

Facial eczema update – 15 April 2015

Macalister irrigation District (MID)

Only 4 pasture samples were submitted for testing last week, and the counts were fairly low (although possibly slightly higher than last week).

Summary Spore Counts MID

Week beginning	Number of counts	Number zero	%		Average count	Highest count
			Zero	Average 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	
06-Apr-15	4	0	0	10,000	25,000	

The Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) observations at Sale (shown below), show that the minimum temperatures are generally low and it is unlikely that the spores that cause facial eczema would multiply under these conditions. It is now unlikely that temperatures will rise again to levels which will allow rapid multiplication this autumn.

Sale, Victoria April 2015 Daily V

Date	Day	Temps		Rain	Eva
		Min	Max		
		°C	°C	mm	m
1	We	8.5	29.8	0.2	
2	Th	12.1	18.7	0	
3	Fr	3.5	19.4	0	
4	Sa	7.2	22.1	0	
5	Su	11.3	23.5	0.4	
6	Mo	11.6	19.6	0.8	
7	Tu	12.1	14.6	25.2	
8	We	11.5	17.6	34.0	
9	Th	8.4	18.8	1.6	
10	Fr	4.8	19.4	0	
11	Sa	7.8	22.8	0.2	
12	Su	9.9	20.6	0	
13	Mo	9.8		0	

The only other samples submitted last week were 2 samples from Yarram area, and these counts were both low.

No spore counts were available from West Gippsland last week, but the weather conditions, as shown on the BOM website, should not be conducive to spore multiplication.

As per the BOM website, the minimum night temperatures at both Cranbourne and Willowgrove are lower than that generally regarded as necessary to allow multiplication of the spores of facial eczema. These temperatures are shown below

Willow Grove, Victoria April 2015 Daily Weather

Most observations from Willow Grove, but

Date	Day	Temps		Rain	Evap	Sun
		Min °C	Max °C			
1	We	10.9	28.0	0	4.0	
2	Th	10.6		1.5	5.5	
3	Fr					
4	Sa					
5	Su		22.5			
6	Mo	3.1	18.0	1.0	13.0	
7	Tu	10.0	13.0	1.4	2.4	
8	We	10.0	17.0	27.0	2.0	
9	Th	8.0	19.0	0.2	3.2	
10	Fr	6.0	20.0	0	4.0	
11	Sa	6.5	22.0	0.2	0.4	
12	Su	10.0		0	3.0	
13	Mo					

Cranbourne, Victoria April 2015 Daily Weather

Most observations taken from Cranbo

Date	Day	Temps		Rain	Evap	Sun
		Min °C	Max °C			
1	We	11.8	28.9	0	3.4	
2	Th	11.7	17.0	1.8	5.0	
3	Fr	4.9	19.0	0	3.7	
4	Sa	7.5	22.7	0	5.2	
5	Su	11.4	19.8	0	2.4	
6	Mo	8.8	18.4	1.8		
7	Tu	9.9		0	3.0	
8	We			10.0		
9	Th		18.7	0		
10	Fr	8.5	19.8	0	2.0	
11	Sa	9.6	22.3	0	2.9	
12	Su	10.4	17.9	0	6.8	
13	Mo	5.7		0	2.0	

Based on the few spore counts we have, and the low minimum night temperatures, it is highly unlikely that we shall see marked rises in spore counts again this autumn and so we are calling an end to the facial eczema spore monitoring program on sentinel farms for this year.

Jakob Malmo will continue to monitor the minimum temperatures at 3 sites above and should there be a dramatic increase in minimum night temperatures, we can again call for further samples to be submitted.