



SFAG RAG

NEWSLETTER OF

THE STABLE FLY ACTION GROUP INC.

NOVEMBER 2008, ISSUE 10



Successful prosecutions by the Shire of Gingin



During June and July this year the SFAG Committee were following closely the progress of the legal action being taken by the Shire of Gingin against two landowners and a composting and transport company who were charged with breach of the Health (Poultry Manure) Regulations.

The Regulations stipulate that raw poultry manure may only be stored, supplied, sold, transported or used on properties during the months of June, July and August, and the offenders were found to be illegally transporting and using raw poultry manure outside this permitted period.

All three pleaded guilty, and fines of \$400, \$1400 and \$1700 were subsequently imposed upon them.

In the case of the transport and composting company, which had supplied a product to a large horticultural property in the north of the Shire, it was alleged by the Shire of Gingin that the product contained a high percentage of raw poultry manure. A DNA analysis of the offending substance was carried out by Murdoch University, on behalf of the Shire, in order to provide proof to the Court that it was indeed raw poultry manure that was being transported and used.



Media release



The SFAG Committee issued a press release regarding these successful prosecutions, which was subsequently published in The Advocate, The Sun City News, and the North Coast Times on 26 August. In the article, SFAG Chairman Bob Wilson expressed disappointment that the offences had occurred, however he issued a statement congratulating the Shire of Gingin on their success, particularly as it created a precedent.

The SFAG Committee sent a letter to the Shire of Gingin thanking them, and in particular Shire PEHO Wayne Harris and Ranger Mike Kokir, for their efforts in obtaining these prosecutions. It certainly gives the Group encouragement that the Shire continues to be vigilant in managing the stable fly problem in the field, and augurs well for the future.

Bullsbrook Rural Info Evening

On Tuesday 14 October the City of Swan held an information evening in Bullsbrook. The last of a series of Rural Information Exhibitions being held in the City's rural areas the evening gave residents the opportunity to find out about the City's services, programmes and information. There were a number of displays and staff were on hand to answer any questions. We were pleased that the Health Department's display included comprehensive information on stable flies and Kate and Anne from our committee were also on hand to answer any questions about stable flies and SFAG. Unfortunately the event was not well attended by the public however it provided a great opportunity to further our relationship with City of Swan staff.

AGM 2008



The SFAG held its third AGM on Wednesday 24 September at the Granville Civic Centre in Gingin, with 35 members and guests present, including guest speaker Len Brajkovich, President of the WA Broiler Growers Association; Lana Kelly from the Central West Action Group, who spoke regarding the biosolids storage facility in the Shire of Moora; and new Member for Moore, Grant Woodhams MLA.

Mr Bob Paulin from the Department of Agriculture & Food, and Mr Dave Peckitt, from the Department of Health, once again travelled to Gingin for the AGM, and were acknowledged by the Chairman in his annual report for their long standing and ongoing support of the SFAG.

Also in attendance were Shire of Gingin CEO Simon Fraser, PEHO Wayne Harris, Shire President Wayne Fewster – who conducted the election of office bearers for 2008/09 – and Councillors George Gifford and David Roe. Cr Reg Beale, also present, is a member of the SFAG Committee. Thanks to the Shire of Gingin for your continued support.

Issues discussed at the 2008 AGM included...

- The continuation of stable fly breeding throughout the Shire of Gingin during the winter months of June, July and August this year – the open season for the use of raw poultry manure
- The successful prosecutions by the Shire of Gingin
- Suspected illegal storage of raw poultry manure in the Shire of Wanneroo
- Serious concern being experienced by the SFAG Committee about long term strategies for disposal of large quantities of raw poultry manure after the proposed total ban on its use in irrigated horticulture after 2011

- Concern that the raw poultry manure disposal problem will be put in the too hard basket and the proposed 2011 total ban, recommended to the government by the Stable Fly Management Steering Group, will be extended
- Delays being experienced by the SFAG Committee in obtaining a meeting with DAFWA officers to progress the Group's input into strengthened regulations under the Biosecurity & Agricultural Management Act
- Lack of government support – both local and state – for the poultry industry's efforts to gain planning approval for their pyrolysis initiative
- Lack of government support for an economically viable, competitive and sustainable composting industry to be developed as being a useful means of disposing of raw poultry manure and other organic wastes

These matters will be raised further at the forthcoming meeting the SFAG Committee will be having with the new Minister for Agriculture, Terry Redman.

