

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.

In FY2004-5, the Texas Fire Ant Research & Management Plan funded, "Applied Imported Fire Ant Research and Education Program" (B. Drees, \$20,000 for 2004 and \$17,500 for 2005). The proposal, requested by Dr. Heinz, had a predetermined funding level. This project has improved integrated fire ant management and supported education programs. As reported to the CRIS project, "Texas Applied Imported Fire Ant Research Program" (RI-8912), collaborators include Texas Cooperative Extension (TCE) personnel supervised by T. Fuchs. FY04-05 funding was used to maintain the capacity for TCE and TAES to conduct applied laboratory and field research, supporting the salaries, in part, for a technical assistant supervised by R. Gold, and an Extension Program Specialist supervised, in part, by B. Drees.

This proposal seeks funding continue this effort by providing 50% of the salary for B. Summerlin (through R. Gold) and 40% for Dr. Charles Barr (through B. Drees). Funding for travel and collaborative projects is requested for all participants, including Extension Agents - IPM, and Extension Program Specialists - IPM (through T. Fuchs). Collectively, these individuals, co-PI's and the PI, constitute the primary capacity within TCE and TAES focused on conducting applied research. Anticipated outcomes include: 1) development of

new approaches and fire ant management technology; 2) design, implement, and evaluate demonstrations of new technology to document resulting economic and environmental impact; and, 3) transfer technology through outreach education programs. Participation in the national Annual Imported Fire Ant Research Conference will assure that participants have the most current information and that their contributions are recognized within the scientific community.

This project addresses this Plan's goal: to eliminate this imported fire ant as a major Texas' pest.