



Texas Imported Fire Ant Research and Management Project

Final Progress Report - October 2001

Implementation of the Texas Imported Fire Ant Research & Management Plan

Principal Investigator(s):

Dr. Bastiaan "Bart" M. Drees
Fire Ant Project Coordinator
Department of Entomology
Texas A&M University
Minnie Belle Heep, Room 412-F
College Station, Texas 77843-2475
Phone: 979/845-5878
Fax: 979/845-7029
Email: b-drees@tamu.edu

Dr. Charles L. Barr
Extension Associate
Fire Ant Project - IPM Research
P.O. Box 2150
Bryan, Texas 77806
Phone: 979/845-6800
Fax: 979/845-6501
Email: c-barr@tamu.edu

Elizabeth Hickman
Extension Agent-IPM (Fire Ants)
Dallas/Tarrant Counties
10056 Marsh Lane, Suite B-101
Dallas, Texas 75229
Phone: 214/904-3050
Fax: 214/904-3080
Email: ba-hickman@tamu.edu

Lisa Lennon
Extension Agent-IPM (Fire Ants)
Travis/Williamson Counties
1600-B Smith Rd.
Austin, Texas 78721
Phone: 512/708-4797
Fax: 512/473-9611
Email: li-lennon@tamu.edu

Paul Nester
Extension Agent-IPM (Fire Ants)
Harris County
#2 Abercrombie Dr.
Houston, Texas 77084
Phone: 281/855-5600
Fax: 281/855-5638
Email: p-nester@tamu.edu

Nathan L. Riggs
Extension Agent-IPM (Fire Ants)
Bexar County
Conroy Square
3355 Cherry Ridge, Suite 212
San Antonio, Texas 78218
Phone: 210/467-6575 or 467-6578
Fax: 210/930-1753
Email: n-riggs@tamu.edu

Rody Best
Extension Assistant
P.O. Box 2150
Bryan, Texas 77806
Phone: 409/845-6800
Fax: 409/845-6501
Email: r-best@tamu.edu

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Summary of Work to be Done: The Texas Cooperative Extension programs continue in Dallas/Tarrant, Harris, Travis/Williamson and Bexar counties to promote the concept of community-wide fire ant management programs in urban areas. In heavily infested areas, the "Two-Step Method" is being promoted as a low-cost, least-toxic approach. Steering committees, composed of volunteers from within a community such as homeowner association representatives, support and implement such efforts on properties within their area. Because no legislatively-appropriated funds are to be used to purchase or apply insecticides, Extension faculty/staff work with these community groups to help find ways to plan, implement and evaluate any treatments they have selected. Faculty at Texas A&M University provide technical support to assist with efforts conducted in these assisted and intensively monitored pilot program areas. In addition, program activities concentrate on developing and improving fire ant management programs through applied research efforts.

Major accomplishments to date:

Community-Wide Imported Fire Ant Management Programs:

- Continued monitoring pilot showcase community-wide fire ant management programs in urban counties, promoting the community-wide management concept to homeowner groups, and responding to requests for fire ant educational information. Reports of progress to date were presented at the Annual Imported Fire Ant Research Conference (March 2000) and released as a booklet.
- Completed studies on 2 showcase neighborhood fire ant management programs on June-Sept. 2000 (Riggs)

New technology, product evaluations and Result Demonstrations:

- Completed fire ant product evaluations which resulted in the release of several new fire ant products (Citrex® containing d-limonene, Eliminator®, Penn-Kill®, Strike® and Justice® containing spinosad, and TFA Super-Kill™ product containing a pine oil). Reports are posted on the web site (below).]
- Dr. Charlie Coble completed development of "bait blower" application device prototype with funding from TxDOT. Evaluated bait blower prototype developed by Charlie Coble for TxDOT (Drees, Shaw, Coble & Barr).
- During the FY 2000-2001 field tests with the following objectives were initiated: speed the activity of granular fipronil; mound treatments with granular permethrin formulations and deltamethrin dust; determine speed of foraging suppression of Justice and Amdro; determine efficacy of 19:1 dilution of hydromethylnon (Amdro) bait for homeowner use; determine speed and duration of control of different ratios and formulations of hydramethylnon and s-methoprene (Extinguish).
- The Fire Ant Weather reporting project continues and results are posted monthly on the fire ant web site (Best and staff). Conducted monthly activity for the fire ant weather data reporting program.
- Two new reports have been added to the Applied Research section on the fire ant web site: 1) A test on formulations from Organic Resources (pyrethrins and derivatives of pyrethrins + piperonil butoxide and diatomaceous earth) and a new product called ExxAnt (turpentine plus ammonia). Both products performed well and the companies were anxious for us to post the results (Barr & Best).
- Demonstrating "organic" methods of imported fire ant control in cooperation with Armand Bayou Nature Center, Clear Lake, Texas, and with city of Houston

