

Facial eczema spore count update – 24 February 2015

Spore counts increased last week in the MID and conditions are favourable for the spores that cause facial eczema to multiply. However it is difficult to predict possible outbreaks of facial eczema by simply looking at weather conditions. Only by closely monitoring the spore counts on sentinel farms can we assess whether or not this multiplication is occurring. We are encouraging all of our sentinel farms in the MID to submit samples this week so that we can see if this trend towards increasing counts is continuing this week. Based on the counts we have already seen, and climatic conditions, some farmers have already decided to add zinc oxide to their feed.

Macalister Irrigation District

Last weekend MID received close to 50 mm of rain and this has been followed by warm, humid weather. In the week following the rain, there has been a tendency for spore counts to increase with fewer paddocks with 0 counts, higher average counts and at least one fairly high spore count paddock. These are shown in the table below.

Summary Spore Counts MID						
Week beginning	Number of counts	Number zero	%		Average count	Highest count
			Zero			
26-Jan-15	12	4	33%		6250	25,000
2-Feb-15	19	12	63%		2,898	25,000
9-Feb-15	11	2	18%		6,818	20,000
16-Feb-15	17	5	29%		9,118	40,000

Yarram District

There has been no marked increase in cell counts for those Sentinel farms that were tested last week. The spore counts on sentinel farms for the last month are as follows:

Summary Spore Counts Yarram						
Week beginning	Number of counts	Number zero	%		Average count	Highest count
			Zero			
16-Jan-15	2	1	50%		2,500	5,000
26-Jan-15	4	4	100%		0	0
9-Feb-15	6	2	33%		8,333	15,000
16-Feb-15	4	3	75%		3,750	15,000



Your Levy at Work

West Gippsland

No new spore counts were recorded in the week beginning 16 February.

Summary Spore Counts West Gippsland

Week beginning	Number of counts	Number zero	% Zero	Average count	Highest count
12-Jan-15	10	4	40%	2,143	5,000
26-Jan-15	14	10	71%	2,500	20,000
9-Feb-15	10	6	60%	2,500	10,000

South Gippsland

No new spore counts were recorded in the week commencing 16th February.

Summary Spore Counts South Gippsland

Week beginning	Number of counts	Number zero	% Zero	Average count	Highest count
2-Feb-15	4	3	75%	1,250	5,000

For further information please contact Kathryn Davis, Program Manager Animal Health and Fertility at Dairy Australia.