



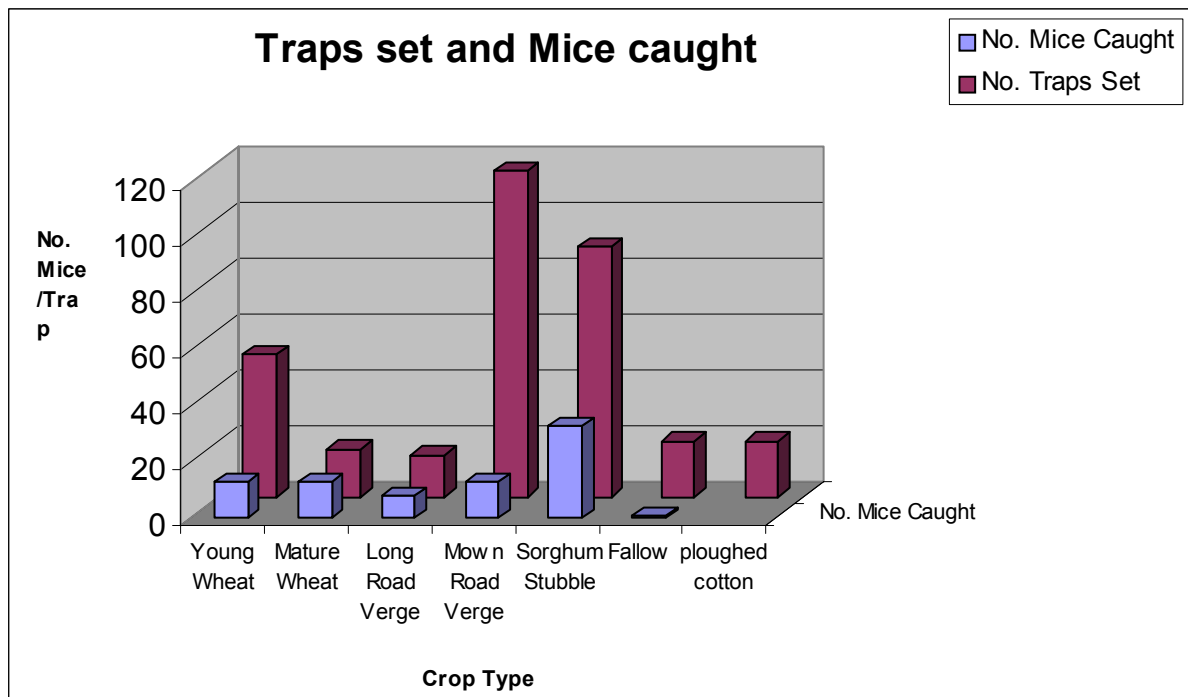
MOUSE UPDATE – July 2003

Trapping Results

Trap success on the **Central Darling Downs** transect this month was 24.5%. (81 mice for 330 traps). This is usual for this time of year

