



MOUSE UPDATE

September 2004

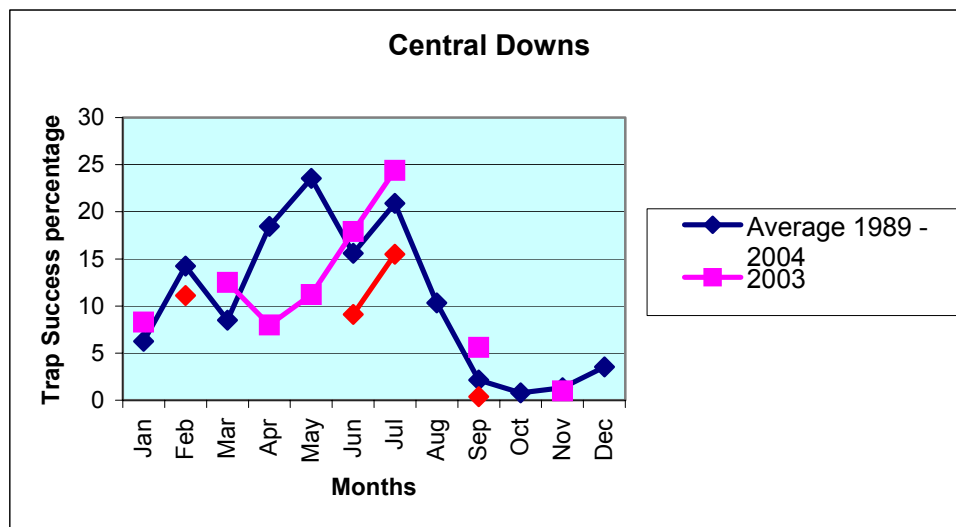
Central Downs

The Central Downs transect was trapped 27.09.2004 by Craig Hunter and myself. The result was 2 mice out of 560 traps, or a 0.4% trap success rate. This is below the long term average for the month as well as being significantly lower than for the same period last year. Mice in the Bowenville area had begun breeding in early September, although the single female trapped on the CD transect was neither pregnant or lactating.

The low mice populations are probably due to a lack of food resources during winter. With continued dry conditions, the area sown to winter crops on the Darling Downs was very low.

There have been reports from independent agronomists of high mice numbers in the Roma and Goondiwindi regions. Animal Control Technologies have been selling higher than usual quantities of ZnP bait into the Roma, Miles and Goondiwindi areas.

The model predicts a low risk of a plague occurring in autumn 2005 using the latest trap success rate of 0.4%.



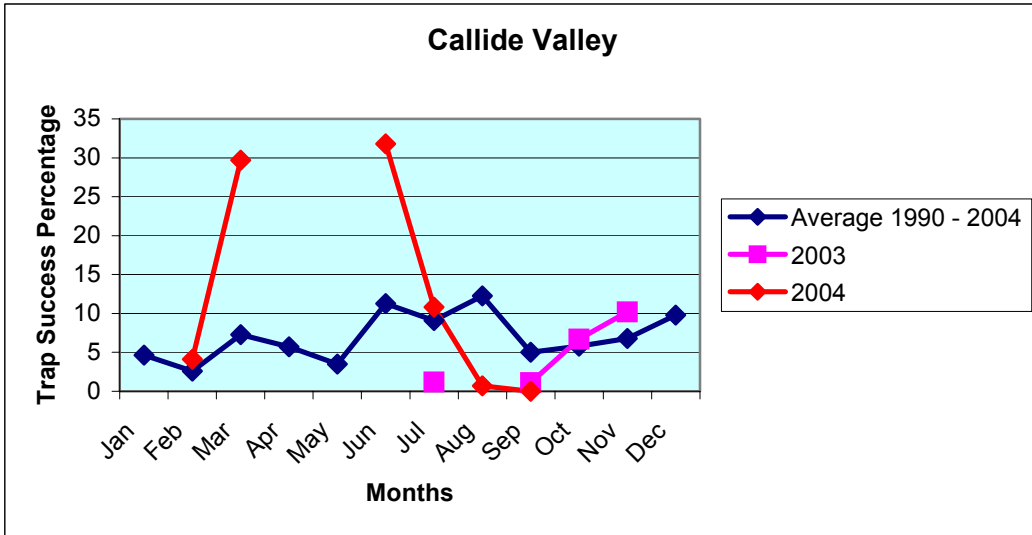
Callide Valley

The Callide Valley transect was trapped over two nights on 20-21 September. The result was 0% trap success from 400 traps. Again, the low mice populations are probably due to a lack of food resources. Continued drought conditions in central Queensland resulted in almost no winter crops being planted this year. The few crops around haven't suffered from mice damage.

Julianne spent a couple of days locating and talking to most of the growers on whose properties the trap sites are situated along both the Callide and Dawson Valley transects. Many have provided rainfall and baiting records for their properties. The information will be used as we begin developing a plague prediction model for the region.

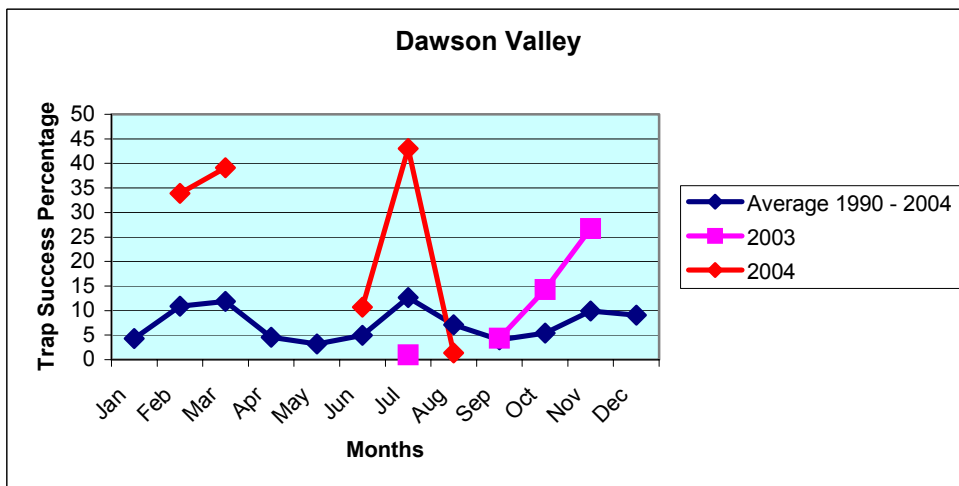


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Dawson Valley

The Dawson Valley transect wasn't trapped in September due to injury. Indications from farmers in the area, independent agronomists and Moura Aerial Agriculture are that mice are not causing any problems at present. The trap success rate for early August was 1.4% - similar to the same period last year and below the long term average for August. As in the Callide Valley, continued drought conditions have prevailed, resulting in very little winter crop planting and thus reduced food resources for mice.



Julianne Farrell
Robert Wicks Pest Animal Research Centre, Toowoomba
07 October 2004