

SFAG CHAIRMANS REPORT – 2019.

Before writing this report I looked back at my 2018 report to see what the main topics were. Many of the key points of that report are again top of the list for 2019 but in a slightly different context. Therefore before I run through the happenings over the last Stable Fly season I will just briefly re-cap a number of the main points from last year and make comments on what has been achieved over that last 12 months.

At this stage I would like to acknowledge the attendance tonight of Paul Cassidy representing DPIRD who will explain the Management Plan in more detail and answer any questions that you might have about its use, a little later in the meeting.

From the 2018 Report, this basically concentrated on 2 main topics. The first being....

1. The Management Plan - Dr Dave's research program had been completed leading to a number of alterations to the Management Plan. The key ones being...
 - a) Deep burying of post-harvest waste followed by the very important factor, rolling of the surface. (Over the last season we have been advised of concerns that this practice can lead to some wind erosion problems and therefore there has been a limited uptake by vegetable producers)
 - b) Improvements needed to how livestock farmers fed out waste vegetables (eg: carrots etc) as well as hay feeding practices. (It seems that since last year not all farmers are heeding the basic "good hygiene" practices)
 - c) UPM could now be used by farmers for Dry Land agricultural practices. (We will hear later from the GG Shire if this practice has been adopted by dry land farmers within the shire.)

Note – these alterations to the Management Plan were subject to being officially accepted and ratified by the government under the BAM Act, which we were finally notified in September, had taken place.

2. The other being Inspectors –
 - a) DPIRD had appointed Bevan Wooldridge for another season. (This year the same has occurred and we thank DPIRD for this support.)
 - b) The Gingin Shire had appointed Geoff Slater as a designated SF inspector for another season. (This year we have been informed that the Shire has appointed Geoff for another 2 seasons which we heartily support.)

During the SF season that followed last year's AGM we were made aware of a couple of very promising steps forward in the fight against SF that were initiated by the Shire Inspector Geoff Slater. Without stealing all Geoff's thunder I will just highlight them and you can follow up with Geoff for more detail....

- 1) Geoff organised the transporting of truckloads per day of waste vegetables from the packing/sorting shed of a Beermullah Vegetable Farm to Donovan Farrell's Garden Organics Composting facility on Aurisch Rd. This has taken a major fly breeding source out of the picture, instead of being buried on farm, and led to minimal SF problems in the Beermullah area last season. A real win/win for everyone!
- 2) The identification of a problem fly breeding source in the wheel ruts of the tractors used for harvesting some leafy vegetables in the Caraban area. Geoff designed a pair of tynes that lifted the rotting material up and flung it off the wheel tracks where it dried out and no longer presented a breeding site for the SF. This system seemed to be very successful and we would encourage further monitoring of the practice to see if it is a robust solution to a specific problem. If reports from neighbouring livestock producers are anything to go by, this practice could very well be adopted into the Management Plan in the future.
- 3) While talking about the future, I would also like to acknowledge the work of both Geoff and Bevan Wooldridge for their proactive approach to a problem of post-harvest waste from a packing/sorting shed that also occurs on a horticultural property in the North of the Gingin Shire. Keep at it men, hopefully you can solve this one too!!

Our latest Newsletter, Issue 23, will be coming out very soon and I would like to draw your attention to one particular item. Reporting of SF.... This is still a very important function that we need you all too continue to do. However, we have been advised that the 1800 PADIS (Pests and Diseases) reporting phone number is no longer available. We are advised that if you wish to report by phone rather than using the excellent APP, the new number is 93683080.

I was also advised that if you have taken a video of the effects of SF on your animals (or yourselves) you can now email it to padis@dpird.wa.gov.au This has been my only regret with the Reporting app in that you could only attach a photo and not a video.... with accompanying vocals!!

As SFAG heads into our 15th year as a voluntary committee trying to find solutions to this scourge for both livestock and humans, I would like to commend our small but dedicated team that are still going and wish them well for the next year. Hopefully the next year will see many of the initiatives promoted and supported by us lead to a continued reduction in SF. Dave's research and Geoff's on-ground work has shown that this problem CAN be reduced.

In conclusion, I would officially like to recognise the terrific contribution over many years that Dr Dave Cook has given both to this committee and of course to the greater world-wide knowledge of this pest through his entomological research.

It is my great pleasure to present Dr Dave with a Certificate of Appreciation and gift from the SFAG for his contribution to solving the SF problem..... Well done Dave!!