



THE SFAG RAG

NEWSLETTER OF

THE STABLE FLY ACTION GROUP INC

OCTOBER 2005



Welcome to the first edition of THE SFAG RAG, the periodical newsletter of

The Stable Fly Action Group (SFAG) Inc.

The SFAG Inc was formalised as a Group on 12 September 2005, after the initial Interim Committee was set up on 12 July to determine a way forward to combat Stable Fly.

The SFAG Inc is a community based group. Members come mainly from the Shire of Gingin, because that appears to be where stomoxys calcitrans, the Stable Fly, is most prolific and most active at present, but we are not fussy where you live ... the only qualification for membership is that you support the aim of the Group, which is :

To develop strategies to solve the stable fly problem.

OFFICE BEARERS OF SFAG FOR 2005/06

Chairman

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Committee

Bernard McCarthy Ph 9575 2281
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IN APPRECIATION

The SFAG Inc Committee wishes to thank all those who have worked to support the Group so far. Without the valuable assistance of these people the task would have been much more difficult.

Mrs Sally Grant
Shire of Gingin:

President Cr George Gifford
CEO Mr Simon Fraser

ESO Mrs Wendy Harris

Interim Committee Members:

Mrs Maxine Greville
Mrs Anne Wilson
Mr David Ottaway
Mr Peter Dewar

HEALTH (POULTRY MANURE) REGULATIONS 2001

It is an offence under the Act for Raw Poultry Manure to be stored, supplied, sold, transported, or used between 31 August and 30 April each year.

IF YOU ARE A USER OF RAW POULTRY MANURE, PLEASE CONSIDER YOUR NEIGHBOURS AND REFRAIN FROM USING IT AT THIS TIME OF THE YEAR.

THANK YOU

THE AIMS OF SFAG INC—THE WAY FORWARD

At the meeting of the SFAG Interim Committee on 12 July 2005, it was resolved that the Group would target the two key recommendations in the scientific Report compiled by the **STABLE FLY MANAGEMENT STEERING GROUP (SFMSG) (p48)**, which read:

- *Banning the application of raw poultry manure to land for either crop production or any other purpose after December 31, 1999, or earlier. After that date, only poultry manure that has been treated to prevent it breeding flies can be applied to land in Western Australia, and*
- *That in relation to horticultural and turf crop wastes, these industries will be required to formally adopt the practices as defined in the "Best Crop Production Practices for Managing Fly Breeding and for Using Manure" by December 31, 1999, or earlier.*

The Stable Fly Management Steering Group was set up in 1996 by the Minister for Primary Industry to "Reduce Stable Fly breeding associated with intensive agricultural production."

Over the past two months, the SFAG has sent letters to State Government Ministers, Members of Parliament, Government Departments, and Organizations representing the Horticultural, Poultry and Livestock Industries to bring the increasing problem to their attention and ask that the **STABLE FLY MANAGEMENT STEERING GROUP** be reactivated and the recommendations of its scientific report be enshrined in legislation.

As a result, the SFMSG reconvened on 13 September and resolved to consider reducing the open season for use of raw poultry manure from four months to two by removing the warmer months of May and June. The SFMSG will meet again in approximately 6 weeks time to make its decision.

Do you Want to Help Solve the Stable Fly Problem?

YOUR MEMBERSHIP OF SFAG INC IS WELCOME!

PHONE THE SECRETARY ON 9655 3024 FOR A MEMBERSHIP FORM, OR

PICK ONE UP FROM THE SHIRE OFFICE

MEMBERSHIP IS \$10 AND YOU GET

"THE SFAG RAG"

TO UPDATE YOU ON WHAT'S HAPPENING!

WANT TO KEEP YOURSELF INFORMED ON THE ISSUE?

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE FROM SFAG INC

- FARMNOTE 101/94 Stable Fly
- FARMNOTE 78/2001 Managing changes to Poultry Manure availability in WA
- BIOSOLIDS INFO PAPER (Shire of Victoria Plains)
- WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD WORKING GROUP Standards for Organics
- STABLE FLY MANAGEMENT PROJECT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS : Dept of Agriculture
- SFAG Inc BACKGROUND INFO PAPER
- SFAG Inc CONSTITUTION & RULES

And From THE SHIRE OF GINGIN ...

- STABLE FLY MANAGEMENT STEERING GROUP REPORT 1998
- CEO'S REPORT HLT/10 : MINUTES, SHIRE OF GINGIN 12 JULY 2005
- PRODUCING AND USING CONDITIONED POULTRY LITTER IN HORTICULTURE : Dept of Agriculture August 2001

STABLE FLY (*Stomoxys calcitrans*)

Stomoxys calcitrans are found all over the world and resemble the house fly in size and appearance. The adults are most abundant in summer and autumn and prefer fairly strong light. Both males and females are blood suckers. About 3—4 minutes are required for a meal, and they often change position to continue their feed. Bites are extremely painful to livestock and the wounds, which bleed freely after the fly has left, are attractive to screw worm flies and other insects. Stable flies can transmit anthrax and other diseases. Their main damage, however, results from the great annoyance to domestic animals, causing decrease of milk yield and loss of weight.

A Book for Farmers : Stock Diseases
BAYER

MEETING WITH MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE
On 4 October The SFAG executive met with the Minister for Agriculture, Hon Kim Chance, to discuss the stable fly problem.