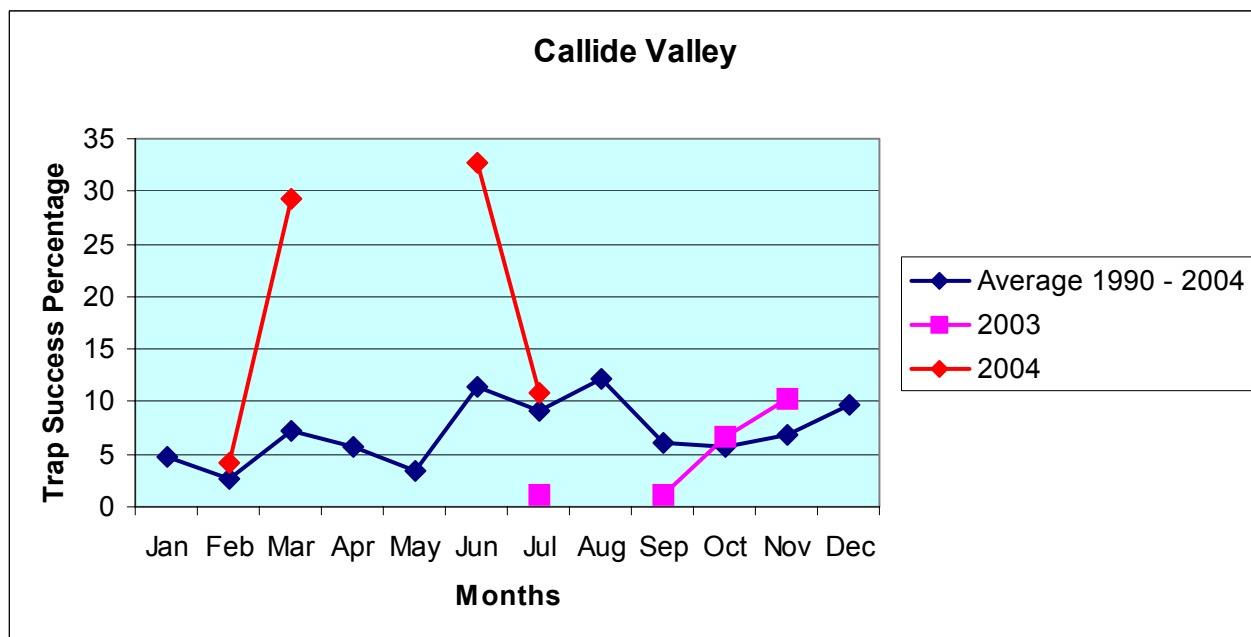




MOUSE UPDATE

July 2004 – central Queensland trapping results



Percent trap success (number of mice caught per 100 traps) on the Callide Valley transect.

Callide Valley

Trap success rates dropped to 11% for July, which is very close to the long-term average for the month. Most of the 34 individuals trapped were juveniles. None of the 4 adult females were pregnant or lactating, so it appears that breeding has probably ceased for the season. The high levels of lumpy tail infection and cannibalisation of carcasses seen last month have also fallen to low levels. As winter progresses, food resources (summer crop harvest residues) are rapidly being depleted and almost no winter crops have been planted due to continued dry conditions throughout central Queensland.

Other

No rats were trapped at either of the Springsure sites where they have been known to occur regularly in the past. There is flood irrigated wheat (sown early May) and trickle irrigated chickpeas (sown mid May) at 'Arcturus Downs'. There has been a small amount of damage occurring to the trickle tape in the chickpeas, which has been attributed to rats, but still none trapped. There are no winter crops on 'Bambar Plains'.

None of the other growers that had previously experienced problems with rats have seen any sign of them lately.

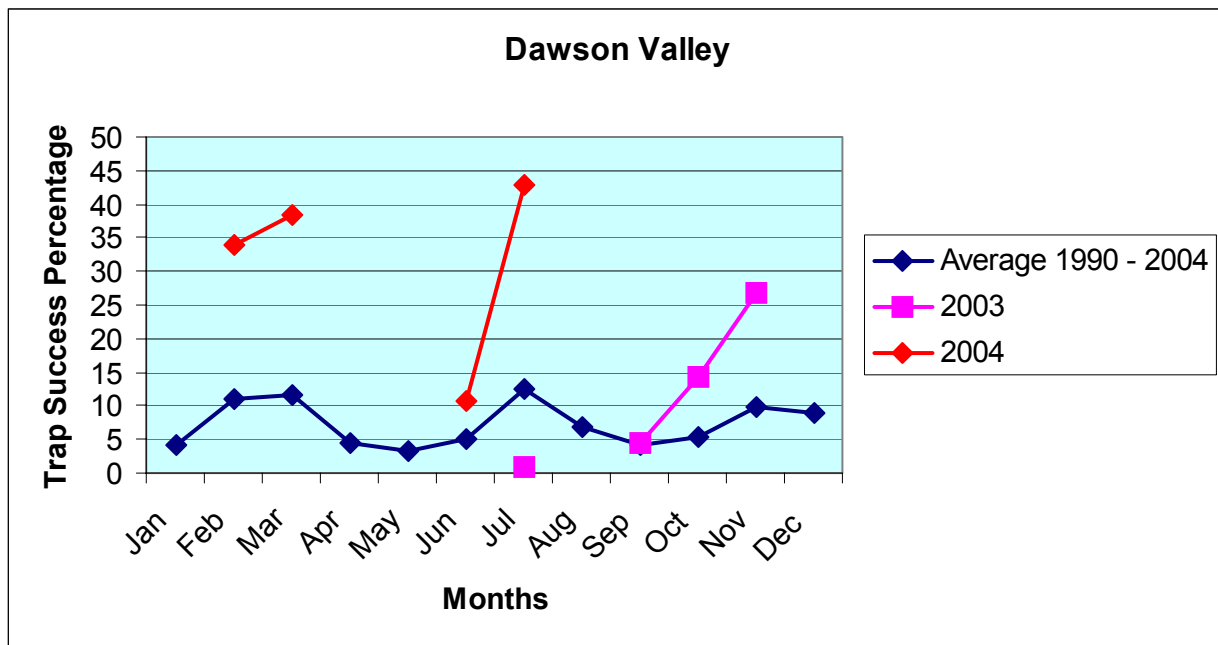
Animal Control Technologies report that they have supplied about 1.5 tonnes of ZnP to the Biloela, Monto and Tatum areas through June, mainly in 15kg pails. They have also supplied almost 6 tonnes to the Dalby area, mainly as 125kg drums during the same period. There has been very little



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spread by the aerial operators around Dalby or Moura and the suggestion has been made that farmers are buying ZnP to spread around sheds and buildings as there are very few winter crops in at present.

The Central Downs transect will be trapped again later this month.



Percent trap success (number of mice caught per 100 traps) on the Dawson Valley transect.

Dawson Valley

Trap success rate for July reached 43% - the highest recorded for this transect, after dropping to average levels last month. There were 95 individuals trapped and 48 of those were trapped in ploughed paddocks with no obvious food sources and few signs of active burrows or cracks. A further 39 were trapped in unmown roadside verges. The dominant vegetation on most verges is kangaroo grass.

The population appears to be under some stress as there were high levels of cannibalisation of trapped carcasses and lumpy tail bacterial infections.

As seen in the Callide Valley, the majority of the mice trapped were juveniles and many of the males had not reached sexual maturity even though their body size indicated that they should have. None of the adult females were pregnant or lactating.