- representatives to develop a fire ant control program for Hermann Park (Nester).
- Continued to establish and monitor demonstrations (Drees et al.: bait blower, home-remedies and “organic” product evaluation; Barr: Aventis, DowAgro Sciences, Global Organic Resources, Aventis, Wellmark, Excell marketing, Envirosafe and others)
- Supported research projects being conducted by Ron Weeks (bee and hay fire ant treatment evaluations) and Texas Army National Guard projects (Best)
- Evaluated test of fipronil formulations at Eagle Lake. At this point, none of the formulations seems to act any faster than the “standard” formulation and all are slower than Talstar (Barr).
- Prepared and submitted proceedings articles for Fire Ant Conference on field research (Barr, Best) and the Bowie County, Precinct 4 Fire Ant Initiative (Teel, Remer, Barr, Lum).

Educational support materials:

- Continued to support the web site, <http://fireant.tamu.edu>, which received 1.1 million “hits” in 1999. Continued to update and maintain the web site, posting new fact sheets, weather-related fire ant monitoring plot data from Brazos, Bexar, Williamson and Harris Counties, and newsletters (Best, Drees, Nester, Riggs and Lennon). Preliminary estimates indicate the number of “hits” has doubled in 2000 over the totals recorded for 1999. Obtained a grant from Sun Microsystems for a \$37,000 work station to house the departments web sites (Drees, Jackman). Posted on-line fire ant survey and finalized on-line fire ant quiz (Best).
- Contracted to develop a new web site, <http://swbifa.tamu.edu>, with Neal Lee and Dr. John Jackman to provide information, take pre-registrations, oral paper and poster presentations for the Feb. 28-March 2, 2001 Annual (National) Imported Fire Ant Conference in San Antonio, TX in conjunction with the Southwestern Branch of the Entomological Society of America.
- Issued six issues of *Fire Ant Trails*, and initiated a program to monitor fire ant populations and mound status in relation to weather conditions in the spring of 2000. All are posted on the web.
- Development of a Youth-Targeted Curriculum on Fire Ants and Their Biology to be tested through 4-H and possibly a pilot program Master Gardener Specialists; continuing to develop new, revised and Spanish translated fact sheets including the Fact Sheet on "Managing Fire Ants in Vegetable Gardens" into Spanish for printing and posting on the fire ant website (Riggs); completing development of fact sheets for a neighborhood fire ant management program “kit” (Lennon, Barr and Drees).
- Developing curriculum (Riggs) and poster (Drees, Kjolén) for 4-H and youth and school enrichment components of the Fire Ant project in collaboration with Jeff Howard.

Educational programs:

- Answered information requests from homeowners regarding fire ants and their management.
- Developed and issued numerous releases and responded to requests for interviews from mass media.
- Made numerous presentations on the Fire Ant Research & Management Project and fire ant management. A presentation on fire ant biology and management was given at the (Oasis Senior Citizens Center & Precinct 2, Master Gardener’s Class in Houston; display at the Houston Home Beautiful Shows (Nester). Austin Community Garden members; CEU class for pesticide applicators; Bluff Springs homeowner association; participants of the Grow Green fall class; and Travis Co. Master Gardener fall class,

- display at Stiles Farm Field Day (Lennon). Texas Assn. Nurserymen convention; Austin Co. Extension Agent; Ft. Bend Co. Master Gardeners' Assn. (Drees)).
- Developed agenda for the first Pest Control Operator -Red Imported Fire Ant Training Conference scheduled for September 26, 2000, at the Harris County Extension Office (Nester). Conducted a Private Pest Control Operator "Fire Ant Management" training in Houston (Nester), Sept. 26, in collaboration with Dr. Harry Howell. Participants received CEU credits and a "course completion" certificate. Participants will be posted on the web site.
 - Made presentation to PCO industry at talks sponsored by B&G in San Antonio, Arlington and Houston (Drees, Barr, Riggs, Lennon, Hickman, Nester) in 2001; Presented information on Community-wide fire ant management programs statewide and on a local level to the 330 Pest Control Operators in attendance at meetings in San Antonio and Arlington. Made similar presentations to B&G PCO Conference in Houston (200+ participants).
 - Set up fire ant display and attended the Williamson County Grounds Conference in which 1,034 attended. Fire ant educational materials were distributed to interested participants (Lennon).
 - Co-conducted 3rd Grow Green training workshop for retail garden centers and parks employees. 20 persons attended the sessions/workshops (Lennon).
 - Drees served as Chair of Program Planning Committee for the combined meetings of the Annual Imported Fire Ant Research Conference, the Southwestern Branch of the Entomological Society of America and the Southwestern Entomology Society, producing the program, presenting and Exhibit, a oral paper presentation, a committee report and coordinating all activities (three mixers, registration, all sessions, poster displays, special meetings, i.e Bee Panel Meeting). Riggs and Russell hosted 1161 school children and adults at the San Antonio Municipal Auditorium.
 - Participants from the Fire Ant Conference and Southwestern Branch meeting were taken to the San Antonio Botanical Gardens and Color Spot Nursery on guided tours of the facilities to learn more about local plants as well as large scale nursery production. Agent Lisa Lennon also led the tours.
 - Met with Dr. Charles Barr, Dr. Ray Frisbie and Dr. Doug Welsh, Feb. 7, to discuss Junior Master Grdener Training pilot program ideas for Bell County to train volunteers to conduct community-wide fire ant management programs in their communities. Conducted first day-long "Ant Academy" for 6 Master Gardeners and 2 CEA's from Bell County in cooperation with Brad Vinson's lab and Doug Welsh (Barr).

