



**Implementation of the
Texas Imported Fire Ant
Research and Management Plan**



Background & Current Status

- **Texas Legislature approves 6-year plan, June 1997**
- **\$2.5 million provided for first two years of the plan, beginning Sept. 1 1997, for FY '98 and '99**
- **35 projects funded under the plan at participating institutions and external competitive grant recipient universities**



Texas Imported Fire Ant Research & Management Plan

Director:

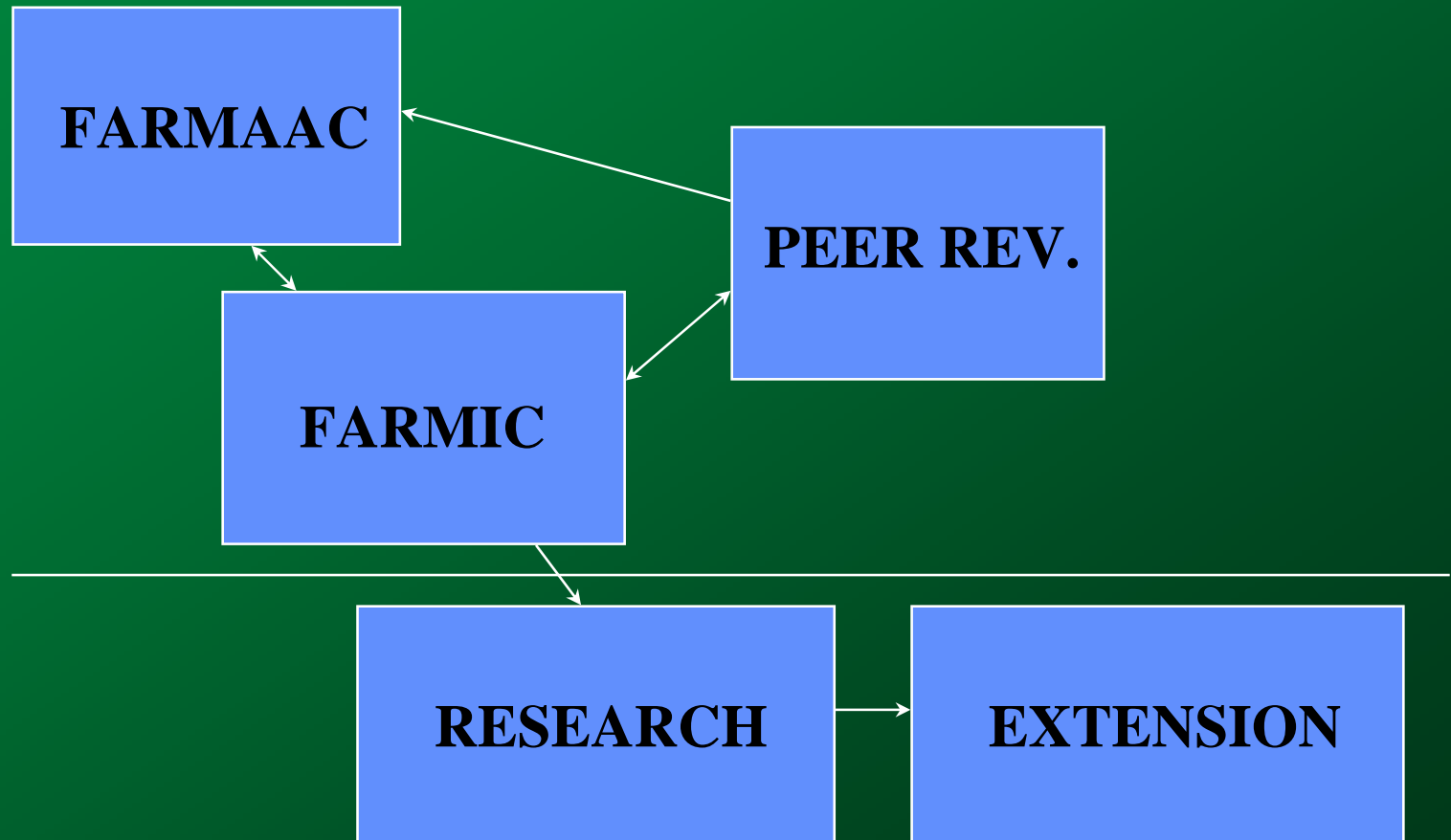
Dr. James G. Butler

Coordinator:

Bastiaan “Bart” M. Drees



Texas Fire Ant Research & Management Plan





FARMAAC

- **Fire Ant Research & Management Plan Account Advisory Committee Members, 1998-1999** (*Governor's appointees)
 - Bob McCan, Chairman (Agriculture)*
 - Sharon Johnson (City Manager)*
 - Robert Werner (Citizen)*
 - Michael E. Etchison (Public Utility Commission)
 - Benny Mathis (Structural Pest Control Board)
 - Robert Looney (Oil and Gas Association)
 - Bill Messer (Chemical Association)



