

Mouse Census Week – Special Update

Mouse Census Week

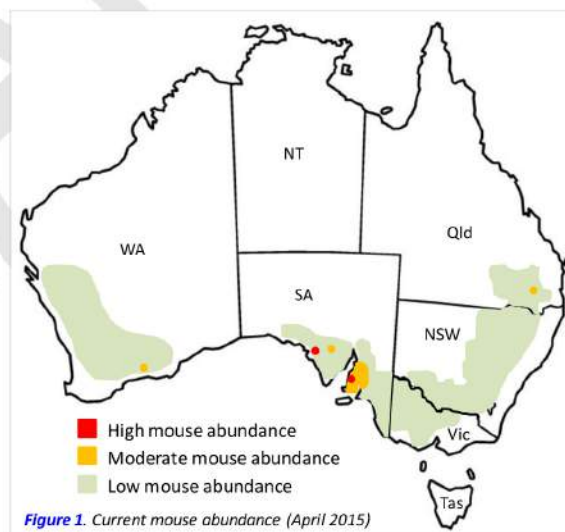
- Thanks to everyone who recorded mouse activity and damage on their farm during **National Mouse Census week**. Your contributions resulted in over 100 new records in just one week!
- Let's not stop there! If you haven't already, **report mouse activity and damage** using *MouseAlert*. The more observations provided, the better the forecasts of mouse plagues! So please encourage others to report also.
- Even if you don't see any mice, please report their absence.
- You can report any time on your smartphone/tablet (download at <https://itunes.apple.com/au/app/id975407187>) or on your computer (www.mousealert.org.au). *MouseAlert* will be available for Android soon.
- **You can also use *MouseAlert* to check** what other mouse activity is being reported locally and regionally.
- And you can **follow updates on Twitter: @MouseAlert**.
- Below is a brief update on your observations of mice across the crop-growing region of Australia.

Mapping mouse abundance using YOUR records

Observations of mice from growers and agronomists across Australia using *MouseAlert* provided a 'snapshot' of mouse activity in the crop-growing region of the country (**Map 1**). These observations are a good match to reports from detailed mouse monitoring obtained during March (**Map 2**; also see Update #6). **Localised 'hotspots'** of mouse activity are visible in both maps. Observations in *MouseAlert* extended **the coverage of real-time monitoring of mouse activity across Australia in just one week!**



Map 1: Farmer observations recorded in *MouseAlert*



Map 2: Observations from March monitoring

Future activities

- We are working hard on upgrading models for predicting mouse plagues. ***MouseAlert* information is vital for these improvements.**
- Monitoring is scheduled for winter (June 2015) and spring (September-October 2015). We hope you can continue to report observations of mouse activity and damage using *MouseAlert*.

Further information

This is part of a 3-year study funded by the GRDC to monitor mouse populations and forecast the likelihood of mouse outbreaks. The project is a collaboration between Landcare Research (NZ), CSIRO Agriculture Flagship and the Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre. Contact Peter.Brown@csiro.au or Steve.Henry@csiro.au for further information.