



IMPACTS

In 1998 33,000 South Carolinians sought medical attention for Red Imported Fire Ant (RIFA) stings. Fifteen percent of the population have severe allergic reactions. 1-2% have potentially fatal reactions.

A 1998 survey found that home owners expect to pay \$86 per year to treat for RIFA. The economic impact to Agriculture, Wildlife, and industry in SC has never been quantified.

Every county in SC is under USDA-APHIS quarantine for RIFA.



CLEMSON RESEARCH AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS



Fort Jackson—A demonstration/research project conducted at McEntire ANGB and Fort Jackson demonstrating the integration of biological controls *Pseudacteon tricuspis*, *Thelohania*, and traditional chemicals. This project was funded by EPA and saw DoD, USDA-ARS, CHPPM, SC Army and Air National Guard, USAEC, EPA, Bayer Corporation, and Clemson University and Extension as cooperators.

Areawide—Due to the results obtained in the Fort Jackson study a federally funded program was initiated in FL, MS, TX, OK, and SC to demonstrate the integration of biological controls and traditional treatments. Funded through FY02-05 @ ~\$100,000 per year extension of program to FY07 probable for a total of \$700,000.

New Chemistry—Testing of promising novel chemistry for action on RIFA in field trials. Clemson Extension has worked with companies such as DuPont and Bayer Sciences testing new chemistry. Our data were instrumental in the registration of fipronil. Sale of this product has benefited retailers, and commercial applicators with a safe effective product \$48,000.

In-service Training—Two extensive trainings conducted for County Extension Agents, National Guard and DoD personnel. Funded \$6000. More than 30 Extension employees trained. 30 DoD/National Guard personnel trained. A RIFA Training Manual for land managers has been funded for \$26,000 by those attending to be completed by Dec 2004

Release of biological controls *Pseudacteon tricuspis*, *P. curvatus*, and *Thelohania*— *P. tricuspis* confirmed established at five sites. *P. curvatus* released summer 2003 overwintering confirmed. *Thelohania* confirmed established at two sites. *P. littoralis* may be available summer 2004 or 2005.

Local County Extension Programs—Extension Advisory Boards statewide identified RIFA as a major need for Extension and Research Activities. Extension Programs conducted in 28 counties in the last year were attended by more than 3500 individuals from public, private and commercial sectors. Agents and specialist are averaging one RIFA program each week on a statewide basis. Efforts include public meetings, mass media, demonstration sites, fact sheets, and newsletters.

The Clemson RIFA program externally funded 1.23 FTEs, travel for 15 agents, trained 30 agents, and conducted more than 50 educational and research programs in the last 18 months.

For more information on Red Imported Fire Ant programs at Clemson contact Tim Davis, Areawide Imported Fire Ant Specialist
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