

Highlights and Impacts of FY '05 Projects Funded by the Texas Imported Fire Ant Research and Management Project

Project Investigator's Name: Curtis Lard

Project Title: The Economics of Red Imported Fire Ants that Involve the Community-Wide Projects, Homeowners and Agriculture sectors in Texas

| Significant Accomplishment | Impact on Imported Fire Ant Management |
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| 1. Development of a survey instrument to estimate costs and benefits from red imported fire ants on agriculture and rural areas. | The survey instrument has been used to gather data needed to determine the impact of the red imported fire ant on agricultural and rural areas.. |
| 2. Completed the collection of the survey through the USDA National Agriculture Statistics Service Texas Statistical Office (06/14/2005). Expect to receive the data from them shortly. | The survey data will provide a way of determining the impact fire ants had on the areas surveyed. Surveyed areas were in the north east part of Texas |
| 3. Currently analyzing data from simulated models of representative communities for the various metroplexes. | The simulated community data will give an estimate of the impact fire ants had on urban areas, and will also provide a measure for estimating the impact of fire ant educational programs. |
| 4. Development of an outline for the final report to show the effects of red imported fire ants in agricultural and rural areas, and the impact shown in the simulated community models. | This provides a format for the presentation of the final report to show the impacts of fire ants on the selected rural and urban areas of Texas. |
| <p>Source and Amount of Funds Leveraging Current Fire Ant Project</p> <p>1. \$7,500 for the Fire Ant Research and Management Project</p> <p>2. Other funds that assisted in this work came in coordination with the USDA area-wide fire ant study</p> | |