

Pork industry talks

Primary Industries Minister Ian Macdonald has agreed to take the concerns of pork producers to the Federal Government, following a meeting with the NSW Farmers' Association.

NSW Farmers' Association President Jock Laurie, Chairman of Association's Pork Committee Dugald Walker and Members of the NSW Pork Industry Taskforce discussed issues regarding the crisis in the pork industry due to increased importation of pigmeat with Mr Macdonald.

The NSW Farmers' Association is calling for the Federal Government to support the Australian Pork Industry against trade distortions and cheap foreign products flooding the market, and this meeting was organised to try and garner backing at a state level.

Drought- Exceptional Circumstances Declarations

The NSW Farmers' Association is pushing for assurances from the State and Federal Government that drought declaration reviews are conducted in a timely fashion and farmers are informed well in advance of outcomes prior to scheduled expiry dates later this year.

With the exception of Bourke/Brewarrina, which is scheduled to expire 15 June 2008, all EC-declared areas of NSW are due to expire 30 September 2008.

The Association has written to the Federal Minister for Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries, the Hon Tony Burke MP, as well as the NSW Minister for Primary Industries, the Hon Ian Macdonald MLC,

In the event that EC declarations are revoked, the Association has encouraged the consideration of transition measures that would provide farm families with time and support to adjust to drought recovery – assuming climatic conditions allow this to be physically possible.

Inland rail corridor must stay on the rails

The NSW Farmers' Association has welcomed the Rudd Government's announcement to commission a study into the multi-billion dollar inland railway between Melbourne and Brisbane.

The inland railway from Melbourne to Brisbane will provide a direct link for farmers to some of their most crucial domestic and export markets, and save the industry millions of dollars a year in transport costs

The Association is urging the Rudd Government to utilise the enormous amount of work already undertaken on this proposal.

The study, to be undertaken by the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC), will involve thorough consultation with all stakeholders, including state governments, industry, local government and major rail customers. The Association is keen to be involved.

Cattle Tick Outbreak

The Association is continuing to closely monitor the latest outbreak of Tick Fever on the North Coast.

Tick Fever was confirmed on Wednesday, 26 March 2008, in 28 heifers on a dairy property at Burringbar, near Murwillumbah. A response team from the NSW Department of Primary Industries ('DPI') is quarantining, inspecting and treating cattle in the area. Since then, DPI

has confirmed another outbreak on a second north coast property, with two head of cattle dying from the disease.

DPI advises the property near Alstonville has been placed in quarantine and the remaining 51 head of cattle on the property are not showing any signs of the disease.

BJD Changes

The new approach to the management of BJD came into effect this week. Cattle Members should have all received information outlining the changes that are involved. All dairy farmer Members should have received information through their processor or the NSW Department of Primary Industries ('DPI').

If you want access to this information online, head here

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/livestock/health/specific/cattle/bjd/new-bjd-approach>

Don't miss out - Farming Convention on the North Coast

Time is almost out to book a spot for this Friday's North Coast Region 13 Convention and Buffet Dinner, featuring Guest Speaker Dr Beverley Henry of MLA in Coffs Harbour.

Other speakers include NSW Farmers' Association President Jock Laurie and Chief Executive Shaughn Morgan, DPI's Greg Reid and Rik Whitehead, and north coast organic farmer Stuart Larsson

Topics to be discussed include farming for climate change, biological farming, land use planning and alternative wealth creation.

'The Future of farming on the North Coast' forum is being held in Coffs Harbour on April 4. Contact North Coast Regional Service Manager Michael Burt on 0428 228 988.

Occupational Health & safety ('OHS') Reform

The recent Council of Australian Governments ('COAG') meeting saw an intergovernmental agreement to harmonise occupational health and safety laws by May 2008.

COAG further agreed that Governments should aspire to reduce the five-year implementation timeframe for OHS, and that it would consider the scope for a reduced timetable at its meeting in July. The Federal and State Governments also agreed model legislation will be developed and submitted to the Workplace Relations Ministers' Council by September 2009. The COAG Communiqué can be viewed online here <http://www.coag.gov.au/meetings/260308/index.htm>

Region 12 Convention – Homebush

If your in the Western division, don't miss the upcoming Region 12 Convention at the Homebush Hotel on Thursday 10 April.

And don't turn up to the Royal Easter Showground - the event is being held at Homebush in the Western Division, not its namesake in Sydney!

Speakers will include NSW Farmers' Association President Jock Laurie, Chief Executive Shaughn Morgan, and Chairman of the Young Farmers' Committee Sam Gunn, as well as AWI Blowfly Control Project Manager Ian Evans, commodity adviser to the grains industry Lloyd George, and a range of innovative farmers discussing goats, wine, organics and forestry.

