



# Stable Fly Action Group Inc. (SFAG)

## BLACK SOLDIER FLIES

October 2020 saw a second visit to the Future Green Solutions research and development site at the UWA's research site in Shenton Park. Since our first visit, a little over two years ago, things for Luke and his team have progressed significantly.



They have imported German equipment (above) to render the larvae, with production discussions underway for uses in cosmetics, pet food and fertilizer industries.



## REPORT REPORT REPORT

It is crucial that everyone continues to report their stable fly issues as and when the pest is impacting on you, your pets, and/or your stock!

Reporting options currently include:

1. My Pest Reporter



Scan to Download App

2. Report to your Local Government Authority – Shire or City.

3. Email us direct





**BLACK SOLDIER FLIES** (continued from Page 1)



A new research project is well underway to explore the use of larvae in fish farming.

2021 is looking to be a big year for Future Green Solutions, with plans progressing for their first commercial site, and contracts being developed to process waste from commercial poultry and vegetable producers, restaurants, brewers and local authorities.

This venture is shaping up to be a significant boon to not only those impacted by Stable Flies, but in addressing major waste management issues facing our community.

A small group of staff and councillors from the Shire of Gingin joined us on this visit and were suitably impressed.





## FROM THE SFAG DESK...

In the October 2019 Issue of the SFAG Newsletter, SFAG expressed the hope that all stakeholders would work together and comply with the provisions of the updated Stable Fly Management Plan (SFMP 2019) under the BAM Act, so the effects of stable flies on livestock and the community were kept to an absolute minimum. Unfortunately, this has not been the case, and this has caused pockets of serious stable fly breeding problems in the irrigated horticultural industry.

### ***Raw (Untreated) Poultry Manure***

It was always a concern of your Committee that changes made in the updated SFMP 2019 would be open to misinterpretation and non-compliance, particularly in regards to re-introduction of the legal use of raw poultry manure in dryland agriculture in the 12 Shires covered by the Plan (under certain strict conditions). There is evidence that raw poultry manure is being delivered, stored and used, without local Shires being notified within the required time frame, or not at all.

### ***So-called 'Treated' Poultry Manure***

There has also been misinterpretation of the rules regarding 'treated' poultry manure, which MUST NOT be used in irrigated horticulture unless it is composted to

Australian Standards, or it has been properly treated with sodium borate or calcium cyanamide, blended evenly throughout the manure prior to removal from the production site, in order to prevent stable fly breeding. Any exception to these control methods must be specifically approved by the Director General of Agriculture. There have been cases of so-called 'treated' manure being stockpiled and used in market gardens which is breeding stable flies in huge numbers.

### ***Vegetable Crop Residue***

The SFMP2019 also clearly states how vegetable crop residue must be dealt with to prevent breeding stable flies in the rotting material, particularly if it is not lifted by a mechanism to dry it out. It must be rotary hoed or worked with a mouldboard plough, and then compacted at 5 tonnes/sq metre, so the flies cannot escape.

Because of the problems incurred during the first year of the new Plan, your Committee wrote to the Minister for Agriculture, Hon Alannah MacTiernan MLC in March, and again in May this year, asking her to reconvene the SFMP Regulatory Reference Group to review its first year of operation, address the current issues, and also to provide funding to research the stable fly control method devised by Shire of

Gingin stable fly inspector Geoff Slater, which was covered in the last issue of the Newsletter. The Minister responded that, while commending Geoff's initiative, it was her preference that the SFMP2019 undergoes a two year 'transitional period' as 'the uptake of the new measures will be variable'. Obviously, this has caused further concern to your Committee, particularly as stable fly breeding continues unabated.

### ***Stakeholder Meeting***

On 9 November 2020, SFAG convened a Stakeholder Meeting with representatives from DPIRD, VWA, WABGA, Shires of Gingin, Wanneroo and Swan and Hon Darren West MLC, who attended the 2020 SFAG AGM and was requested by Minister MacTiernan to progress a solution.

As the Minister's two year 'transitional period' has drawn to a close, SFAG remains concerned about the future of stable fly control in the local government areas covered by the SFMP.

### ***Letter from the Premier***

Before the state election in March 2021, SFAG wrote to a number of MPs of various political persuasions, seeking their position on non-compliance with SFMP2019 and the specific role of DPIRD in stable fly management.

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Somewhat disappointingly, we only received two responses. One from the National Party spokesperson for Agriculture and one directly from the Premier, Mark McGowan. See the SFAG website for both responses in full. The Premier advised SFAG that the state government believes implementation is best addressed through education of industry of their responsibilities under the SFMP, as well as support for local government investigating non-compliance, including surveillance, responding to reports, verifying compliance, and issuing letters of advice and pest control notices. The Premier also assured SFAG that the state government is 'committed to implementing the SFMP2019'.

### **Management Category C3 under the BAM Act**

Stable flies, a declared pest under the BAM Act, are assigned a control category of Management C3. This means that DPIRDs policy position for this category of declared pest is best achieved through 'voluntary compliance', which presents difficulties for local governments in their attempts to control this ongoing problem.

