



THE SFAG RAG

NEWSLETTER OF

THE STABLE FLY ACTION GROUP INC

APRIL 2007



From the SFAG desk ...

REMOVAL OF MAY

Shortly after the October 2006 issue of THE SFAG RAG was distributed to members, the Group was notified by the Department of Environmental Health that the month of May had been officially removed from the open season for application of raw poultry manure to land in the horticultural industry. The removal of May is seen by the SFAG Inc Committee as a milestone achievement of the Group. May temperatures were scientifically found to be too warm, thus encouraging fly breeding. This change to the Stable Fly Regulations means that raw poultry manure may only be legally used during the months of June, July and August each year.

VEGETABLE CROP WASTE

The Committee continues to actively pursue the fine tuning and strengthening of the Vegetable Industry Protocols and Code of Practice with the Department of Health. In the Department's opinion, management of crop waste is emerging as a major issue in the control of stable fly breeding. Crop waste is not a poultry industry issue (as is raw poultry manure) it is a vegetable industry issue, and it is the responsibility of that industry to manage its waste in a proper manner in order that it does not breed flies.

BIOSECURITY & AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT BILL

Further discussions have taken place with the Member for Moore, Hon Gary Snook, regarding the BAM Bill and its progression in Parliament, and the advantages, or otherwise, of transferring the Fly Breeding Regulations from the Department of Health to the Department of Agriculture, as horticulture is part of the Agriculture portfolio. Mr Snook has undertaken to meet with the Minister for Agriculture, Mr Chance, to ascertain what steps he is taking to fulfil his promises made to the SFAG Committee representatives he met with in September 2006.

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SFAG Committee stalwarts Bill White and Bob Wilson at the Expo

Gingin Expo Saturday 21 April

The SFAG Committee mounted a display at this years Gingin Expo, which was held at the Gingin Recreation Centre on 21 April. Our tent was allocated an excellent position on the main oval, and Committee members spent a very busy day publicizing the stable fly issue, distributing handouts and encouraging new memberships. Our posters, graphic photos and continuous video display of livestock and humans being infested with stable flies was of much interest to the attendees of the Expo, and the Committee was complimented on the professionalism and quality of the displays. SFAG's eye-catching new banner, created by signwriters Central Coast Marketing, of Lancelin, and displaying the stable fly logo to good effect, was a very effective drawcard to the tent.

As many as possible of the 2006/07 financial membership were notified the SFAG would be having a tent at the Expo, should they be attending and could spare a few minutes of their time, and the Committee is most appreciative of the help given by SFAG members Guy and Diane Edgar and Anne Wilson.

The Committee welcomes seven new financial members to the Group who joined at the Expo, and thanks them for their support in the stable fly effort.

MEET SFAG COMMITTEE MEMBER BERNARD McCARTHY

Bernard and his wife Francine have lived and farmed in Gingin for over 40 years. They came to Gingin to manage Tawarra farm, which was only partly developed. After 21 happy and successful years at Tawarra they moved onto their own farm, Ulandi, which they set up for horse agistment and hay production.

Bernard served as a Councillor on the Gingin Shire for 6 years. He was the founder of the Gingin South Volunteer Fire Brigade, which was the first volunteer brigade in the Shire. This brigade still operates most effectively and was the blueprint for the many brigades we now have in the Gingin Shire.

Bernard and Francine have three children, Delia is married with 2 sons, lives in Sydney and practices Chinese medicine, Gemma is married with 3 daughters and farms with her husband at Boyup Brook, and Ben, who studied at Curtin University and is now the manager of Studleigh farm at Mogumber.



...from the SFAG desk continued ...

HELICOPTER INSPECTIONS and SHIRE OF DANDARAGAN

During January this year, severe outbreaks of stable fly breeding were experienced at Caraban, near Guilderton, and at Mimigarra Road, at the northern end of the Shire. Both these outbreaks were found to be as a result of flies breeding in pits of vegetable crop waste. In the Mimigarra Road instance, the source of stable fly breeding was located as a result of the Shire of Gingin carrying out a helicopter inspection and making the discovery at a property just inside the Shire of Dandaragan. Subsequent inspections made by the Shire of Dandaragan Health Department resulted in the landowner being required to spray the waste pits with chemicals and cover them with earth. The SFAG Committee has written to both the Shire of Gingin and Shire of Dandaragan to thank them for their vigilance, and to commend their Environmental Health Officers for co-operating so effectively.

LETTERS and PHOTOGRAPHS TO MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Photographs were taken of the severe stable fly infestation at Caraban in January, involving cattle and dogs, and these have been enlarged and printed, and sent with covering letters to all relevant Members of Parliament and government departments, as well as to VegetablesWA, to keep them reminded of the problems being experienced.

FORMULA 90

Several incidents have occurred recently whereby stable fly breeding has been detected on properties in the Shires of Gingin and Wanneroo using the conditioned poultry manure product Formula 90. As this product had undergone a new manufacturing process, the Department of Health had issued an interim approval for it to be used, subject to further testing being carried out. As it has proved to be unstable, the SFAG Committee has written to the Chairman of the government appointed SFMSG requesting the Group reconvene to discuss the manufacturing process, use and approvals pertaining to Formula 90, and decisions be made regarding its future use.

OFFICIAL STABLE FLY COMPLAINTS FORM

When reporting stable fly infestations to the SHIRE OF GINGIN, it is very important that your complaints be in writing, so the Shire has a record of your complaint and, if your problem persists, that you KEEP REPORTING each and every incident. The Health Department at the Shire records the number of complaints received for each locality for each month.

Attached to this edition of THE SFAG RAG is the official stable fly complaints form from the Shire's Environmental Health Officer, Wayne Harris. Please use it when you report, and fax it to the Shire, DON'T JUST PHONE. Please photocopy the form if you require more than one, or they can be emailed, faxed, or posted to you from the Environmental Health Officer at the Shire, or the SFAG Secretary.

SFAG INC COMMITTEE

2006/07

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IMPORTANT!

MEMBERSHIP FEES 2006/07

Membership fees for 2006/07 were due at the AGM in September 2006.

The majority of members have responded to the renewal notices sent with the previous two newsletters, and the Committee thanks you for your continuing support.

If you have not renewed your membership, a further, and final, renewal notice is attached to this newsletter.

We regret to advise that this issue is the last SFAG RAG Newsletter non financial members will be able to receive.