Marketing programs:

- Conducted activities to acknowledge Fire Ant Awareness Week (Sept. 1999) and "Spring Fling" (April 2000) by releasing media packets and conducting educational activities.
- In Dallas & Tarrant Counties, a marketing program was conducted using bus and shopping mall advertisements promoting a toll-free telephone number for fire ant management information.
- Planned for and conducted Fire Ant Awareness Week, September 11-15, which included media packets prepared for County Extension Agents and the media prepared by the fire ant staff and Beth Barbee, Agricultural Communications. A compilation of all Fire Ant Project publications and fact sheets was bound and 1,000 copies were produced. One copy was sent to each public library in Texas. The week also included numerous events, media appearances and presentations by the Fire Ant Project staff statewide. Beth Barbee conducted a survey of County Extension Agent activities and use of support materials for the week.

- Participated by having the Fire Ant Project display at booths at the State Fair of Texas Agricultural pavilion (Hickman, Drees, Lennon) and at the CAST (Science Teacher's) conference (Drees, Barr, Kjolen).

Organization, planning and support:

- Hired Dr. Paul Nester to replace Pam Traylor for Harris Co. Established a subcontract with Dr. Roger Gold for agents to receive training in urban entomology.
- Details of staff activities are available in Monthly Summary Report form which are too numerous and extensive to list herein.
- Conducted a meeting of the Fire Ant Research & Extension Account Advisory Committee, completed the FY2000 fiscal year and established funding and budgets for FY2001; interviewed candidates for the vacant Dallas/Tarrant Counties Extension Agent - IPM (IFA) position (Drees).
- Had quarterly meeting for fire ant project group in Williamson Co. (September) and participated in the CEA-IPM Agent Retreat in November. Employed Beth Hickman (Oct. 1) to serve as the EA-IPM (Fire Ant Project) in Tarrant and Dallas Counties.
- Obtained funding for USDA Area-Wide Fire Ant Management program for Texas with a proposal from David Williams et al (USDA-ARS) for multi-state tests of broadcast baits plus phorid flies plus *Thelohania*. Estimated share: \$120,000/yr for 3 - 5 years.

Recognition:

- Received the Vice Chancellor's Award in Excellence as a member of the Fire Ant Project Team in Extension.
- Received Entomology Department Meritorious Service Award, Technical Support (Barr).

July 2001

Bart Drees, Fire Ant Project Coordinator

- ◆ Sent manuscripts of authors/presenters to reviewers in order to develop a Supplement Issue of the Southwestern Entomologist to include oral presentations from the Texas Imported Fire Ant Project Highlights Symposium at the Southwestern Branch meeting of the Entomological Society of America. I am serving as the managing editor for this supplement.
- ◆ Helped to develop memorandums for Dr. Hiler to send to principal investigators of Fire Ant Project programs funded for FY2002.
- ◆ Met with Beth Barbee, July 31, to discuss development of poster and make plans for Fire Ant Awareness Week 2002.

Charles Barr, Extension Program Specialist - Fire Ant Project

- ◆ Met with Beth Hickman in Waco to retrieve GPS unit and discuss fire ant tests this fall.
- ◆ In almost daily e-mail contact with personnel in New Zealand and Australia regarding product performance, monitoring plans, etc.
- ◆ Met with Mike Mitchell of The Scott's Company to discuss fire ant product development
- ◆ Met with Frank Goldberg and Bruce Bennett of Nuvis LLC regarding testing of neem-based product. (MOA for \$4,000)
- ◆ Met with David Johnson and Stephen Mattingly (BioStim and UT Health Sci. Center SA, respectively) regarding testing of new formulation of bait product. (MOA for \$3,000)
- ◆ Prepared interim report for Excel Marketing (Mel Garbett) on "dilute" Amdro formulations. Report to be presented at company product development meeting in

August.

