

Project #041014

Fire Ants/ Phorid flies

Katy Hammon – Project Manager

This project is inactive at the current time, but is subject to reactivation at any time.

The original work in 2004 (and some prior to that date) and all subsequent studies under this project number was done to assist Texas A&M Agrilife (formerly Extension Service) with research and collaboration. Our contact at Agrilife in Dallas is Kimberly Schofield, a professional Urban Entomologist.

We have studied fire ants – learning about their colonies, dispersal of mounds, methods of control, etc. We released Phorid flies (a natural enemy of the fire ants) and tracked the rate of their spread from the original release sites. In only a few years, flies released at two sites (on the western and northern edges of Denton County) have covered most of the county and are responsible for inhibiting the explosive spread of fire ants throughout the county.

We have also studied several chemical pesticides and several different routes of application of those pesticides. Several papers have been published in scientific and trade journals based on the results obtained in these studies.

We will advertise through the email blast when we plan another study on this project.

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