



Fire Ant Trails: News from the Texas Imported Fire Ant Research & Management Plan

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Special Issue

SOUTHWESTERN ENTOMOLOGIST SUPPLEMENT ISSUE 25: Program Highlights of the Texas Imported Fire Ant Research and Management Project

Included with this *Fire Ant Trails* is an issue of the scientific journal from the **Southwestern Entomological Society** containing 15 articles from presentations made during a February 28, 2001 symposium. This event occurred during the combined meetings of the Southwestern Branch of the Entomological Society of America, the Southwestern Entomological Society and the Annual (national) Imported Fire Ant Research Conference. Each article has been peer reviewed.

Articles contained in this Supplement Issue provide technical information and scientific progress made as a result of funding provided to implement the Texas Imported Fire Ant Research & Management Project in 1998. Funding has been used to support research, regulatory and educational programs to help reach the goal of eliminating the imported fire ant as a pest of major economic and health significance.

The article by Riggs et al. is particularly important because data presented provide the first scientifically published impact studies documenting from implementing **community-wide fire ant management programs**. This approach can result in better fire ant control while substantially reducing the cost from the use of pesticides. Impact of broadcast applications of bait-formulated insecticide products did not have a negative impact on native and exotic ant species as was feared. In almost every case, ant diversity in treated areas

increased as red imported fire ant populations declined.

As part of our effort to help transfer imported fire ant technology, selected Texas County Extension Agents, colleagues in other states, and representatives from industries are being provided this journal issue. A few extra copies are available upon request from the Fire Ant Project office. These articles will also be posted on the projects web site in the near future.



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