

FOR INFORMATION

SWFSPP Annual Meeting 2025

Agenda Item 4.1

[last updated: 1 September 2025]

Prepared by K.Moylan

NT COORDINATOR REPORT 2024-25 year**RECOMMENDATION**

1. That the SWFSPP Steering Committee:
 - a. NOTE the report on SWFSPP activities undertaken by the Northern Territory Government during the 2024-25 financial year

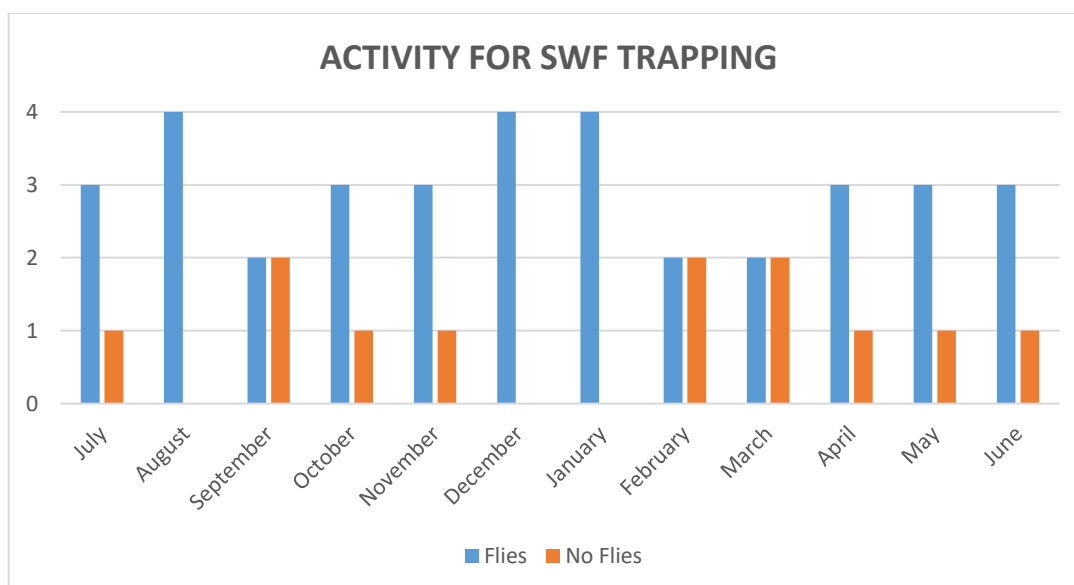
BACKGROUND

This report describes the activities undertaken by the Northern Territory Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) during 2024/25 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 36 traps across the 12-month period. No SWF was identified.
- All samples were examined morphologically. The fly numbers are not recorded in the first 9 months of the 12-month reporting period. With changes to the workbook template numbers have been recorded for the last 3 months. The fly ID is not recorded.
- Every month recorded a fly trapping event with flies. The months of September, February and March recorded the lowest number of events (50%) with flies. August, December and January had 100% events with flies.
- Santavan Export Yard (SEY) has the lowest number of 'events with flies' recording flies in 2/6 events. SEY was inspected this year (along with the other 5 locations outside of the port area) by the co-ordinator. SEY has limited tree/shrub coverage being located on a roadside fence in long grass, and approximately 500m from the yards.