- ◆ Prepared site criteria paper for Texas Sportsmen Association for potential cooperators on USDA biological control project.
- ◆ Served as “third party endorser” for Amdro fall publicity campaign.
- ◆ Made 8 week evaluation of Amdro:Extinguish test in Wharton with Brandon Gregson (Wharton County Natural Resource Agent)
- ◆ Set-up, pre-counted, applied treatments and made post-counts at Royalty Pecan on test to determine the speed of foraging suppression of spinosad bait versus Amdro and floor and trunk sprays of chlorpyrifos. (sponsored by DowAgrosciences)
- ◆ Wharton test mound numbers continue to decline in untreated plots due to hot weather and heavy grass. Most treatments approaching 100% control.
- ◆ Early results from pecan orchard indicate immediate canopy foraging suppression by chlorpyrifos trunk spray, though it did take >48 hours to eliminate all activity (ants “trapped” in canopy). Floor spray showing spotty control and Amdro showing steady decline over only 4 days. Spinosad treatments showed decline within 24 hours, followed by inconsistent pattern of suppression. Ants are foraging extremely well. Bait cards in untreated plots are generally covered by ants with 40 minute exposure time both mid-morning and evening.
- ◆ Attended seminar on ecological interaction of phorid flies and fire ants.
- ◆ Bowie County, Precinct 4 received the Texas Association of Counties Leadership Foundation, County Best Practices Award for their Fire Ant Initiative. I was involved in the early planning and design stages of the project at the request of Commissioner Carl Teel and Eric Lum, Bowie County CEA.
- ◆ The Department of Primary Industries in Queensland, Australia received national funding for their fire ant eradication program. Drs. Drees, Sanford Porter and myself were present as “experts” during the national scientific conferences to determine the viability of such a program and advised them on the its design.

Nathan Riggs, EA-IPM (Fire Ants)

- ◆ Presented a PowerPoint program on managing fire ants in 2001 along with an update on current research on fire ants in Texas to the 30 attendees of the Downtown Kiwanis Club in San Antonio. Fielded questions from the audience and discussed aspects of controlling insects other than fire ants as well.
- ◆ Appeared in a taped interview on KMOL-TV to talk about the disappearance of fire ants in the San Antonio area in 2001. (~110,000 viewers).
- ◆ Another taped interview with WOAI radio on the same fire ant topic was conducted as well (~100,000 listeners).

Lisa Lennon, EA-IPM (Fire Ants)

- ◆ Presented fire ant program to the Williamson Co. Beekeeper on fire ants and how to keep them out of beekeeping operations. Fire ant biology, bees, and general fire ant information was presented.
- ◆ Answered 73 phone calls on fire ants, and numerous other pest insects, sent out appropriate information.
- ◆ Wrote article for the TNLA newsletter which server 870 members.
- ◆ Sent fire ant information to contact with Austin Energy who said they had fire ants in some switch boxes.

Paul Nester, EA-IPM (Fire Ants)

- ◆ A general presentation (7/19/01) was given to the Shell Dear Park Refinery (intersection

- of HW 225 and Refinery Road, Dear Park, TX) Safety Committee on insect management and control, with information on how to protect ourselves from sting and bites. This presentation was part of their safety training program, for safety committee members. I was asked to focus on spiders, ticks, and chiggers, along with fleas, mosquitos, and fire ants. Extension publications on these pests were made available to each of the attendees.
- ◆ Cherri Innis with the South Woodlands Hills Community of Kingwood, TX, asked me to give a presentation on fire ant management and control at the Shadow Rock Community Center (2030 Shadow Rock), Kingwood, TX (7/21/01). Fifteen from the community attended the presentation. I passed out the Extension Publications, Red Imported Fire Ant Control in Urban areas, Broadcast baits for fire ant control, and The Texas Two Step to each of the attendees.
 - ◆ Rene McBride from the Dear Park, Parks and Recreation Department (610 East San Augustine, Dear Park, TX) asked me to give a one hour training session to their Community Center employees, on insect management, control, and personal protection, during their monthly safety meeting held 7/24/01. I focused on spiders, Ticks, mosquitos, fire ants, and fleas.
 - ◆ Several requests came via e:mail asking about fire ant control and fire ant habits. These were returned. This month calls on Pharoah ants, and general insecticide information, overshadowed fire ant calls.
 - ◆ Continued monitoring site in Bear Creek Park for the Fire Ant Weather Reporting program.

