



THE SFAG RAG

NEWSLETTER OF THE STABLE FLY ACTION GROUP INC

OCTOBER 2006



From the SFAG desk ...

REPORT ON THE SFAG AGM

The AGM was held at the Granville Civic Centre in Gingin on Tuesday 26 September. Although it was a little disappointing for the Committee that only 14 of 76 financial members were present, the meeting was very successful. Thank you to those members who were unable to attend for phoning to send their formal apologies. The Committee was very pleased to welcome 10 new financial members to the Group from Bullsbrook.

A very comprehensive report on the year's work by the Committee was presented by SFAG Chairman Bob Wilson. If any of you would like a copy it can be obtained from either Bob or Jo.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Guest Speakers Mr Len Brajkovich (WABGA) and Mr Robin Nussey (DAFWA) were interesting and informative.

Mr Brajkovich expressed the broiler industry's disappointment and frustration that the Poultry Litter Fired Power Station proposal had not come to fruition to date. The industry had made a substantial financial contribution to the project and was still committed to solving the problem created by raw poultry manure. The industry was carrying out experiments with gypsum and sawdust added to the raw manure to ascertain if this is successful in killing bacteria and arriving at a pathogen free material that does not breed stable flies and could be safely used in horticulture.

Mr Nussey (who spoke in place of Mr Bob Paulin, who could not attend) advised the meeting that May will be removed from the open season for use of raw poultry manure from 2007, and the use of raw poultry manure will be banned after September 2011. In the interim, his Department, along with the Department of Health, will assist VegetablesWA in finalizing their Protocols and Code of Practice for the use of raw poultry manure. Mr Nussey also spoke on the WA Waste Management Board's Draft Organics Strategy and Interim Standards for Organics Applied to Land, and reported that his Department had been advised by the Minister for Agriculture that the Minister is currently pursuing the possibility of the proposed Biosecurity & Agricultural Management (BAM) Act being used to manage the use of organic material on agricultural and horticultural land.

Mr Llew Withers, Manager Environmental Health (DOH) was also present and was available to answer questions.

Hon Gary Snook was unable to attend as he was required to be in Parliament that evening as discussion on the proposed new Act was being introduced. He, too, is working to see if the stable fly problem can be permanently solved by way of this new Bill.

SFAG COMMITTEE FOR 2006/07

The election of Office Bearers for 2006/07 was conducted by Shire President, Cr George Gifford.

The Committee is sorry to lose Murray Rudd, who has had to resign due to commitments with his army cadets. Thank you, Murray, for your contribution over the past year.

On the other hand, we are very pleased to welcome new Committee member Bill White. Otherwise your Committee remains the same as last year. SEE OPPOSITE.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

It was decided that membership fees will remain at \$10/person for 2006/07. The aim is to keep the fees low in order to give as many people as possible an opportunity to have a say in the stable fly effort.

Thank you to those who paid their fees at the AGM or have already posted them.

For those who have not done so, it would be much appreciated if you could forward your payment (accompanied by the attached orange renewal form) to the Secretary/Treasurer at the address on the form.

The Group cannot function effectively without finances, and we appreciate your membership and support. Numbers count. The aim is to have 100 financial members by the end of this financial year.

REGULAR MONTHLY REPORTERS

It was decided that this concept would be adopted for 2006/07. The idea is that the Regular Reporters will provide weather and stable fly infestation data (from a number of different localities throughout the Gingin Shire, and Bullsbrook) on a monthly basis to the Environmental Health Department at the Shire. It is hoped this initiative will help Wayne and Joe in the carrying out of their surveillance, and provide relevant information that is useful to the SFAG Committee and the Shire.

Regular Monthly Reporters for 2006/07 are :

Anne Wilson (Mimigarra Rd), Guy Edgar (Cowalla Rd), David Roe (Beermullah), Bernard McCarthy (South Gingin), Bill White (Chitna Rd) and Margaret Carlton (Neaves Rd, Bullsbrook). The Committee expresses their appreciation to these members for their efforts.

