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Fire Ant Initiative Action Plan – FY 2006-2007
Maximum 500 words, double-spaced, type size at least 12 points, do not exceed boundaries. Include statement on anticipated outcomes.

This project seeks funding to maintain the human capital infrastructure for the Extension education and outreach components of the Texas Imported Fire Ant Research and Management Plan. This infrastructure includes two Extension Agents-IPM and two Extension Program Specialists who serve the 5 major metropolitan areas of Texas (Dallas, Ft. Worth, Houston, San Antonio and Austin), and partial support for the lead fire ant Extension Specialist (Dr. Bart Drees), one Extension Assistant who maintains the fire ant web site and one Staff Assistant. This group, in collaboration with several others associated with the project and supported by other funds, provide the primary capacity to conduct applied research and outreach for the fire ant program and constitute the primary link between the research and teaching components of the program and the general public.

Anticipated outcomes of this project include increased knowledge of fire ants and fire ant management techniques by the general public. This will be accomplished by transfer of existing and new technology to Texans through outreach education programs, increased information on the fire ant web site, development of new and revision of existing publications and demonstrations of new products and other technology. This education and outreach will result in improved management of fire ants using integrated approaches which serve to preserve and protect the environment, while addressing the goal of eliminating the imported fire ant as a major pest in Texas.