Beth Hickman, EA-IPM (Fire Ants)

- ◆ Checked and recorded data from the weather station in Tarrant County.
- ◆ Met with Charles Barr to discuss result demonstration.
- ◆ Signed up for two weekends at Dallas Autumn Blooms to give lectures on fall fire ant control.
- ◆ Mailed out 2 fire ant pamphlets
- ◆ Answered 5 fire ant calls

Rody Best, Extension Assistant (Fire Ants)

- ◆ Brandon Gregson/CEA Wharton County assisted Dr. Charles Barr and I with 8 Week post count evaluation of result demonstration at Wharton Airport. July 12th.
- ◆ Made preparations for funding the Texas Army National Guard Project for the 2001 fiscal year with Dawn Johnson, Natural Resources Manager. July 31st.
- ◆ Fire Ant Activity and Weather Reporting System- With the assistance of Dr. Charles Barr, evaluated Bryan/College Station site for month of July. July 18th.
- ◆ Posted the Fire Ant Activity and Weather Reporting System data from Bryan/College Station, Dallas/Fort Worth, and Houston on the Fire Ant Web Site. July 31st.
- ◆ Reported recent treatment data and activities for suppression of fire ants on Texas Army National Guard firing ranges: Camp Bowie- Master Seargeant Pilkington, Fort Wolters-Sergeant York. July 18th.
- ◆ Texas Army National Guard- 3 Day evaluation of result demonstration on M-60 Range at Camp Swift near Bastrop. July 2nd.
- ◆ Texas Army National Guard- Four week evaluation of Fort Wolters in Mineral Wells. July 9th and 10th.
- ◆ Texas Army National Guard- 2 Week evaluation of result demonstration on M-60 Range at Camp Swift. July 13th.
- ◆ Texas Army National Guard- Evaluated cantonement area and Known Distance Firing Range at Camp Swift. Treated with broadcast bait (Amdro) for suppression. July 17th.

- ◆ Texas Army National Guard- Evaluated cantonement area and firing ranges at Camp Bowie in Brownwood for fire ant activity. Spoke with Army National Guard Personnel concerning fire ant problems/encounters. Treated cantonement area with broadcast bait (Amdro). July 19th and 20th.
- ◆ Assisted Dr. Charles Barr with 8 week post count evaluation of result demonstration at Wharton Airport- July 12th.

August 2001

Bart Drees, Fire Ant Project Coordinator

- ◆ Participated in Texas Nursery and Landscape Association (TNLA) Educational Expo Dallas TX.
- ◆ Provided a CEU program on 'Managing Imported Fire Ants in Greenhouses and Nurseries' at TNLA Expo.
- ◆ Helped Paul Nester develop fact sheet FAPFS038 addressing fire ants in flood water by editing, sending it for reviews and editing by Agric. Com., incorporating reviews and formatting for release.
- ◆ Completed development of the 'Red Imported Fire Ant Applied Research and Demonstration Reports 1997-2001' handbook containing 23 reports developed by Texas Coop. Ext. faculty/staff printed 150 copies and will post the report on the fire ant project web site.
- ◆ Completed development of PowerPoint programs: 1) SS1409 & CD11, 'Red Imported Fire Ant Management in Commercial Nurseries and Greenhouses'; 2) Biological control: Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow. Sent to appropriate colleagues for review and distributed limited numbers of 'test' products; 3) Developed Fire Ant Trails 5(1) and a Special Issue to accompany the poster, 'Red Imported Fire Ants: Biology and Impact' (SP-115) to be distributed for Fire Ant Awareness Week in September (9-15).
- ◆ Reviewed a fire ant management manuscript for ORKIN's technical training manual for Frank Meek.

Charles Barr, Extension Program Specialist - Fire Ant Project

- ◆ Met with Forrest Mitchell to plan FY 2001-2002 *Thelohania* project budget and protocols
- ◆ Met with Rody Best and Bart Drees to plan Army National Guard proposal
- ◆ Communicated with Bart Drees, Sanford Porter (USDA) and Forrest Mitchell regarding cuts in research funding.
- ◆ Prepared job description and salary split to reflect new responsibilities with USDA and State Fire Ant Plan biological control projects.
- ◆ Developed PowerPoint Program for CEA Smith County for presentation at TxDot training.
- ◆ Presented talk at TNLA convention in Dallas
- ◆ Attended meeting with Army National Guard personnel, also Bart Drees and Rody Best, at Camp Mabry in Austin
- ◆ Met with John Oncken of Texas Sportsmen Association regarding site selection for biological control project
- ◆ Distributed approx. 35 Broadcast Bait and Urban publications at TNLA convention.
- ◆ Made three evaluations of spinosad foraging test in Royalty Pecan orchard. Amdro and chlorpyrifos trunk spray continue to give near-100% control while spinosad and chlorpyrifos floor spray gave erratic and incomplete control.
- ◆ With Rody Best, evaluated Wharton County bait test. Extremely low mound numbers due

to heat and drought.

