



Social Media In Agriculture



FACT SHEET

Managing Mice in South Australian Farming

The following short videos were produced during the height of the mice plague in South Australia from 2010 to 2012. They tell the stories of two farmers experiences on the Yorke and Eyre Peninsulas. These videos are a valuable resource, providing particle strategies to manage mice populations and reduce crop losses.

Monitoring mice – the Eyre Peninsula experience

Lock farmer Andrew Polkinghorne discusses his experiences in dealing with mice on his property. Monitoring mice numbers usually begin in March. Numbers greater than 500 per hectare will create problems in emerging crops. Generally the rate of mice damage is much faster than one predicts. Mice can take up to 5% of seed grain per night. Damage tends to be greater in standing stubble compared to that laid down either in wheel tracks or through chaining. Intensified rotations, minimum tillage, stubble retention and sheep in farming systems have all contributed to the increased incidence of mice in crops. http://youtu.be/L8MuDrAl_dw



Controlling mice – the question re-sowing

Lock farmer Andrew Polkinghorne discusses his experiences in dealing with mice on his property. Re-sowing crops is something that farmers are reluctant to do. Control measures should have been implemented well before this amount of damage occurs. Cereals should not be re-sown unless plants number fall below 30 per square meter. Mice tend to be less damaging in emerging canola compared to cereals but can be more difficult to control early in the season. Mice will nip buds and pods off canola in the spring causing significant damage. Damage in cereals tends to be less in the spring.



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<http://youtu.be/AmAtd6rvHBE>

Controlling mice – baiting strategies

Lock farmer Andrew Polkinghorne discusses his experiences in dealing with mice on his property. The best time to bait is the day or night following the seeding operation. At this point other feed sources have partially covered and the mice haven't discovered the seed in the ground. Where mice populations are high they tend to eat more baited grain so control levels are not as desirable as they should be. Most damage tends to follow barley crops. Perimeter paddock baiting can be effective in light infestations, as mice will move further than originally thought.

<http://youtu.be/Szy0K5irLR8>

Mice control – a challenge for conservation farming

Ben Wundersitz discusses mice control in his farming operation on the Yorke Peninsula. Whilst no till farming and full stubble retention is where cropping systems need to be to be sustainable these systems are conducive to mice problems. Maintaining soil cover is important in reducing salinity issues so whilst grazing can reduce food sources for mice in stubbles it does not fit in farming systems where salinity is an issue. Summer weed control also reduces food sources for mice and is an effective strategy in managing mice numbers. Reducing grain loss at harvest is also important.

<http://youtu.be/BQxKXWzkKjQ>

Mice baiting on the Yorke Peninsula – a farmers perspective

Ben Wundersitz discusses mice baiting strategies in his farming operation on the Yorke Peninsula. Monitoring for mice activity begins in March. It pays to be pro active in controlling mice as numbers can build quickly. Current baiting strategies are only reducing mice numbers to the point where crop damage is minimize but background numbers survive. The preferred option would be to control the whole mice population. Bait mixing stations have significantly reduced the cost of mice control making strategic control measures more affordable. <http://youtu.be/AKQfM1O5oeE>
