

Facial eczema spore count update – 17 February 2015

The last several weeks in Gippsland have been relatively dry, and in most areas spore counts have remained low or even dropped slightly. While spore counts have not increased over the last week, substantial rainfall occurred over the weekend and this could provide sufficient moisture for the facial eczema spores that are present to multiply rapidly.

Based on this, we need to very closely monitor the spore counts over the next 2 weeks and be prepared to take action should they start to increase.

A summary of the spore counts for the last few weeks for each area are as follows:

Macalister Irrigation District (MID)

In the MID, the average spore count rose for the week commencing 9th February, and the percentage of paddocks with 0 spore counts was lower.

Summary Spore Counts MID						
Week beginning	Number of counts	Number zero	% Zero	Average count	Highest count	
12-Jan-15	2	1	50%	2,500	5,000	
19-Jan-15	16	6	38%	6,875	20,000	
26-Jan-15	12	4	33%	4,167	25,000	
2-Feb-15	19	8	42%	2,898	25,000	
9-Feb-15	11	2	18%	6,818	20,000	

West Gippsland

In West Gippsland, spore counts have not changed much over the last few weeks and conditions have probably been unfavourable for further multiplication of facial eczema spores.

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	



Your Levy at Work

Yarram

In the Yarram area, we saw an increase in spore counts on limited number of pasture samples in the week beginning 9th February.

Summary Spore Counts Yarram

Week beginning	Number of counts	Number zero	% Zero	Average count	Highest count
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

South Gippsland

In South Gippsland, we only have 4 spore counts in the week commencing 2nd February, and they were in general low.

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