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## FARMERS ON LOCUST RED ALERT

Farmers in NSW are being reminded to report any sign of locusts to their local Livestock Health and Pest Authority, to help contain a massive plague expected this season.

NSW Farmers' Association President Charles Armstrong is urging farmers to be on guard as temperatures rise across the State.

"The season is well underway with more than 250 hatchings confirmed, and a giant infestation spanning 265 square kilometres spotted in the State's north west," Mr Armstrong said.

"Farmers are at the front line of controlling any outbreaks, and it's important they remember to report any locust activity immediately.

"Timing is the key, and it's vital farmers respond as quickly as possible to help limit the number of eggs laid for the next season," Mr Armstrong said.

As insecticide spraying begins in NSW, farmers are also reminded of their duty to control locusts on their properties before they take to the wing.

"Locusts are best controlled by spraying when the nymphs band together – usually a couple weeks after hatching," Charles Armstrong said.

"Insecticide is provided to ratepayers of Livestock Health and Pest Authorities free of charge, and can be obtained from local offices.

"Farmers should continue to only use approved insecticides, and follow instructions closely, in order to contain locust outbreaks safely," Mr Armstrong said.

Farmers with any questions can contact the Plague Locust Hotline on 1800 814 647.

**Contact: Olivia Suzanski (Media Officer) 0429 990 218**

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