

FOR INFORMATION

SWFSPP Annual Meeting 2024

Agenda Item 4.1

[last updated: 2 September 2024]

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NT COORDINATOR REPORT 2023-24 year**RECOMMENDATION**

1. That the SWFSPP Steering Committee:
 - a. NOTE the report on SWFSPP activities undertaken by the Northern Territory Government during the 2023-24 financial year

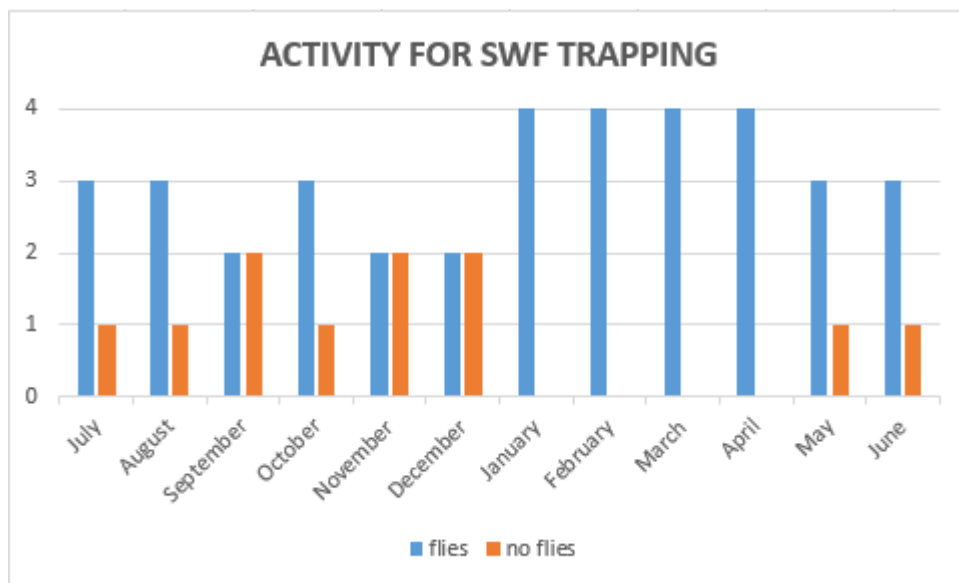
BACKGROUND

This report describes the activities undertaken by the Northern Territory Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade (DITT) during 2022/23 against national commitments as documented in the Screw-Worm Fly Surveillance and Preparedness Program (SWFSPP) Program Plan 2022-2025. Version 3.0.

DISCUSSION**1. ADULT FLY TRAPPING**

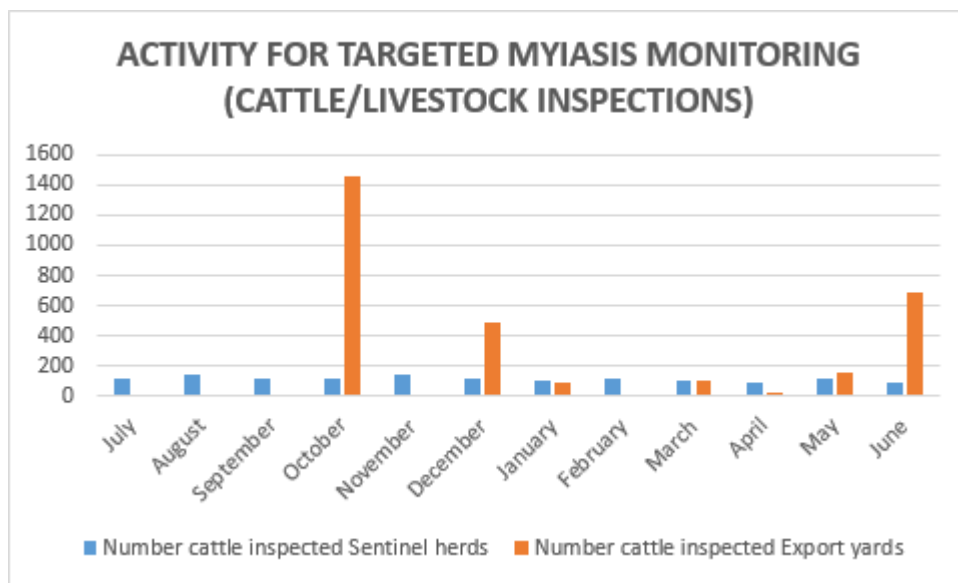
- The fly trapping component of the SWFSPP monitors the areas around the most likely and accessible points of entry, Darwin Port located at East Arm and Darwin International Airport.
- There are 7 trap locations. The Darwin port has a trap set each month, and each of the other 6 locations have traps set on alternating months. Together this results in 48 trapping events across the financial year.
- The other 6 locations comprise of areas close by 3 export yards, a wildlife park, a crocodile park and the RSPCA.
- Flies were examined from 37 traps across the 12 month period. No SWF was identified.
- All samples were examined morphologically. The fly numbers are not recorded, the fly ID is not recorded.
- Every month recorded fly trapping event with flies. The months of September, November and December recorded the lowest number of events (50%) with flies. January, February, March and April had 100% events with flies.
- There has been personnel change in March 2024 for the fly identification.

