



Facial eczema spore monitoring program – update 2 February 2015

Eighteen sentinel farms have now been recruited into the pasture spore monitoring project from across Gippsland. In the month of January 40 pasture samples were tested from the Maffra area, 2 from West Gippsland and 2 from the Yarram area.

The following table shows how spore counts in the Maffra area have increased over the last month

Summary Spore Counts

Week beginning	Number of counts	Number zero	% Zero	Average count	Highest count
5-Jan-15	12	10	83%	1,250	10,000
12-Jan-15	2	1	50%	2500	5,000
19-Jan-15	16	6	38%	5,000	20,000
26-Jan-15	10	3	30%	7,000	25,000

The number of paddocks with zero spore counts is decreasing, the average spore counts is increasing and the highest score count detected each week is increasing. A further burst of warm and humid weather could see these numbers increase quickly, elevating the risk of facial eczema outbreaks.

Sentinel farms will submit samples on a weekly basis from the week beginning 2 February 2015 to allow GippsDairy and Dairy Australia to provide more detailed and timely information about facial eczema risks on the sentinel farms.

In the event of consistent rises in spore counts above the threshold level of 20,000, a generalised warning will be issued to encourage farmers to undertake spore counts on their own properties and begin preventative measures in their herds.

For further information please go to www.dairyaustralia.com.au/facialeczema, where you can click on the name of a town on the left hand side to see the latest pasture spore count data from the each sentinel farm or contact Kathryn Davis, Program Manager Animal Health & Fertility, Dairy Australia kdavis@dairyaustralia.com.au.