



# SFAG RAG



## NEWSLETTER OF

# THE STABLE FLY ACTION GROUP INC.

MAY 2008, ISSUE 9

## Vegetables WA (VWA) Good Practice Guide



In the last issue of the SFAG RAG we reported that the VWA were in the process of developing their *Good Practice Guide*. This comprehensive document has now been published and has been sent out to the membership of the VWA. Included in the *Good Practice Guide* is an important section entitled *Good practice management of manures and vegetable crop residue*. It is this section that the SFAG Committee contributed to in November 2007, and it is available as a stand alone document or on the VWA website at [www.vegetableswa.com.au](http://www.vegetableswa.com.au).

## BAM Act Regulations



The primary focus of the SFAG Committee for the current year will be collaborating with the Department of Agriculture & Food, and the Dept of Health, in having input into the new BAM Act so that Regulations that are relevant to stable fly control measures are strengthened. Richard Walker, Biosecurity Policy Officer with whom we had been successfully liaising, has left DAFWA, so new contacts have had to be made which has slowed down this process. The SFAG Committee plans to meet with department officers in June to get the ball rolling again.



Good practice guide developed by VWA.



The BAM Act

## New Look SFAG RAG and Information Leaflet



Members will notice that we have updated the SFAG RAG to an attractive new format. This is thanks to SFAG Committee member Kate Goh's technological expertise, and her efforts are very much appreciated. We hope you all enjoy the new look and find it an improvement and easy to read. We welcome any feedback you may have in regards to our new layout.

As well as this, Kate and Committee member Anne Sibbel, with input from the whole Committee, designed and printed an excellent Information Leaflet for the Group's promotional activities. The leaflet features background info on the SFAG, explains who we are and what has been achieved since incorporation in 2005, photos of stable fly infestation, and a membership form. It also answers frequently asked questions, such as What is a stable fly? What should I do if I have them? Where can I find out more? And When and where are SFAG Committee meetings held? The leaflet was available to the public at the Gingin Expo and will be sent out as part of the new membership package from now on.

## Gingin Expo



The SFAG Committee conducted a comprehensive display at the Expo again this year. The Expo is a well supported local event and committee members were kept busy all day answering inquiries, and encouraging and joining up new memberships. The committee agreed this had once again been a worthwhile exercise and it will be conducted again next year, with a number of improvements being decided upon.



## Profile...

*Kate Goh*



Kate has joined her mother as a new member of the SFAG this year.

Kate is a resident of Bullsbrook and is a mother of two and enjoys living on her property with her horses and other assorted animals (when the flies are not around!).

A teacher by trade Kate has been enjoying her time over the past three years spending time at home raising her two children and becoming involved in the local community.







Stable fly larvae in crop waste.

## Open Season for use of raw poultry manure

Remember ! The three month open season for use of raw poultry manure is from 1 June to 31 August only. Raw poultry manure cannot be transported, delivered, stored or used at any other time. To do so is an offence against the Health (Poultry Manure) Regulations.

## Bullsbrook Information Evening



On 11 March the SFAG Committee hosted a public information evening at the Sportsmens Club in Bullsbrook. The evening had been organized by the SFAG's enthusiastic Bullsbrook committee members, as a result of infestations of stable flies affecting livestock and residents at properties in the Shire of Swan, and called for action from Bullsbrook residents to address the problem. Invited speakers were Bob Paulin (DAFWA); Dave Peckitt (DOH); Gavin Foord (VWA); and Wayne Harris (Shire of Gingin PEHO). Also present were Stuart Gunning from the office of the Minister for Agriculture & Food, at the Ministers request; Len Brajkovich, president of the WA Broiler Growers Association; and David Rosling, Co-ordinator of Health Services, City of Swan. Affected Bullsbrook residents expressed their appreciation that the SFAG had convened the information evening on their behalf, which had given them an insight into the history of the stable fly problem, the work that had been carried out over many years to combat it, and the current dedicated work of the SFAG Committee.

## Stable Fly infestations and reporting to local Shires



Stable flies continue to be a problem in the Shires of Gingin and Swan, with many reports of infestations being sent to Environmental Health Officer Wayne Harris at the Shire of Gingin throughout the banned period for use of raw poultry manure. The SFAG asks all members to be vigilant regarding trucks delivering raw poultry manure out of season, and report them immediately to your local Shire Health Officer. The Health Officer and Shire Ranger will then investigate, and if the regulations are found to have been breached, prosecutions will be made. Please make your reports in writing and fax them to the Shire. Contact details appear in this issue of THE SFAG RAG.

## Shire reports to VWA



Shire of Gingin PEHO, Wayne Harris, has been sending a copy of his monthly Information Bulletin report to the VWA so they are made aware of the level of infestation on a monthly basis. Wayne also forwards to the VWA details of their members who have been found, on inspection, to be breeding flies, using raw poultry manure out of season, or who the Council is taking an action against. The SFAG thanks Wayne and the Shire Rangers for their efforts in this regard.

## Shire Contact details

### Shire of Gingin



#### Wayne Harris

Principal Environmental Health Officer  
Shire of Gingin

Ph 9575 2211 Fax 9575 2121

### City of Swan



#### David Rosling

Coordinator Health Services, City of Swan  
Ph 9267 9313 Fax 9267 9444

# STABLE FLY FACTS AND INFORMATION

The Stable fly (*Stomoxys calcitrans*) is often a pest of livestock. They can be important pests in range or pasture situations.

Stable flies are generally present in large numbers from mid-spring to mid-autumn, but localised outbreaks can occur in many regions of south-western Australia when winters are mild.

## Effects on livestock

Stable fly is a blood-sucking parasite and is one of the most important pests of cattle and horses. It is also a pest of dogs, cats, pigs, humans and many other short haired mammals.

Injury to livestock is caused by irritation to livestock from the stable fly's painful bite and loss of blood.

Cattle and horses tend to dislodge stable fly by foot stamping, tail switching and throwing their head down toward their front legs. In cattle and horses this behaviour generally leads to reduced weight gains and damage to tissue and hide.

When flies are abundant cattle and horses will bunch, with each animal trying to get to the centre of the group, or try to stand in water to avoid harrassment. This continual movement causes cattle and horse to go off their feed.

Recent research has shown that 50 to 100 stable fly per animal can cause significant reduction in weight gains in feedlot situations. In the United States, five stable fly per front leg is the point where animal behaviour changes (bunching) and economic losses begin. The economic threshold is 25 flies per animal.

Look out for more stable fly information in our next issue!!!

*Information taken from the Department of Agriculture Farmnote 101/94.*



Top: Stable fly Bottom: house/bush fly  
Note the piercing proboscis of the stable fly.



## THE STABLE FLY ACTION GROUP INC. (SFAG)

### OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE 2007/08

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