Trap location	Trapping events	Events with flies
BEY	6	6
CPRK	6	4
NEY	6	6
RSPCA	6	4
SEY	6	2
TWP	6	6
EAW	12	9
Total	48	37



2. TARGETED MYIASIS INSPECTIONS

- Active targeted myiasis inspections occurred at export yards where cattle are yarded prior to live export from the Darwin Port. This included Berrimah, Santavan, Bridge Creek and Coomalie Holding Depot export yards.
- There were a total of 16 survey events over the 12 month period, 11 of these surveys had over 50 animals inspected. A total of 3 025 animals were inspected.
- Active targeted myiasis inspections occurred on sentinel (NAMP) cattle herds located at Beatrice Hill Research Farm, Douglas Daly Research Station and Coomalie Holding Depot.
- The cattle at Beatrice Hill are inspected weekly, the other sentinel herds are inspected monthly, giving a total of 36 survey events over the 12 month period. A total of 1 382 individual inspections were carried out.
- None of the inspected cattle were reported to have any wounds.
- The length of time the cattle spend in the yards is variable, from 4 days to approximately 30 days.



3. DESCRIBE AND ASSESS PASSIVE SURVEILLANCE

- Two (2) maggot identifications were submitted to the laboratory for disease investigation, providing 2 fly ID's and excluding screw-worm fly.
- Myiasis was reported from one mammalian host (canine) from two regions: Darwin and Katherine.
- The larvae were identified by the entomology section DITT Berrimah Farm Science Precinct.
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Event date	Location	Species	Lab reference	Finding/Morphological identification
15/02/2024	Darwin	canine	20240221	family Sarcophagidae
14/05/2024	Katherine	canine	20240416	Lucilia cuprina

- There were no human SWF exclusions in 2023/24

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

5. CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATION

- In the final quarter of 2023, communication materials and SWF sample kits were distributed to private veterinary practitioners in the Darwin region.
- In March, at the annual NABSnet meeting SWF sample kits and communication materials were available for attendees.
- The Northern Territory Government maintains a webpage, [Screw-worm fly surveillance and preparedness program | NT.GOV.AU](#) specific for SWF, and includes a link to the AHA website.

6. NEXT STEPS/ACTIONS

- Continue to promote passive SWF surveillance to private veterinary practitioners and to the livestock industry at appropriate events throughout the year.
- Identify contact points in the human health sector to promote the submission of and identification of maggots found in lesions on people.
- Updating our training is a priority.

FEEDBACK

Q1 My organisations needs and expectations of the SWFSPP are being met.

Strongly agree **Agree** Undecided Disagree Strongly disagree

Comments: The existence of the SWFSPP creates and drives incentives for SWF awareness, surveillance and preparedness activities that would otherwise not occur. The program is a very effective framework for bringing together and maintaining effective relationships between national experts

Q2 The outputs of the SWFSPP such as the brochure, poster and annual report in the Animal Health in Australia report are credible and robust.

Strongly agree Agree Undecided Disagree Strongly disagree

Comments:

Q3 The SWFSPP satisfies the surveillance data and reporting needs of my organisation (e.g. contributes to and/or supports policy development and decision making).

Strongly agree **Agree** Undecided Disagree Strongly disagree

Comments:

Q4 Animal Health Australia is managing the Screw Worm Fly Surveillance and Preparedness Program effectively/satisfactorily.

Strongly agree **Agree** Undecided Disagree Strongly disagree

Comments: The Northern Territory Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade (DITT) acknowledges the national coordination via AHA as valuable.