SFAG INC COMMITTEE

2006/07

CHAIRMAN

Bob Wilson Ph 9655 1055

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

Rod Withnell 9575 2162

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Jo Ottaway Ph 9655 3024
PO Box 114, Lancelin 6044

COMMITTEE

Reg Beale 9575 7572

Rob Kestel 9575 2395

Bernard McCarthy 9575 2281

Bill White 9575 7543

MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS ATTENDED BY SFAG COMMITTEE

On 29 August SFAG Deputy Chairman Rod Withnell attended a Workshop at Perth Zoo regarding the Waste Management Boards Draft Organics Strategy and the Interim Standards for Organics Applied to Land. The Workshop was held in order to obtain input into these reports from interested parties.

In the opinion of the SFAG Committee, these reports do not adequately address the stable fly breeding problems associated with the application of raw manures to land, also the Standards are only intended to be voluntary and do not constitute a regulation.

By attending the workshop, Rod was able to put forward the Committees view that the stable fly breeding issue should be addressed, and the Standards should be regulated. This has been followed up by a submission from SFAG Committee to the Waste Management Board.

MEETING WITH THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE

On 19 September Deputy Chairman Rod Withnell, Secretary Jo Ottaway and Committee member Bernard McCarthy met with the Minister for Agriculture, Hon Kim Chance, at Parliament House. Also in attendance were Bob Paulin (DAFWA) and Dave Peckitt (Dept of Health), and Lewis Mavrantonis, Policy Adviser to the Minister.

Discussed were :

- VegetablesWA Protocols & Code of Practice, including a Poultry Litter Users Log Book
- Establishing a penalties structure and how it will be policed
- Implementation of the recommendations of the SFMSG of 16 June 2006
- The Proposed Biosecurity & Agricultural Management (BAM) Act
- The Current Review of the Health Act
- The Waste Management Board Draft Organics Strategy and Interim Standards for Organics Applied to Land

The Committee is now writing to the Minister to follow up on the progress of actions decided at this meeting.

CENTRAL WEST REFERENCE AND ACTION GROUP MEETING AT MOORA ON 4 OCTOBER

Rod also attended this meeting, convened by the CWRAG, to inform the community about the Water Corporations bio-solids sludge (human waste) facility proposed in the Moora area. The meeting was very well attended, including by State Politicians and public servants, and Rod accepted the CWRAG's invitation to speak on the stable fly issue.

Meet the SFAG Committee!

Reg has spent his entire working life attached to the State Fire Service (FESA), firstly in Administration, and then as CEO of their Credit Union from its inception until its merger with another Financial Institution.

During this time Reg served on many State Boards and Legislative Advisory Committees to State Government, dealing with the introduction of ATM cards as well as banking and superannuation. He is also a qualified Golf Coach, and served on the State Junior Golf Council prior to moving to Gingin to try his hand on the land with his wife Wendy.

Reg and Wendy have three adult children, Graeme, Sharee and Brock, who now have their own children who enjoy escaping to Sandy Lake Farm to partake of the animals and open space. Sandy Lake Farm has a large variety of animals, including mixed beef cattle, dorper sheep, goats, alpacas, geese, chickens, guinea fowls and ducks, plus a magnitude of wild birds who also enjoy the safe sanctuary of Sandy Lake Farm.

Wendy is an accomplished cook and her patchwork quilting skills are a credit to her, as is the support she affords Reg around the farm.

Reg's knowledge, attributes and ability to adapt has enabled him to readily slot into a rural lifestyle. He is now taking an active role in Local Government as an elected Councillor for the South Ward of the Shire of Gingin. So if you wish to discuss finance, superannuation, accounting, building, golf, model aircraft, local government, or the many aspects of agriculture from animal husbandry to fertilizers, soils or pasture seeds, he is always happy to lend an ear or, if need be, lend a helping hand or impart some of the practical knowledge he has gained since making Gingin his home.

Reg's input into the SFAG Inc Committee has been invaluable and greatly appreciated, especially the assistance and support he has given to Jo in the preparation and printing of THE SFAG RAG. Thanks, Reg!



Reg Beale

DID YOU KNOW ? A Product called Muscaban is available which is successful in providing some relief to dogs and horses being attacked by stable flies.

A REMINDER ...!

IF YOU HAVENT ALREADY DONE SO, PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO SEND YOUR 2006/07 MEMBERSHIP AND COMPLETED RENEWAL FORM. THANK YOU!