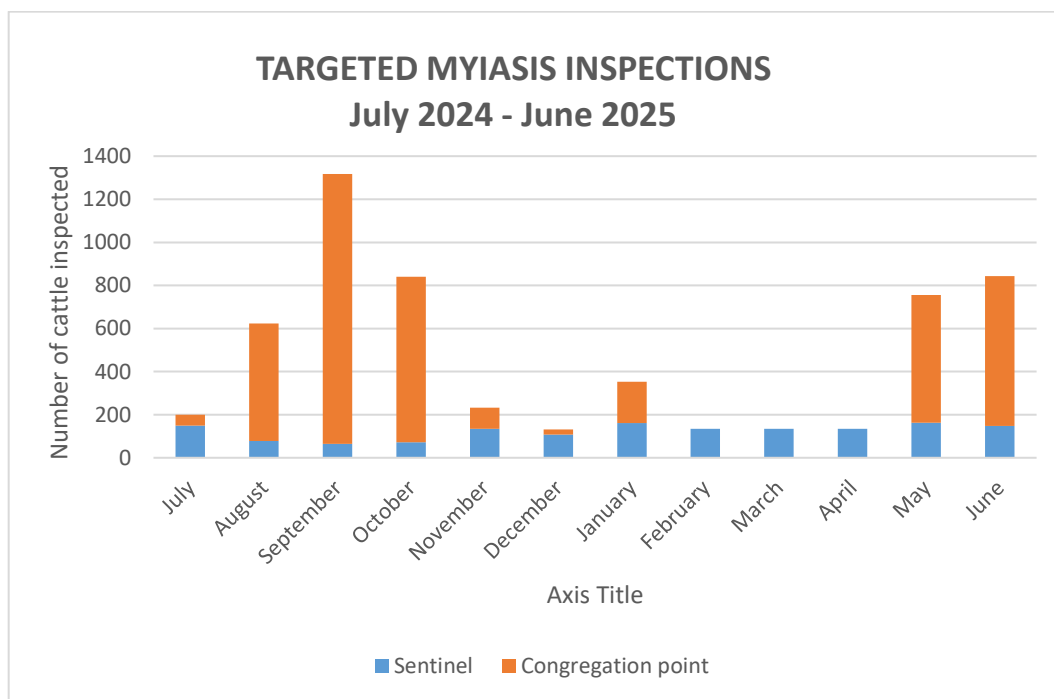
Trap location	Trapping events	Events with flies
BEY	6	6
CPRK	6	4
NEY	6	5
RSPCA	6	4
SEY	6	2
TWP	6	6
EAW	12	9
TOTAL	48	36



2. TARGETED MYIASIS INSPECTIONS

- Active targeted myiasis inspections occurred at export or holding yards (congregation points) where cattle are yarded prior to movement following dipping for ticks. This included Berrimah Export Yards, Santavan Export Yards, Bridge Creek Export Yards and Coomalie Holding Depot yards.
- There was a total of 16 survey events over the 12-month period, 11 of these surveys had over 50+ animals inspected. A total of 4 216 animals were inspected.
- With a change in the Data Entry Workbook backdated to January 2025, some targeted myiasis inspections were not included in data presented to NAHIS in the regular three-monthly reporting period as we were not able to supply a userreference. The data from those inspections are included in this report.
- 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 74 survey events over the 12-month period. A total of 1 484 individual inspections were carried out.
- None of the inspected cattle at congregation points were reported to have any wounds.

- An occasional reporting of wounds in the sentinel heifers was recorded, with the wounds healing with no fly strikes and no complications.
- The length of time the cattle spend in the at congregation points is variable, from 4 days to approximately 30 days.



3. DESCRIBE AND ASSESS PASSIVE SURVEILLANCE

- Three (3) maggot identifications were submitted to the Berrimah Veterinary Laboratory (BVL) for disease investigation, providing 2 fly ID's and excluding screw-worm fly by PCR in one case.
- # One (1) maggot identification was submitted to Biosecurity Queensland Veterinary Laboratories as the paperwork within the 'kit' was from Queensland.
- Myiasis was reported from three mammalian hosts (canine x 2, cattle) and from one avian host (Darwin) from two regions: Darwin and Katherine.
- The larvae were identified by the entomology section DAF Berrimah Farm Science Precinct.
- The PCR test was undertaken at BVL, Berrimah Farm Science Precinct.

Event date	Location	Species	Lab reference	Finding/Morphological identification
03/09/2024	Katherine	canine	20240794	Chrysomya suffranea
19/09/2024	Darwin	poultry	20240831	Chrysomya megacephala
29/09/2024	Katherine	cattle	20240858	PCR screw worm fly identification: Not Detected
19/05/2025#	Darwin	canine	P2501868*	Chrysomya saffranea

*Lab reference Biosecurity Queensland Veterinary Laboratories

- There was one maggot sample sent to medical entomology in 2024/25. Unfortunately, it was not able to be identified. (it was obtained from a person's nose)

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

5. CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATION

- 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.
- The Darwin clinic that submitted the sample to Queensland was contacted. They have checked their remaining kits, and all include paperwork to send the sample to BVL.
- Discussion internally to raise the awareness of the importance of passive surveillance.

6. NEXT STEPS/ACTIONS

- Priority action: Identify contact points in the human health sector to promote the submission of and identification of maggots found in lesions on people.
- Continue to promote passive SWF surveillance to private veterinary practitioners and to the livestock industry at appropriate events throughout the year.
- Updating our entomology training will be occurring in September 2025.
- Move to operating under the new 2025-28 Business Plan SWFSPP V1.0.

FEEDBACK

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

Strongly agree **Agree** Undecided Disagree Strongly disagree

Comments:

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 emphasis is on surveillance. Should we consider some of the bigger strategic elements of preparedness such as sterile insect technique?