

## Facial eczema update – 8 April 2015

Gippsland has just had significant rainfall and what will happen with spore counts in West Gippsland in particular, and a lesser extent in the MID, will depend on the minimum night temperatures over the next week.

### Macalister irrigation District

#### *Summary Spore Counts MID*

Week beginning	Number of counts	Number zero	% Zero	Average count	Highest count
16/02/15	17	5	29%	9,118	40,000
23/02/15	19	2	11%	32,105	200,000
2/03/15	17	6	35%	25,000	100,000
9/03/15	10	0	0%	30,500	110,000
16/03/15	13	3	23%	12,308	55,000
23/03/15	6	4	67%	1,667	5,000
30/03/15	5	1	20%	5,000	10,000

Only 5 pasture samples were submitted for testing last week, and the counts were similar to those of the previous week.

Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) data from the Sale weather station show that the minimum night temperatures have not exceeded 12°C since the 24<sup>th</sup> of March. However, the minimum temperature for 7<sup>th</sup> April was 12.1°C, so we need to watch the minimum night temperatures over the next few days as we have had sufficient moisture in the last day to provide humidity.

### West Gippsland

#### *Summary Spore Counts West Gippsland*

Week beginning	Number of counts	Number zero	% Zero	Average count	Highest count
23/02/15	10	4	40%	8,500	35,000
2/03/15	4	1	25%	11,250	25,000
9/03/15	4	0	0	21,250	50,000
16/03/15	6	4	67%	3,333	15,000
23/03/15	2	0	0%	80,000	100,000
30/03/15	6	1	17%	37,500	80,000

Based on the samples submitted the week beginning 30<sup>th</sup> March, spore counts appear to have dropped slightly in West Gippsland, but the average is still high enough such that we need to keep a close watch on climatic conditions.

Data from the BOM from Cranbourne for dates beginning 17 March through till today shows that the minimum night temperatures were above 12°C from 17-20<sup>th</sup> March and again on 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> March. Sufficient rain has fallen (in fairly small amounts) since 20 March to provide the necessary humidity for spore multiplication. However since 20 March the minimum night temperatures at the Cranbourne site have all been below 12°C.

Based on the high spore counts last week, and the temperatures that were registered at Cranbourne in mid March, Grant Nielsen suggested that it may be worth putting out a facial eczema alert to farmers in the West Gippsland area.

Based on this information, I think we need to very closely monitor the spore counts over the next week in West Gippsland, but provided the minimum night temperatures stay low spore counts may now start to drop.

The recorded minimum night temperatures at the BOM Willow Grove weather station were all below 12°C.

### Cranbourne 17 -31 Mar Willow Grove 17 – 31 March

Listing in order date, day, minimum temperature, maximum temperature and rainfall

17	Tu	14.0	26.9	0
18	We	15.5	24.9	2.0
19	Th	14.1	32.1	0.2
20	Fr	12.3	20.7	3.0
21	Sa	5.5	21.6	0
22	Su	8.5	29.3	0
23	Mo	15.0	24.2	0
24	Tu	12.0	15.0	1.3
25	We	11.2	20.1	2.4
26	Th	8.9	17.0	1.0
27	Fr	9.1	16.0	8.8
28	Sa	8.5	18.7	4.1
29	Su	7.3	23.2	0.4
30	Mo	9.3	23.4	0
31	Tu	9.2	25.2	0

17	Tu		23.4	
18	We	13.5	23.4	0.6
19	Th	11.7	31.3	0
20	Fr	11.8	19.2	2.6
21	Sa	6.3	20.9	0
22	Su	6.0	27.0	0
23	Mo	8.5	26.0	0
24	Tu	11.5		0.8
25	We		20.0	
26	Th	8.5		0.4
27	Fr			0
28	Sa			0
29	Su		22.5	0
30	Mo	8.0	22.9	0
31	Tu	8.5	25.2	0

**Cranbourne April 1-7**

Date	Day	Temps		Rain
		Min	Max	
		°C	°C	
1	We	11.8	28.9	0
2	Th	11.7	17.0	1.8
3	Fr	4.9	19.0	0
4	Sa	7.5	22.7	0
5	Su	11.4	19.8	0
6	Mo	8.8	18.4	1.8
7	Tu	9.9		0

**Willow Grove April 1 - 7**

Date	Day	Temps		Rain
		Min	Max	
		°C	°C	
1	We	10.9	28.0	0
2	Th	10.6		1.5
3	Fr			
4	Sa			
5	Su		22.5	
6	Mo	3.1	18.0	1.0
7	Tu	10.0		1.4

**South Gippsland and Yarram areas**

We do not have any recent spore counts for these areas.