they come from our own application work.

How does one apply MA Aerosols, MAA, to a site where the target is exposed? How does one handle the fog when odor is of high importance? How can the aerosol be delivered invisibly so only the birds are affected? I.A. (Infused Air) was developed to handle all of these concerns.

Practically, I.A. is a de-

livery technology where the aerosol is moved through a pipe or tube that has been installed at the target site. The length of pipe has no limits and the diameter is variable, fully dependent upon the site's requirements. This delivery system requires no orifice or nozzle and is under very low pressure. The dosages are controllable and this system can be operated on either timed or "continuous stream" application. The aerosol is at ambient temperature in the tube, and as it exits it is invisible, all the while delivering MA to the

target birds.

The benefits are clear.



IA technology allows MA to be used at any time, in virtually any site!

The invisible nature and elimination of almost all odors allow MA to be used in populated sites. Tube delivery means the aerosol can be targeted to a specific feature and can be hidden from public view. Likewise, this new delivery tool allows automatic operation and control.



## Target: European Starlings

**European Starlings**, *Sturnus vulgaris*, are exotic birds that were brought to the USA in the late 1800's. Now they are the number one pest in the Midwest. The behavior which causes the greatest offense is their gregarious flocking and nighttime roosting behavior. Flocks of thou-

sands or even millions will descend on a roost at sunset and spend the night. It is the accumulation of manure which creates the greatest concerns.

Starlings consume 2-4 oz. of food a day. Most of it is brought back to the night roost to be defecated. 500 starlings will "drop" a ton

of manure each month. Accumulations of hundreds of tons of droppings are common in large winter roosts.

Starlings have been proven to carry 13 different diseases which can infect people, pets and cattle. Scientific literature lists salmonella as

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## FLOCK FIGHTERS

U S A

'the nation's leader in chemical bird aversion'

**We're on the web!  
Check us out at  
[www.flockfighters.com](http://www.flockfighters.com)**

**FLOCK FIGHTERS** U S A takes a comprehensive approach to dealing with nuisance birds, offering everything you need for a successful program... start to finish.

## Why "Campaign"?

Just like a military or political campaign, application of Fog Force is a planned, coordinated process that takes time and strategy. **It is effective to "evacuate" target birds at any and every introduction.**

Long term control, "expulsion", requires multiple applications so the birds are trained. MA bird aversion is classical Pavlovian theory: repeated stimulus produces conditioned response. The birds will be taught that the site is painful and will learn to choose another site. Depending on the target birds and their intended site, expulsion can last for several months to a full year. With many species, the campaign will solve the problem once and for all.



See inside for more information about this issue's bird, the European Starling.

Birds like the common European Starling are very responsive to MA aerosols and their roosting behavior can be broken in 4-5 nights of fogging. However, often birds with resistant behaviors will "fight" the fog. Many operators panic at this point when, by the third night of the campaign, they don't observe any change in the number of birds or in their actions. However, field observations on hundreds of sites have one consistent report: applications on the fourth or fifth night present a remarkable change. Many times

the birds just don't show up, yet, the night before, the full flock was present.

## European Starlings, Continued

the most common pathogen. They are also a primary vector for the West Nile Virus.

Starlings cannot see to fly at night. Therefore, nighttime applications are not effective! Aerosols should be applied within the last hour of daylight (when the majority of birds have just arrived to the roosting site). Greater efficacy is achieved in dusk applications due to the evacuated birds being forced to find a new location before nightfall. This reinforces the new behavioral pattern and the "new home". Starlings have a home range of about 10-20 miles, but they can relocate hundreds of miles when necessary.