- ◆ Edited Paul Nester's Fact Sheet on managing fire ants in flood situations.

Nathan Riggs, EA-IPM (Fire Ants)

- ◆ Correspondence related to requests for information regarding fire ants, other insects of concern, scorpions and ticks.
- ◆ E-mail correspondence to prepare for the TNLA fire ant presentations.
- ◆ Correspondence to deliver information and newsletter article and make preparations for marketing the Greenway Neighborhood Fire Ant Program to the neighborhood residents. Correspondence with association President Noel White included calls to schedule meetings and to schedule the evening to distribute fire ant bait to residents.

Paul Nester, EA-IPM (Fire Ants)

- ◆ Andy Smith with AG Communications recorded an interview with me concerning fire ants and their management to be distributed as 'feed' material to various media outlets.
- ◆ Attended the Board of Directors Meeting for the Harris County Cooperative Extension, 8/10/01, and gave a 10 minute presentation on accomplishments to date of the Fire Ant Project in Harris County.
- ◆ Aided Beth Hickman at The Nursery/Landscape Expo held at the Dallas Convention Center Dallas TX (August 16th & 17th 2001). A fire ant training session was held for attendees at the Expo. CEU credits were given and cloth patches indicating 'Completion of the Training' were passed out.
- ◆ Presented an educational display on fire ant management at the Houston Home Beautiful Show (August
- ◆ 24, 24, & 26, 2001) at the Reliant Astrohall in Houston, TX. Seven volunteers were trained on the 'Two-Step method' for fire ant control, then they met the general public during the show and passed out literature and answered questions. Over 2000 pieces of literature was passed out to over 1200 individuals that stopped by our display.
- ◆ Finished two Results Demonstration Trials being conducted with Dow Agrosiences on fire ant management with their spinosad bait compound.
- ◆ Jim Brown, a writer for the Houston Chronicle called, and discussed new 'happenings' with the fire ant project. Jim was planning an article to help promote Fire Ant Awareness week, and wanted any new information I could give him. What we decided on was Jim to give information on the phorid fly and to promote the 'Texas Two-Step' and Community Wide effort.
- ◆ Participated in Agriculture and Fiber Video Conference from the Harris County location held on August 23, 2001, with Doug Smith (County Agent, Natural Resources).
- ◆ Continued monitoring site in Bear Creek Park for the Fire Ant Weather Reporting program.

Beth Hickman, EA-IPM (Fire Ants)

- ◆ Continued to monitor the "Red Imported Fire Ant Weather Reporting System" in Tarrant County.
- ◆ Answered numerous fire ant and insect related questions. Most questions were phone calls but, many were insects that were brought into my office for identification.
- ◆ Mailed out 6 information packets on fire ant control. Specifically the two step method for fire ant control.
- ◆ Began to finalize all plans for the LCO fire ant TTVN to be held in Dallas on 19-Sept-01. Over 200 invitations were sent out to LCO/PCO and others with an interest in the TTVN conference.

- ◆ Was responsible for mediator duties at the Nursery and Landscape expo held in Dallas, Texas on 16-Aug-01. With the help of Lynda Brashear sign in rosters, certificates of completions, and evaluation forms were created and disseminated at the CEU course held at the TNLV expo. After the course I sent in all the SPBC/TDA numbers in to the Texas Department of Agriculture to insure participants received the appropriate credits.
- ◆ I held meetings with Jennifer Regar, communications specialist at the Dallas District office to discuss fire ant awareness week.. With the help of Jennifer Regar a press release was written and made available to all media in the Dallas and Fort Worth area concerning fire ant awareness week.
- ◆ Met with Bill Butcher, Dallas County Master Gardener to establish dates for MG training on the State Fair of Texas fire ant booth. The same meeting was also held with Dotty Woodson, Tarrant County Agent.
- ◆ Held several phone conferences with Alison Berliner of the Headline Group Advertising Agency. The Headline group is responsible for advertising the chemical Amdro. Alison is going to see if they will donate some chemicals for fire ant week awareness.
- ◆ Presented “New product and methodology in fire ant management” at the Professional Lawn Care Association. 43 Members were present at this presentation.