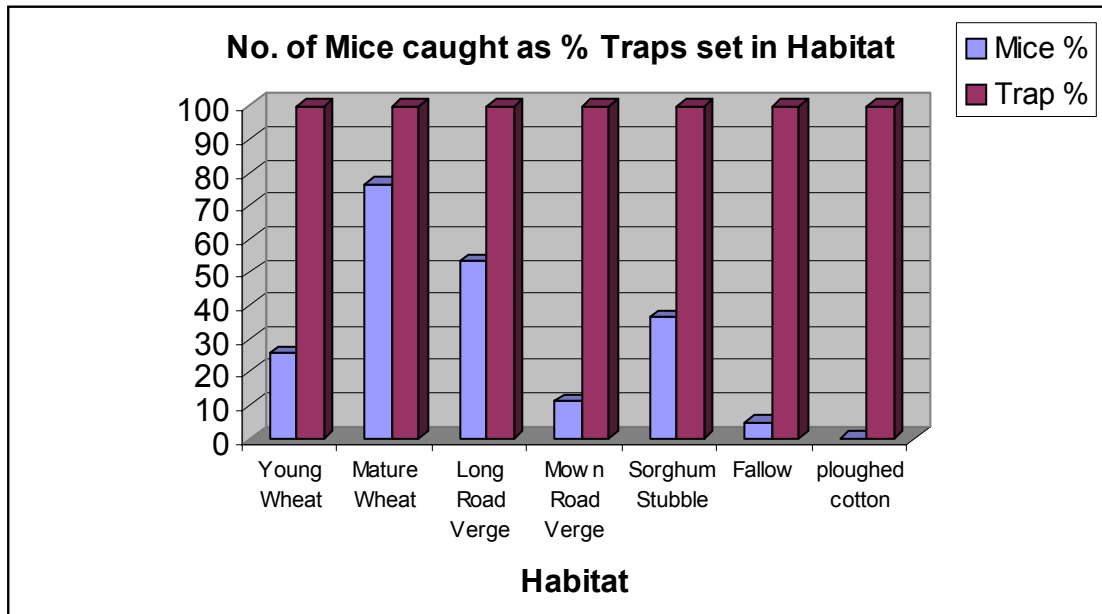
Habitats

As can be seen in the chart below most of the mice caught were in the sorghum stubble and wheat, with a good spread along the road verges.

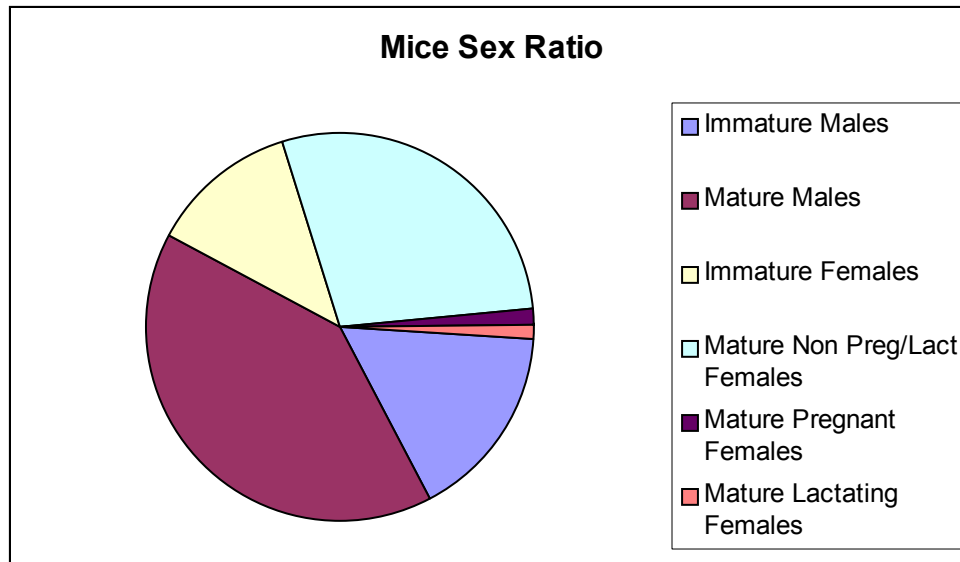


The next chart outlines the number of mice caught as a percentage of the total amount of traps placed in those habitats. It shows that there are considerable numbers of mice in wheat crops,

especially in the wheat that already has young heads on it. Nearly 76% of traps set in this habitat caught mice. Also there is a large residual population of mice in sorghum stubble, still feeding off spilt grain from the harvesting.



Sex Ratio and Pregnancy Status



Points of interest_

- 56% of mice caught were males. (46 of 81)
- 8% of mature females are breeding. (2 of 25 mice)

The only pregnant female had 6 fully formed embryos.

This is usual for this time of year. The mice have generally stopped breeding and will start up again in October.

Damage reports

Damage is occurring in Chick Pea that is sown directly into sorghum stubble, giving the mice a good food resource to see them through winter.

Baiting with zinc phosphide has occurred sporadically in these areas.

Weather

Conditions for this time of year are warmer than usual, with little concurrent frost activity occurring. Frequent light rain events are having no effect on the mice populations.

Outlook

The mice are healthy and there is no sign of a further drop in the numbers. There is population of healthy mice for this time of year and owing to the readily available food supplies in the ripening wheat and sorghum stubble, the population should make it through winter easily with a strong breeding base for the next summer and autumn seasons of 2004.

Action Required

Action should be taken now to reduce food resources and minimize the breeding potential of the present population. There is a high population of mice over wintering in the sorghum stubble and where possible this should be ploughed in to reduce habitat.

Regular checking of wheat is required as there are high populations of mice in most areas.

Bait with zinc phosphide where high numbers are observed.

Next Monitoring.

September

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