

Facial eczema update - 24 March 2015

Macalister irrigation District

We are seeing falling spore counts consistent with the low rainfall and humidity in many areas. With respect to spore multiplication, the periods of greatest risk occur when the humidity is close to 100% and grass minimum temperatures are above 12°C for 4 consecutive nights or more. The cooler temperatures in coming days will further depress spore multiplication.

We have received spore counts from 13 sentinel paddocks this week for the MID as follows:

| <i>Summary Spore Counts MID</i> | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|-------------|--------|---------------|---------------|
| 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 |

We have had one farm in the MID that had a number of cases of facial eczema a few weeks ago and on this farm we sampled a greater number of paddocks, both to guide in selection of paddocks should be grazed and to assess what was happening to spore counts on a property where spore counts had been very high.

As can be seen in the following table, spore counts have dropped considerably on this property

| <i>Summary Spore Counts Newry Farm Sentinel</i> | | | | | |
|---|------------------|-------------|--------|---------------|---------------|
| Week beginning | Number of counts | Number zero | % Zero | Average count | Highest count |
| 2/03/15 | 7 | 0 | | 92,857 | 180,000 |
| 9/03/15 | 6 | 0 | | 63,333 | 150,000 |
| 16/03/15 | 5 | 0 | | 23,000 | 75,000 |

The following figures were taken from the daily weather observations from East Sale.

Bureau of Meteorology, Daily weather observations, East Sale

| March | Minimum night temp. | Rainfall | | |
|-------|---------------------|----------|--|--|
| 1 | 16.0 | 3.4 | | |
| 2 | 7.8 | 0 | | |
| 3 | 12.3 | 0 | | |
| 4 | 10.3 | 0 | | |
| 5 | 11.8 | 2.2 | | |
| 6 | 12.5 | 0 | | |
| 7 | 13.2 | 0 | | |

Your Levy at Work

| | | | | |
|----|------|---------------------------------|--|--|
| 8 | 10.9 | 0 | | |
| 9 | 13.4 | 0 | | |
| 10 | 13.9 | 0 | | |
| 11 | 9.7 | 0 | | |
| 12 | 8.5 | 0 | | |
| 13 | 9.0 | 0 | | |
| 14 | 6.2 | 0 | | |
| 15 | 10.5 | 0 | | |
| 16 | 7.2 | 0 | | |
| 17 | 13.2 | 0 | | |
| 18 | 14.4 | 1 | | |
| 19 | 10.3 | 0 | | |
| 20 | 15.5 | 1.8 | | |
| 21 | 5.5 | 0 | | |
| 22 | 6.2 | 0 | | |
| 23 | 11.0 | Predicted min temp | | |
| 24 | 11.0 | | | |
| 25 | 9.0 | Predict a few days with showers | | |
| 26 | 8.0 | | | |

The figures in red are predictions from Sale

Based on the above, conditions are not currently suitable for rapid multiplication of facial eczema spores in the MID. Should the weather change, greater multiplication may occur.

For those farmers in the MID who are currently feeding zinc, continue to feed zinc supplements for at least another couple of weeks, and until spore counts have dropped to lower levels and weather conditions are becoming very unsuitable for spore multiplication.

Yarram district

We do not have spore counts from Yarram for the week commencing 16 March, but the spore counts in the area were declining in previous weeks

West Gippsland

We have spore counts from 6 Sentinel paddocks in list Gippsland this week.

As can be seen in the following table, the indications are that spore counts are decreasing in this area as well

| 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 |



Your Levy at Work

| | | | | | |
|----------|---|---|-----|--------|--------|
| 9/03/15 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 21,250 | 50,000 |
| 16/03/15 | 6 | 4 | 67% | 3,333 | 15,000 |