



Tuesday, April 15, 2014

## Mouse bait stations ready for action on EP, YP

SOUTH Australian grain producers now have access to regional bait stations where they can bring their own grain and have it treated to more cost-effectively control mice.

A number of stations have been set-up by commercial companies at Wudinna, Karkoo, Lock, Cowell and Kimba on Eyre Peninsula and Cunliffe, Kadina and Minlaton on Yorke Peninsula.

The stations are a result of work done by the Grains Research and Development Corporation, Grain Producers Australia and GPSA with regulatory bodies APVMA, SA Health, Biosecurity SA and SafeWork SA through the National Mouse Management Working Group.

Group member Michael Schaefer says growers need to contact the mixing station operators and outline what they require then book a time to have grain treated.

He says the stations are the culmination of four years' work to provide growers with access to an economically and environmentally-sustainable baiting option.

"The cooperation in the past 18 months between the grower representative groups Grain Producers Australia and GPSA with the Grains Research and Development Corporation and the regulatory bodies has been integral to get us to this position where mouse bait can be supplied to growers," he said.

The work originally began after the mouse plague in 2010 where an inquiry into invasive species was established in State Parliament. It recommended the policy of withholding assistance to farmers affected by mouse plagues be reviewed.

Later, a national working group was established to bring together all the national grower representative and regulatory bodies, as well as the GRDC, to set-up a permit system for mixing zinc phosphide with grain for mouse baiting. Some research was required to confirm it was a safe product to manufacture.

"This is a great outcome for farmers and shows the importance of having a well-resourced grower representative body in GPA and GPSA to act in the interests of all growers, otherwise we wouldn't have the bait stations open," Mr Schaefer said. "It's a very pleasing feeling after such a long period of time working on this issue."

GPSA chief executive Darren Arney says the organisation encourages growers to follow correct application protocols to ensure user safety and the industry's continued access to zinc phosphide. Growers may also wish to get agronomic advice on the best control methods for their own situation.

"The mouse bait mixing stations mean there is more competition now in broadacre mouse control so the cost of baiting is expected to be lower than in previous years," he said.

"Our number one priority has been to help South Australian growers access an effective product for mouse control that is cost-efficient and is easily accessible."

- **Details:** Growers need to contact their local manufacturer to find out what is required to access bait:
  - Tristan Waters, Wudinna, 08 8680 2434 or 0429 802 167.
  - Kym Maxwell, Karkoo, 08 8676 6008 or 0427 401 660.
  - Lyall and Carly Wiseman, Lock, 08 8689 1152 or 0427 891 052.
  - Mark and Merridee Schilling, Cunliffe, 08 8825 7224 or 0408 859 308.
  - Paul March, NYP Rural, Kadina, 08 8821 3546 or 0428 213 546.
  - Scott Hoyle, Minlaton, 0417 666 556.

**ENDS**

**For interviews:**

Darren Arney  
GPSA chief executive officer  
0448 186 707

Michael Schaefer  
National Mouse  
Management Working Group  
member  
0428 274 031

For more information on Grain Producers SA and its policies, visit [www.grainproducerssa.com.au](http://www.grainproducerssa.com.au) or get in touch on 08 8391 6621 or email [info@grainproducerssa.com.au](mailto:info@grainproducerssa.com.au)

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**About Grain Producers SA:**

*Grain Producers SA is a not-for-profit organisation that represents all levy-paying grain producers in South Australia. GPSA's objective is to foster the development and implementation of policies that promote the economic and environmental sustainability of the South Australian grains industry for the benefit of its producers and the wider community. Growers are encouraged to have their say on policy and have input on the people who represent them.*

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