FARMAAC

- **Fire Ant Research & Management Plan Account Advisory Committee Members, 1998-1999 (Cont.)**
 - Marcus Peterson (Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept.)
 - John Sneed (Texas Department of Agriculture)
 - Ray Frisbie (Texas A&M University)
 - Robert Albin (Texas Tech University)
 - Larry Gilbert (University of Texas)



FARMIC

- **Fire Ant Research & Management Plan Initiative Committee Members, 1998-1999**
 - Ray Frisbie, Chairman (TAMU)
 - Dick Auld (TTU)
 - Larry Gilbert (UT)
 - John Sneed (TDA)
 - Jerry Cooke (TPWD)
 - Frank Gilstrap (TAES)



FARMIC

- **Fire Ant Research & Management Plan Initiative Committee Members, 1998-1999, Cont.**
 - Bart Drees, Coordinator (TAMU/TAEX)
 - Brad Vinson (TAES)
 - Harlan Thorvilson (TTU)
 - Ed Vargo (UT)
 - Charles Onstad (USDA, ARS)
 - Lloyd Wendel (USDA, APHIS)



Peer Review Committee

- **Members, 1998-1999**
 - **Cliff Lofgren**, Chairman (1998)
 - **Sanford Porter** (USDA,ARS) - biological control
 - **Chip Taylor** (U. Kansas) - genetics & management
 - **Coby Schal** (North Carolina State U.) - physiology & behavior
 - **Beverly Sparks** (U. Georgia) - extension
 - **Robert Taylor** (Auburn U.) - economics



Sustainable Solutions

- **Biological Control**
 - Phorid flies (*Pseudacteon*) - Larry Gilbert (UT)
 - *Beuveria bassiana* - Harlan Thorvilson (TTU)
 - *Pyemotes* sp. (Acari) - Marilyn Houck (TTU)
 - Native natural enemies, Protozoa: Microspora (*Thelohania solenopsae*) and Strepsiptera (*Orasema* sp.) - Bradleigh Vinson (TAMU)
- **Genetic Manipulation** - Loren Skow, Spencer Johnson, Kevin Heinz



Pest Management Solutions

- **Physiological/behavioral modification** - Ed Vargo (UT), Richard Dislippe (TTU), Brad Vinson and Larry Keeley (TAMU)
- **Protecting electrical equipment** - Harlan Thorvilson (TTU)
- **IPM for livestock production systems** - Charles Barr (TAEX) and Andy Herring (TTU)
- **Wildlife impact and protection** - Brad Dabbert (TTU)



Pest Management Solutions

- **Novel biochemical approaches -**
 - **Nutritional enzymes** - Edgar Meyer (TAMU)
 - **G-protein coupled receptors** - Patricia Pietrantonio (TAMU)
 - **Pheromone and odorant receptors** - Robert Renthall (UT San Antonio)
 - **Vibrational and chemical cues** - Bradleigh Vinson (TAMU)



Regulatory & Survey Efforts

- **Survey, quarantine and regulatory efforts** - David Kostroun & John Sneed (TDA)
- **GIS-based applications** - Robert Coulson (TAMU)
- **Quarantine surveys** - Harlan Thorvilson (TTU), Ed Vargo (UT)
- **Population modeling** - Ted Wilson (TAMU)
- **Limiting factors of western spread** - Bill Mackay (UT, El Paso)



Community-Wide Programs

- **Extension Agents - IPM (Fire Ants)**
 - Dallas/Tarrant Counties: **Scott Russell**
 - Travis/Williamson Counties: **Lisa Butts**
 - Harris County: **Pam Traylor**
 - Bexar County: **Nathan Riggs**
- **Extension Associate, Fire Ant Project - IPM Research - Charles L. Barr**
- **Extension Assistant**



Economic Evaluations

- **Eduardo Segarra (TTU)**
- **Ron Lacewell, John Ellis, Curtis Lard, Charles Hall, Raghaven Srinivasen (TAMU)**
- **Charles Barr, Scott Cummings (TAEX)**



Agricultural Communications

- **Lynette James, Gena Parsons, Edith Chenault, Penny Banks, Blanca Jackson (TAMU)**
- **Jacqui Lockaby (TTU)**
- **Ramona Nye (TDA)**
- **Robert Meckel (UT)**
- **Tom Harvey (TPWD)**



Educational Products

- **Fireant.tamu.edu** web site
- *Fire Ant Trails* newsletter
- **Fire Ant Plan** Fact Sheets
- **Extension publications:**
 - B-5043, “Managing Red Imported Fire Ants in Urban Areas”
 - L-2061, “House-infesting Ants and Their Control”



Economic Impact of Texas Fire Ant Plan

- \$2.5 million per year provided by tax payers
- For 17.7 million people in Texas (1995), the cost is **\$0.14 per person**
- One-fifth of funding supports education, or **\$0.03 per person**
- Extension Service's targeted program areas (Dallas/Fort Worth, Austin, Houston and San Antonio) reach **53 percent** of the Texas population



Special Thanks to:
Representative
Tom Ramsay

for House Bill 2341 (1995) and support of the Texas Plan



Funding Provided by
Texas Imported Fire Ant
Research and Management Plan