In May 2021 SFAG wrote to the Director General of Biosecurity at DPIRD, Dr Mia Carbon, reminding her that stable fly management under the BAM Act is the responsibility of DPIRD, albeit

assisted by local government. Any diminution of that responsibility is cause for concern and more support for local government, not less, is what is required. SFAG also called for financial support for administration of complaints and data. No response has been received to SFAG's letter at the time of publishing this issue. [note: it has recently been ascertained that Dr Carbon did not receive our letter and this has only just been rectified by SFAG]

### **PROPOSED NEW WAY TO REPORT! USE THE SFAG WEBSITE!**

It is disappointing and frustrating for the SFAG Committee that it appears DPIRD no longer receives and acts upon reports of stable infestations through their Reporting APP. Affected landholders find their only way to achieve any satisfaction is to either report to their local Shire, or to SFAG Committee members, who then pass on the report to their local EHO or, in the case of the Shire of Gingin, dedicated stable fly inspector.

Your Committee believes that a new, more streamlined way of reporting could be via the Group's website. This would also give the Committee the opportunity to gather information regarding the location of hotspots and repeat infestations, which can be useful for lobbying purposes.

Before we implement this, however, we are interested to ascertain whether members and other readers of the newsletter would support, and use, this method of reporting.

Let us know!

Would you report your infestation to the SFAG website at [www.stableflyactiongroup.org.au](http://www.stableflyactiongroup.org.au)?

Or not?

Email us and let us know your thoughts:

[chairman@stableflyactiongroup.org.au](mailto:chairman@stableflyactiongroup.org.au)

[secretary@stableflyactiongroup.org.au](mailto:secretary@stableflyactiongroup.org.au)

## **SAVE THE DATE**

AGM

Granville Civic Centre

7 pm Wednesday 20 October 2021

Members,



## THE SFAG CHRONICLE

### A SFAG History Project

It was reported in Issue 22 of the SFAG Newsletter (April 2018) that SFAG was investigating the best way to record and acknowledge the huge amount of work that has been done by many people over the last thirty years to alleviate the stable fly problem on the Swan Coastal Plain from 1992 to the present day. The SFAG Committee believes it is imperative this is recorded for posterity.

Ultimately, it was decided that SFAG would compile the history ourselves, encompassing both the pre-SFAG era (1992 – 2005) and the SFAG era (2005 to date). This work requires much research, but it is well advanced, with Part One completed in draft form, and Part Two well under way. Information has been obtained from members of the government appointed Stable Fly Management Steering Group, the Shire of Gingin archives, interviews with key people who have been involved for many years, and SFAG's own archived records.

It is planned to publish the work (which has the working title *The SFAG Chronicle*) in both digital form, so it can be added to, and in hard copy. The mammoth task of research and compilation to date has mainly been carried out by our secretary Jo Ottaway with advice and assistance, particularly in regards to content and layout, being received from Graham McAlpine (Perth NRM), which is greatly appreciated. Funding will be required when the project is ready for publication, and funding opportunities will be investigated at that time. It is expected the project will take another year or so to complete.

### A New Committee Member...

Welcome to Karen Murray, who joined our Committee in March. Karen lives in Woodridge and is ideally placed to keep the rest of the committee up to date with Stable Fly happenings in and around Woodridge. Her first task as a new member of the committee was to provide us with a brief bio for the newsletter.



Hi Everyone, I'm Karen and have recently joined the Stable Fly Action Group committee. I moved to the Shire of Gingin (Woodridge) approximately 7yrs ago and what a beautiful area to reside in. I've mainly worked with a variety of stock over the years and continue to be my main interest. I look forward to learning from a fantastic bunch of hard-working members who work tirelessly behind the scenes. Many thanks, Karen



## SFAG AGM

### Membership fee increase

The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the SFAG Inc took place on 27 September at the Granville Civic Centre in Gingin, with the usual good attendance of members, Shire of Gingin representatives, and guest speakers.

This year's speakers were Donovan Farrell of Go Organics, Luke Wheat from Future Green Solutions, and Hon Darren West MLC.

**Members please note:** it was resolved at the AGM to increase the membership fees. Fees are now \$20 per person, \$30 per family. The increase was recommended by the Committee due to rising cost of insurance premiums. Please support your hardworking volunteer Committee by renewing your membership for 2020/21.

***REPORT FLY  
OUTBREAKS!***

***We need to keep the  
pressure up!***

**It is very important. that you keep reporting to your local government authority should you believe the provisions of SFMP 2019 are being breached. Evidence, such as photographs, of illegal activities, such as stockpiling or spreading of manure, is essential, so material can be promptly located and investigated by local government stable fly inspectors.**

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[chairman@stableflyactiongroup.org.au](mailto:chairman@stableflyactiongroup.org.au)

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Peter Jones 0418 669 799

Margaret Carlton 0419 038 821

Denise Kowald 0417 939 111

Karen Murray 0475 711 707

Thank you to those who have renewed their 2020/21 SFAG Membership. If you have yet to do so, you can renew online at our website.

2021/22 Memberships will be due at the AGM which is 20 October 2021

[www.stableflyactiongroup.org.au](http://www.stableflyactiongroup.org.au)

Membership can be paid online to:  
Stable Fly Action Group  
Bendigo Bank  
BSB 633000  
ACC 1260 87790