Rody Best, Extension Assistant (Fire Ants)

- ◆ Assisted Dr. Charles Barr with 12-Week post count evaluation of result demonstration at Wharton Airport.
- ◆ Met with Dr. Bart Drees and Dr. Charles Barr concerning goals and direction of Texas Army National Guard Project.
- ◆ Met with Dr. Scott Cummings concerning results of the on-line Fire Ant Survey and discussed the on-line posting of the Fire Ant Quiz.
- ◆ Met with Dawn Johnson, Natural Resources Manager for the Texas Army National Guard and made preparations for funding the Texas Army National Guard Project for the 2001 fiscal year.
- ◆ Created answer sheet for on-line Fire Ant Quiz and evaluated comments from Dr. Barr and Dr. Drees.
- ◆ Fire Ant Activity and Weather Reporting System- reformatted summary data and updated graphs for Bryan/College Station, Dallas/Fort Worth, San Antonio, Austin, and Houston on the Fire Ant Web Site.
- ◆ Wrote progress report for Dawn Johnson, Natural Resources Manager for the Texas Army National Guard, concerning activities from April through July 2001.
- ◆ Tabulated data from the on-line Fire Ant Survey and sent out results to Dr. Charles Barr, Dr. Bart Drees, and Dr. Scott Cummings.
- ◆ Wrote proposal for Texas Army National Guard funding, fiscal year 2001. Incorporated comments/changes and sent to Dawn Johnson.
- ◆ Texas Army National Guard- 8 week evaluation of result demonstration on M-60 Range at Camp Swift near Bastrop.
- ◆ Texas Army National Guard- 10 week evaluation of Fort Wolters in Mineral Wells.
- ◆ Texas Army National Guard- Evaluated cantonment area and firing ranges at Camp Bowie in Brownwood for fire ant activity. Spoke with Army National Guard Personnel concerning fire ant problems/encounters. August 19th.

Goals achieved/Milestones/Highlights:

- ◆ “1997-1999 Result Demonstration Handbook” 87 pp April 2000 (Barr and Best); additional sponsored applied research continues. To date, over \$300,000 in additional support has been generated to support applied research.

- ◆ “Community-Wide Imported Fire Ant Management Pilot Showcase Program Progress Reports” 21 pp. April 2000 (Drees, Barr, Best, Riggs, Lennon, Russell) - contains Proceedings Articles from the Annual Imported Fire Ant Research Conference in Chattanooga, TN.
- ◆ “Applied Research and Result Demonstrations Conducted for the Texas Army National Guard” 1998-1999 (Drees and Cook); Funding for additional work was received from the Texas Army National Guard for FY2000.
- ◆ “Texas Imported Fire Ant Research and Management Plan” 18-minute videotape by Hutchings International, Inc.
- ◆ “Fire Ants in Texas” The Scripps Howard Texas Poll, 16 pp, March 2000 (Porter, Merchant, Russell)
- ◆ Planned for and conducted activities for Fire Ant Awareness Weeks 2000 and 2001 including information packages to County Extension Agents, media (including videotape releases by J. Regar), developing a *Fire Ant Trails* issue and providing Texas public libraries with books containing Extension publications and fact sheets; developed and ordered promotional items (Barbee, Drees, Kjolen) in 2000. In 2001, developed and distributed poster, “Imported Fire Ant: Biology and Impact.”
- ◆ Continued to provide quality educational programs, result demonstrations
- ◆ Continued efforts to involve all of the Extension Service faculty/staff in Fire Ant Project activities
- ◆ Supporting transfer of technology from research and regulatory efforts to the public
- ◆ Continued to conduct educational programs for Texas citizens to learn about imported fire ants and their management
- ◆ Coordinated and conducted the national Annual Imported Fire Ant Research Conference in San Antonio, February 28 through March 2, 2001.
- ◆ Developed and distributed Fire Ant Plan Fact Sheet FAPFS015, together with a packet of information to all Texas county Extension offices known as the “Auto-Pilot Kit” that allows anyone to design, implement and evaluate their own Community-Wide Fire Ant Management Program.
- ◆ Developed and distributed a 18-minute videotape program developed by the Alabama Cooperative Extension Service and re-voiced and updated at TAMUS Agric. Communications. Copies were sent to all Texas counties and representatives of collaborating states. A Spanish version is being developed.
- ◆ Provided continuing training to this projects faculty and staff in urban entomology topics (cockroaches, fleas, Africanized honey bees, etc.) For eventual transition to a range of educational topics beyond imported fire ants.
- ◆ As a group and with assistance from Dr. Harry Howell, Dr. Roger Gold, Dr. Mike Merchant and Dr. Sean O’keefe, provided training to Pest Control Operators in San Antonio, Arlington and Houston in Community-Wide Fire Ant Management.

Educational Resource from the Texas Imported Fire Ant Project

Unless otherwise indicated, materials listed below are available from the Texas Fire Ant Research and Management Project office, Department of Entomology, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-2475 (Anna Kjolen, telephone: 979/845-5878; FAX: 979/845-7029; e-mail: a-kjolen@tamu.edu) or can be viewed and downloaded from the web site, <http://fireant.tamu.edu>.

