

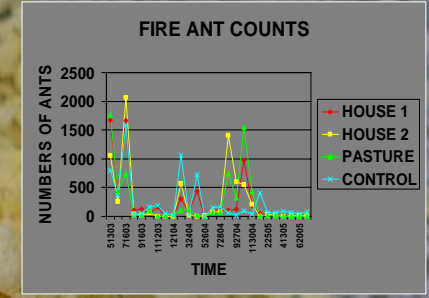
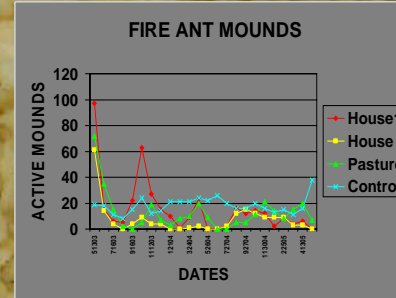
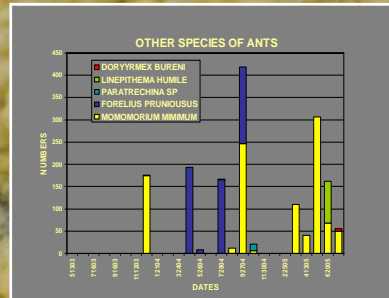
FIRE ANT MANAGEMENT IN A POULTRY HOUSE

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Objective The purpose of our demonstration, Reduce stress on poultry houses through management of the Red Imported Fire Ant Populations.

Abstract

Fire ants can be a critical factor in poultry management. Fire ants foraging in the feed bins, feeding in the houses and stinging the chickens cause stress. This can affect the growth and development of the young chickens. The loss of feed, stinging the workers and shorting out electrical systems and motors burden the poultry farmer. The development of a plan for fire ant management on a poultry farm was requested by the poultry farmer, Mr. Billy Gains. Through the implementation of the program the farmer was able to reduce stress on his flock, reduce feed loss, and save on the reduced losses of electrical systems and motors. Five beneficial species of ants returned to the environmental system. The program of fire ant management was presented to the poultry farmers at a field day. The city parish government adopted and utilized the program to manage fire ants on the public grounds.



OTHER SPECIES FOUND

- LITTLE BLACK ANT *Monomorium minimum*
- Forelius pruniosus*
- Paratrechina* sp.
- Linepithema humile*
- Dorymyrmex bureni*

Conclusion:

Fire ants can be effectively managed on a poultry farm through the use of growth regulator baits. The ant population can be reduced so that ants are no longer observed or found trailing into the feed bins or the poultry houses. Fire ants were no longer damaging electrical equipment and motors, saving the farmer the trouble and cost of replacement. The program has shown that fire ants can be kept below threshold throughout the entire farm and residential area by following the program of treating twice a year. The effectiveness of the program can be demonstrated by the following statements of the poultry farmer and the city mayor:

FARMER: MR. BILLY GAINS "Before treatment ants covered dead birds, harassed live birds and got in all electrical equipment. I would have to change 2 to 3 breakers on every batch of chickens and 2 to 3 motors a year. Since treatment started—no ants on dead birds, no ants packing off feed—this has helped on feed conversion. Chickens are comfortable with no ants to bother them—this has helped with weight gain. Good feed conversion + weight gain = **MORE MONEY IN THE BANK.**

BIG SAVINGS—I have not changed any breakers or motors since we started the program or had any other trouble with my electrical equipment, battery chargers, plug-ins or controls on incinerator.

NO PROBLEMS WITH ANTS ANYWHERE ON FARM OR HOME GROUNDS.

MAYOR OF JONESBORO: DON I. ESSEIER "In the spring of 2004, with a recommendation from the local Extension County Agent, Mr. Eddie White, we applied Extinguish Fire Ant Bait along the four-lane bypass which passes through the town of Jonesboro. The ants along the highway were interfering with mowing and trash removal. After applying the material the population of ants was controlled and it was no longer a problem to maintain the area. The initial application gave control for several months. We have continued to apply the material in areas where ants have appeared, but only spot treating those targeted areas using Extinguish Plus.

References

- Broadcast Baits for Fire Ant Control. Southern IPM Center. B-6099 9/05
- Reducing treatment costs for fire ant suppression in Texas cattle production systems in Proceedings of the Fifth International Pest Ant Symposia and the 1995 Annual Imported Fire Ant Conference(ed. S.B. Vinson and B.M. Drees), San Antonio, Texas, pp 146-154. Drees et al 1995.
- Getting the most out of your fire ant Bait. ANR-1161 Flanders K. L. and L. Graham. 2003.

Methods

Fire ants feeding on poultry feed and chickens caused stress and reduced production on the flock. To manage these factors we implemented a two step program to reduce IFA populations below threshold. The two poultry houses are 600 feet long and 60 feet wide. Each poultry house and the pasture on the property were set up as individual plots and an open park area near by was set up as the control. Fire ant mounds against the poultry house foundation and within 15 feet of the foundation of each poultry house foundation was mound treated with acephate (2 tablespoons per mound) as a dust the entire remaining area on the farm, house area included, was broadcast with Extinguish (methoprene) at a rate of 1.5 lbs. per acre (17 area). The total number of active mounds along one side of the house and 15 feet out from the foundation were counted for each house and a ¼ acre plot in the pasture and the control sight were counted pretreatment and monthly there after (May 2003 – June 2005). Each test plot was also sampled for ant activity using 20 – 15ml glass vials baited with pieces of hotdog. Each vial was randomly placed within the plots and collected after one hour. Vials with ants were flooded with alcohol, capped and returned to the lab to identify and count the number of ants. The test plots were treated twice a year for a total of 5 treatments. Treatments were applied in April and October using a Herd seed spreader adapted for application of the granular baits, mounted on a Honda 4 wheeler traveling at 6 miles per hour.





FIRE ANT MOUNDS

