

96/S05



Producer Research Support

Malathion provides cost-effective solution to grasshoppers

Wattle Range Beef Manager Group

During the first year of the project the Wattle Range Beef Manager Group had good results in controlling wingless grasshoppers in the mid to lower south-east of South Australia using bran flakes soaked in malathion and flown on hatching sites before young hoppers moved away.

Producer Research Support

MLA Producer Research Support offers support funding of up to \$15,000 over three years for groups of producers keen to be active in on-farm research and demonstration trials.

These activities include:

- Producer Initiated Research and Development
- More Beef from Pastures demonstration trials
- Prime Time Wean More Lambs demonstration trials
- Sustainable and productive grazing grants.

Contact Gerald Martin
Producer Research Support Coordinator.
Tel 08 8556 2900 or
producersupport@mla.com.au

Meat & Livestock Australia

Level 1, 165 Walker Street
North Sydney NSW 2060
Tel 02 9463 9333
Fax 02 9463 9393
Free Phone 1800 023 100 (Australia only)
www.mla.com.au

Contact details

Jill Fiebiger
PO Box 240,
Nangwarry SA 5277
Tel 08 8736 6071
Fax 08 8736 6003

Objective

Determine the most cost effective chemicals and application rates for use in an aerial baiting program to control wingless grasshoppers. These findings will be used to develop an overall strategy to control wingless grasshoppers, preventing the large economic losses currently experienced.

Discussion

Trial results over five properties showed great promise with population reductions from 17–30 hoppers per square metre to 2.5-3 hoppers per square metre.

Critical issues for successful control were, identifying the hatching or nursery areas and baiting at the most opportune time to catch hatchlings before they disperse and begin to breed again. The wingless grasshopper problem did not occur the following year and while the treatments would have an effect on carry over eggs, these hoppers are known to run in about three year cycles.

Malathion soaked bran flakes dropped from the air are very effective at controlling the large hatchings of wingless grasshoppers in the year's heavy populations. At a cost of \$30/ha this is a cost effective solution as the area to be sprayed is usually only a relatively small part of each property.