



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

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FINAL FIRE ANT TRAILS NEWSLETTER

- Bastiaan M. Drees, Director
Texas Imported Fire Ant Research & Management Project

In an effort to reduce use of paper and postage costs to meet reductions in state funding, this newsletter will no longer be printed or sent through the mail. Future issues of Fire Ant Trails will be posted in the project's web site, <http://fireant.tamu.edu>.

If you wish to be notified of releases of future issues, please contact Ms. Anna Kjolen, a-kjolen@tamu.edu, and provide her with your e-mail address.

SENATE INTERIM SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE - Interim Report to the 78th Legislature



The link below, provided by Jason Skaggs, Committee Director, links to The Senate Interim Subcommittee on Agriculture Interim Report to the 78th Legislature (November 2002):

http://www.senate.state.tx.us/75r/senate/commit/c580/Downloads/AG_report2002.pdf

Specific recommendations are as follows:

- ◆ The Subcommittee recognizes that the leadership of the Texas Imported Fire Ant Research and Management Project has successfully coordinated efforts regarding fire ant control and recommends that it should proceed to operate and work towards the goal of eliminating the red

imported fire ant as a pest of major economic and health significance in Texas

- ◆ The Subcommittee recommends FARMAAC continue to progressively educate Texas citizens on how to eliminate fire ants and that FARMAAC maintains its public demonstrations sites show in the benefits of its recommended elimination strategies

This document was submitted, November 15, 2002, to the Honorable Bill Ratliff, Lieutenant Governor of Texas, by Senator Robert Duncan (Chair), Senator David Bernsen and Senator Craig Estes

REVISED SIX-YEAR PLAN FOR THE TEXAS IMPORTED FIRE ANT RESEARCH & MANAGEMENT PROJECT

The initial six-year plan establishing the Texas Fire Ant Project will be over on August 31, 2003. Efforts have been completed to develop a revision which broadly defines a second 6-year program on imported fire ants to cover the period from Fiscal Year 2004 through 2010. This new proposal was developed by participants in the Fire Ant Program after committee discussion in Austin on December 5, 2002. This document emphasizes what the program will pursue as priority objectives and activities in future years. It is now posted on the Project's web site and can be reached by clicking on the logo on the home page or at:

<http://fireant.tamu.edu/plan/index.html>.

TEXAS FIRE ANT PROJECT WEB SITE STATISTICS FOR 2002 NOW AVAILABLE

The web site, <http://fireant.tamu.edu>, received 3,488,442 successful "hits" representing 240,278 "sessions" in 2003, representing 9,557 hits, 1,910 page views and 658 sessions per day. Compared to 2001, these statistics represent a 23% increase in "hits" and 16% increase in "sessions." Statistics can be viewed by visiting <http://insects.tamu.edu> and selecting "statistics" on the bottom left of the home page and then selecting "fireant."

REVISED FACT SHEET

The Fire Ant Plan Fact Sheet, FAPFS023, "Medical problems and treatment considerations for the red imported fire ant" has been re-written and posted on the project's web site under "materials" and "fact sheets." Review of the manuscript by Dr. Barry Paull, M.D. with the Allergy Associates of Brazos Valley, and Dr. Jim Olson, Professor and Medical Entomologist at the Department of Entomology at Texas A&M University are greatly appreciated.

2003 RED IMPORTED FIRE ANT CONFERENCE

MARCH 30 - APRIL 1, 2003

PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA

- Carol Lerner <carol.lerner@ucr.edu>

You are formally invited to attend the annual Red Imported Fire Ant Conference, March 30 - April 1, 2003, in Palm Springs, California. The conference is being hosted by UC Riverside's College of Natural & Agricultural Sciences, and co-sponsored by the UC Center for Invasive Species Research and various industry organizations (Contact Carol Lerner, carol.lerner@ucr.edu, for additional information).

Information provided by the Texas Fire Ant Project has been useful in maintaining funding for the Red Imported Fire Ant Program in California, as reflected in this e-mail to Dr. Curtis Lard, Agricultural Economist:

Dr. Lard;

Once again, thanks for the information, and you will be happy to know the first set went to good use. At the request of the Secretary of Agriculture, I highlighted some information and sent it to Sacramento. Your information was part of a package that was enough to convince the Governor the Red Imported Fire Ant Program should be spared the budget cutting ax. I am happy to be able to say that I look forward to seeing you again at the next fire ant meetings.

Michael Hearst
Orange County Fire Ant Authority
Communications Director

PREDICTIONS FOR IMPORTED FIRE ANT SURVIVAL IN THE UNITED

STATES - S. D. Porter, L. Morrison, M. Korzukhin, L. Thompson, E. Daniels

The site below contains maps for individual states and regions of the world that should help quarantine officials focus efforts on areas that will likely be susceptible:

http://cmave.usda.ufl.edu/ifahi/ifarange_home.html



Prepared by: Bastiaan "Bart" M. Drees, Fire Ant Project Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. M. Drees', written over a horizontal line.

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