



WE WANT YOUR FLIES

Get involved in a project to better understand the blowflies in your region.

Researchers from the University of Melbourne are seeking assistance from growers across the country to collect blowfly samples on their property for genetic analysis. This AWI funded project is to identify genetic differences in blowfly populations across Australia. The DNA from these samples will be examined for genetic changes that could be associated with insecticide resistance, determine population structure and movement of blowflies to look at ways to assist area-wide resistance management planning, as well as inform research towards developing a vaccine against flystrike.

For those growers willing to participate, we will supply you with collection tubes and are requesting that if you have a struck sheep during the 2020/2021 spring/summer, that you collect the maggots into these tubes (3 tubes initially provided).

After collecting the maggots, simply fill in a short form with details of the sample (including collection location and date) and post the samples together with the form back to University of Melbourne in the reply-paid envelope.

Collection process

1. Collect maggots from a struck sheep into one empty tube.

- Prefer maggots from only one strike site per tube. If you are having significant fly problems this season we are happy to send more.

2. Fill tube containing maggot sample with the provided liquid buffer and screw sample tube lid on tightly to prevent leaks.

- If you are not able to post back within a few days of collection, please store in a fridge or cool place.



3. Post samples back to us in the reply-paid envelope

- If you have collected multiple samples at a time, these can be posted back in the same envelope.



For further details or to sign up to assist with this study please contact our team;

Trent Perry, Clare Anstead or Vern Bowles at University of Melbourne via email at

blowfly-collection@unimelb.edu.au or on (03) 8344 2362.