Fire Ant Plan Fact Sheets (FAPFS)

- (#001) Selecting a Strategy and Contracting a Commercial Pest Control Service for Community-Wide Management Programs (5/98)
- (#002) Commercial Pest Control Operator Involvement Community-Wide Management Programs (6/98)
- (#003) Animal and Plant Health Protection Product Evaluation (5/98)
- (#004) Managing Fire Ants in Vegetable Gardens (11/99)
- (#005) The ABC's of Fire Ants and Their Management (5/98)
- (#006) Managing Red Imported Fire Ants in Wildlife Areas (6/98)
- (#007) Survey-Based Management of Red Imported Fire Ants (5/98)
- (#008) Collecting and Maintaining Colonies of Red Imported Fire Ants for Study (5/98)
- (#009) Potential Biological Control Agents for the Red Imported Fire Ant (5/98)
- (#010) Texas Pest Ant Identification (3/98)
- (#011) Managing Red Imported Fire Ant in Electrical Equipment and Utility Housings (5/98)
- (#012) A Review of "Organic" and Other Alternative Methods for Fire Ant Control (10/98)
- (#013) Texas Fire Ant Identification: An Illustrated Key (5/99)
- (#014) Fire Ant Control Methods for Pets (6/98)
- (#015) Community-Wide Imported Fire Ant Management Kit (9/00)
- (#016) Managing Fire Ants in Texas Schoolyard and Butterfly Gardens (9/98)
- (#017) Fire Ant Management Options for Golf Courses (10/98)
- (#018) Texas Imported Fire Ant Research and Management Project Covenant Not to Sue and Agreement to Hold Harmless (9/98)
- (#019) Red Imported Fire Ant Considerations for Beekeepers (11/98)
- (#020) Fire Ants and the Texas IPM in Schools (12/98)
- (#021) Red Imported Fire Ant Control Around Bodies of Water (9/99)
- (#022) Diagnosing and Treating Animals for Red Imported Fire Ant Injury (6/99)
- (#023) Medical Problems Associated with the Imported Fire Ant (4/99)
- (#024) Home-made Boric Acid Mint-Apple Jelly Bait for Indoor Ant Control (3/00)
- (#025) Considerations for Development of Red Imported Ant Insecticide Products (1/00)
- (#026) Red Imported Fire Ants May Find Some Landscape Design Elements Unattractive (3/00)
- (#027) Calculating Areas for Pesticide Treatment Around the Home (3/00)
- (#029) Control of Red Imported Fire Ants in Cool Weather (3/00)
- (#030) Considerations for Planning, Implementing and Evaluating a Spot-Eradication (6/00)
- (#032) Red Imported Fire Ants: A Threat to Nursing Homes and Day Care Centers (9/00)
- (#033) Imported Fire Ant Model (8/00)
- (#034) Know Your Fire Ant Baits from Your Contacts (9/00)
- (#035) Broadcasting Ant Bait Products for Individuals with Limited Mobility or in Rough Terrain (11/00)
- (#036) Considerations for Selecting Imported Fire Ant Control Insecticide Products (1/01)
- (#037) Considerations for Developing and Applying Individual Red Imported Fire Ant Mound Drenches (9/01)
- (#038) Flooding and Fire Ants: Protecting Yourself and Your Family ((9/01)

Translated Fact Sheets (FAPTFS)

- (#001) Hormiga Brava (8/99)
- (#004) Cómo Controlar las Hormigas Bravas en el Huerto (10/00)

Other Documents

- Directory of Fire Ant Project Personnel
- Overview of Fire Ant Projects
- Texas Imported Fire Ant Research and Management Plan

Overview of Research and Management Plan
Overview of Starting a Community-Wide Management Program
Overview of Past Research and Education Successes
Result Demonstration Signs
Fire Ant Trails newsletter

For Sale Only

CD - Images of the The Red Imported Fire Ant: Biology, Impact and Management (110 images, for sale \$200)

Publications

B-6076. Managing Red Imported Fire Ants in Agriculture (12/98)

B-6043. Managing Imported Fire Ants in Urban Areas (6/00)

B-6099. Broadcast Baits for Fire Ant Control (7/00)

L-5070. The Texas Two-Step Method: Do-It-Yourself Fire Ant Control for Homes and Neighborhoods (3/00)

L-5314. Red Harvester Ants (6/1999)

L-1783. Carpenter ants (1/99)

L-2061. House-Infesting Ants and Their Management (5/97)

SP-115. Red Imported Fire: Biology and Impact (9/01)

Slide Sets, Videotapes Available at the Audio Visual Library

SS 1402 - The Red Imported Fire Ant - Biology, Impact and Management

VHS 2559 - Fire Ant Control Made Easy (3/01)