

SFAG RAG

Newsletter of the Stable Fly Action Group Inc.



September 2011, Issue 15

Although it is some time since you've received a SFAG RAG please be assured your hardworking Committee has not been resting on our laurels! We have been working on the following issues.

TOTAL BAN ON THE USE OF RAW POULTRY MANURE FROM 1 SEPTEMBER 2011

Total Ban on the Use of Raw Poultry Manure from 1 September 2011

One of the most significant gains made by the SFAG since the Group's inception, along with recommendations to the Government from the Stable Fly Management Steering Group, is the amendment to the Health (Poultry Manure) Regulations banning the use of raw poultry manure (application to land). This welcomed amendment was gazetted on 24 May 2011 and comes

into effect on 1 September this year. Provided this legislation remains in place, and people fulfill their obligations under the new legislation, we are hopeful that raw poultry manure will no longer be a cause of stable fly breeding in the irrigated horticultural industry.

Of course this won't diminish the huge problem that currently exists with stable fly breeding in vegetable crop waste, pig effluent, cattle feedlots, etc.



Government of Western Australia
Department of Health

THE SUNSET CLAUSE

Expiry of Health (Poultry Manure) Regulations on 1 September 2013

However, of great concern to the SFAG Committee is the notification in June from the Department of Health that the longstanding Poultry Manure Regulations, including the new amendment, will expire on 1 September

2013. This is a result of the Health Department's decision that it will no longer be managing stable fly breeding as they consider it to be an agricultural problem. Of further concern is whether the hard won total ban on the use of raw poultry manure from 1 September this year will be in jeopardy due to this 'sunset clause'.



JULY MEETING WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF PREMIER AND CABINET (DPC)



On 27 July Committee representatives met with Director General of the Department of Premier & Cabinet, Peter Conran, and DPC staff member Rebecca Hamilton to discuss which government department will take responsibility for the stable fly problem after the Dept of Health relinquish their present responsibility. We have been advised by the DPC that the Department of Agriculture will become the responsible body.

The DPC also suggested that the regulatory provisions for the control of

stable fly breeding will be transferred from the DOH to a Local Government By-law. The Department of Health has been asked to draw up a model By-law that can be adopted by the local shires to manage the problem.

Although the Committee has received strong assurances from the DPC that stable fly sufferers will not be left without any regulations in place should this process take longer than the two years, we remain very concerned indeed about what we see as a particularly tenuous situation.

AUGUST MEETING WITH THE SHIRE OF GINGIN

In order to bring the Shire of Gingin up to date on this state of affairs, Bob, Jo and Anne met with Shire CEO David Burt, Sam Camillo and the new EHO Ron Boucher, along with Crs Beale and Alderson, on 15 August, to discuss the way forward with the proposed implementation of Local Government Fly Breeding By Laws (or Local Laws) to manage stable fly breeding.

The SFAG Committee sincerely appreciates the continued support given by the Shire of Gingin in our efforts to

control stable fly proliferation, and this case is no exception.

Anne has also spoken with the City of Swan to discuss the proposed Local Laws. Kate has been in contact with the City of Wanneroo over the matter.



FUNDED STABLE FLY FIELD WORK PROJECT

On 1 July Dr David Cook began his scientific and educational consultancy work on managing stable (or biting) flies. This project, which has been jointly funded by DAFWA and the Shire of Gingin, with contributions from some other affected Shires, involves

- visiting horticultural properties throughout the State
- conducting educational workshops for growers regarding good practice
- evaluating the best method of totally removing crop residues from the soil to prevent stable fly breeding, and
- training of local government officers in detecting stable fly development across horticultural industries

DR DAVID COOK 2011 CONSULTANCY WORK FOR THE SHIRE OF GINGIN

Dr Cook has finished his consultancy with the Shire of Gingin that ran from October 2010 to May 2011 inclusive. The constant monitoring and re-visiting of major vegetable producers and intensive animal industries finally saw an amelioration of dramatic outbreaks of biting flies throughout the Shire. The vegetable industry needs to take a lead role in coming up with a long solution to the enormous amount of bulky vegetable crop residue that continues to pose an enormous risk in terms of biting fly development. The current strategy of high speed mulching, drying out then incorporation as well as a timely insecticide application although producing a significant reduction in biting fly development is not a viable, long term solution. Continual use of pesticides will result in increasing levels of resistance in the fly population and

a cost to the producer, the environment and ultimately the consumer. There was significant progress made over 2010/2011 however there is still a lot to be done. This upcoming spring-summer more commercial vegetable growers and livestock producers are aware of what can lead to significant outbreaks of biting flies and they will again be monitored and advised on their responsibility in terms of fly breeding. Dr Cook's final report was submitted to the Gingin Council on 22 August, 2011. Dr David Cook 2011 Consultancy work for Shire of Gingin



2011 SFAG AGM

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The sixth Annual General Meeting of the Stable Fly Action Group Inc will be held on Tuesday 20 September 2011 at the Granville Civic Centre, Gingin at 7.30 pm.

Could members please bring a small plate of supper to share.

The SFAG COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN

Bob Wilson Ph/Fax 9655 1055
Email : chairman@stableflyactiongroup.org.au

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Jo Ottaway Ph 9655 3024
Fax 9655 3130
Email : secretary@stableflyactiongroup.org.au
PO Box 114, Lancelin, 6044

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

Bill White Ph 9575 7543
Fax 9575 7708

COMMITTEE

Reg Beale Ph 9575 7572
Fax 95757502
Dr David Cook Ph 0416 181 162
Kate Goh Ph 0419 900 576
Gary Harley Ph 9575 2286
Anne Sibbel Ph/Fax 9571 2080
Rod Withnell Ph 9575 2162

Membership Renewals

Membership renewal is due at the AGM.

Annual membership costs \$15 per person, \$30 per couple

Could you please bring your green membership renewal form to the AGM with your membership payment. If you are unable to attend, please post the form with your payment to the

Secretary
PO Box 114
Lancelin 6044.

Please make cheques payable to **The Stable Fly Action Group Inc.**

Alternatively, you may make a direct deposit to the SFAG bank account -

Bank : Bendigo Bank Ltd
Account Name : The Stable Fly Action Group Inc
BSB 633:000
Account No 126087790

Shire Contact details

Shire of Gingin

Principal Environmental

Health Officer

Phone - 9575 2211

Fax - 9575 2121

Website - www.gingin.wa.gov.au

Email - mail@gingin.wa.gov.au



City of Swan

Phone - 9267 9267

Fax - 9575 2121

Website - www.cityofswan.com

Email - swan@swan.wa.gov.au



City of Wanneroo

Health Services

Ph 9405 5000

Email - enquiries@wanneroo.wa.gov.au



KEEP REPORTING YOUR FLIES!

Also please remember that if you report having stable flies in one month and they are still there next month you need to report them again, otherwise the Shire thinks they have gone, and record that month as being fly free.

Download the complaints form from the SFAG website www.stableflyactiongroup.org.au