RESIGNATION OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN – BUT HE'S STILL ON THE COMMITTEE!

Rod Withnell, erstwhile Deputy Chairman of SFAG for the last three years, resigned his position at the AGM due to his work commitments. Rod's efforts as Deputy Chair have been greatly appreciated by the rest of the Committee. He will, however, remain on the Committee and attend monthly meetings when he is able. Thanks, Rod!



Office Bearers for 2008/09

Shire of Gingin President Cr Wayne Fewster had no trouble getting the positions filled when he conducted the Election of Office Bearers for the SFAG Committee for 2008/09, which indicates the dedication of the committee members to the stable fly cause. Anne Sibbel has replaced Rod Withnell as Deputy Chair, otherwise your committee remains the same, as follows:

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

Anne Sibbel Ph/Fax 9571 2080

COMMITTEE

Reg Beale Ph 9575 7572
Fax 95757502
Kate Goh Ph/Fax 9571 2039
Bernard McCarthy Ph/Fax 9575 2281
Bill White Ph 9575 7543
Fax 9575 7708
Rod Withnell Ph 9575 2162

Membership Fees

It was decided at the AGM that the membership fees would remain at \$10 per person. Thank you to all those members - 65 of you - who have renewed your membership for 2008/09 so promptly! Your continuing support is greatly appreciated.

Membership Renewal

For those of you who have not renewed your membership, an orange renewal form is attached to this issue of The SFAG RAG.

Should you not wish to renew your membership for a specific reason, the Committee would like to have your feedback. Just go onto the website and email chairman@stableflyactiongroup.org.au or secretary@stableflyactiongroup.org.au to have your say.

OUT OF SEASON

Deliveries of Raw Poultry Manure in the Shire of Wanneroo

The Committee has received reports that rpm is being delivered out of season to market gardens in the Shire of Wanneroo. The Committee has contacted the City of Wanneroo to alert them to this activity and will be keeping the pressure on them to do something about it.



We have also written to the WA Broiler Growers Association advising them that rpm is being carted out of chicken sheds in the banned period to properties in a Shire that is covered by the Regulations, and have asked them to investigate the matter.

In addition, we have written to the City of Wanneroo with a view to hosting a information forum - similar to the successful public info evening the Committee held at Bullsbrook in March 2008 - to re-publicise the stable fly issue in that Shire.

Shire Contact details

Shire of Gingin



Wayne Harris

Principal Environmental Health Officer

Phone - 9575 2211

Fax - 9575 2121

Website - www.gingin.wa.gov.au

Email - WayneHarris@gingin.wa.gov.au

City of Swan



Customer Service

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

SFAG IS NOW ONLINE!



www.stableflyactiongroup.org.au



- HOME.
- WHAT SHOULD I DO?
- NEWS & REPORTS.
- SFAG ACHIEVEMENTS.
- FURTHER INFORMATION.
- PICTURES.
- ALL ABOUT STABLE FLIES.
- CONTACT US.

The culmination of many hours of hard work and outstanding technological and design expertise by committee members Kate and Anne resulted in the presentation and launch at the AGM of the SFAG Website.

The website is a useful medium for getting information out to our members, our supporters, and the general public, on who we are, what we have done, and what we are doing. It contains scientific information such as the full report, findings and recommendations of the SFMSG, tips for identification and life cycle of the stable fly itself, what to do if you have them, reports, news items, back copies of The SFAG RAG, the SFAG Info Leaflet, membership forms, renewal forms, various Shire complaint forms, contact details for the Chairman, Secretary and Webdesigner, contact details for the 12 Shires covered by the Regulations - and more.

The website is a great innovation. Your Committee is very pleased with it and we hope you find it useful.

STABLE FLY FACTS AND INFORMATION



The life cycle of a stable fly

Stable flies typically appear during midspring, they become severe during summer, and numbers tend to decrease in late summer. In prime breeding times stable flies can develop from egg to adult in just 2 weeks. Females lay over 100 eggs per batch and she may lay five batches in her lifetime, so there is the potential for rapid increases in fly numbers in a short period of time.

Where do stable flies breed?

The larvae or maggots of stable flies can breed in animal and poultry manures (particularly when mixed with organic matter), horse stables, decaying vegetable matter, open compost heaps and grass clippings.

Go to www.stableflyactiongroup.org.au