For more information, contact Dougall Roberts on 0428 411 221.

Farmer of the Year

Are you an innovative, sustainable farmer, with a passion for the agricultural industry? The NSW Farmer of the Year award is given to farmers in NSW who embody these skills in their field. Women are encouraged to apply!

For full criteria and an entry form, click [here](#).

Region 1 – North West

11 April – Delungra - Farm Safety Management workshop 8.30am – 4.30pm

24 April - Inverell – Chemical Card initial accreditation and refresher course 9am – 4pm

For more information contact Region 1 Service Manager Alicia Wilson 0427 437 103

Region 2 – New England

1 April – Deepwater Pub 6.30pm “Young Farmers-the Future” Young at heart farmers are invited to a free dinner and hear Guest speaker, Young Farmer of the Year, Stuart Blake. Also Superannuation advice and meet our NSWFA Young Farmers Committee. Dinner provided by the NSWFA Deepwater Branch

2/3 April - Bingara – Landcare Adventure. “Rejuvenation with Water” Guest Speaker *Mr Martin Babakhan Climatologist, University of Newcastle and ABC Radio weather man* + A great line up of presenters subsidized to only \$55 for landholder (Cost includes bus travel, all meals, and award ceremony & twin share accommodation) Dinner is an extra \$35. Ph. 67241771

21 April –Walcha - AGM Council Chambers 7.30pm WFI & Prime Super as guests

22 April – Uralla Dinner (free for members) and AGM. Jock Laurie as guest speaker. 6:30 Whyworry winery Kingstown Rd. RSVP essential for dinner

28 April – Deepwater - Top Pub 7pm Branch and Tenterfield DC AGM

29 April – Glen Innes - DC AGM 7.30pm New England Club

30 April – Guyra - DC AGM 7.30pm Rafter's Restaurant

For more information contact Region 2 Service Manager Gennie Gittoes on 0429180560.

Region 3 – Central and Northwest

2 April – Dubbo – Pork AGM – RSL Club Resort, 1.00 Grain workshop Jacaranda Room, 4.00pm NSW Pork AGM, Producer Dinner 6.00 for 7.00pm Contact MSC 1300 794 000

8 April – Coonabarabran – Chemical Card – Initial 8.30-4.30 Refresher 1.30-4.30, member discount. Contact Robyn 6884 8822

9 April – Tullamore – Branch meeting. Telstra and Police speakers. 7.30pm Bowling Club

15 April – Coonabarabran – Stipa / Water Supply Planning – Contact Angela 6845 1044

16 April – Tullamore – DC/Branch - AGM and Annual Conf. motions 7.30pm Bowling Club

20 April – Nyngan – Quick Shear Competition & Show – Showground

For more information contact Region 3 Service Manager Rick Bremmner on 0427 773 495.

Region 4 – Lower News England & Liverpool Plains

3 April – Premer - Premer Branch field day and crop competition - tour starts from the Clyde Purkiss Memorial Oval in Premer at 8.30am. Phil Whillock -0427476217

For more information contact Region 4 Service Manager Darren Greentree on 0427 411 214

Region 6 – Central West Tablelands

2 April - Dubbo Pork AGM & Dinner

15 April – Condobolin – DC meeting

16 April – Cumnock - Living Soils Field Day

16 April - Orange – DC meeting

17 April – Rylstone - Branch meeting

21 April - Dubbo, Junior Farmers Reunion

22 April – Molong – DC meeting

For more information contact Region 6 Regional Service Manager Graham Blatch on 0427 411 220.

Region 7 – Sydney Basin

2 April – Central Coast - Contract Poultry Meat Branch meeting, Mangrove Mountain Memorial Club, 7pm start. PH: Lorraine Wilson 4376 1218
10 April – Maroota - Chemical Card Training PH: 6884 8822
17 April – Region 7 Convention
29 April – Central Coast - Horticulture Branch AGM, Mangrove Mountain Memorial Club, 7pm start PH: Michael Champion 4374 1036

For more information on Region 7 events contact Regional Services Manager Frances Vella on 0428 228 818

Region 8 – Lower Central, West & Slopes

April 2 - Dubbo - Pork AGM at Services club. Contact Sarah on 82511809
April 7 - Yass - Chemical Card training and re accreditation at Soldiers club. Contact Robyn on 6884 8822
April 7 - Cowra - Farm Safety Management workshop. Contact Robyn on 6884 8822
April 17 - Eugowra -Succession Planning workshop. Contact Robyn on 6884 8822
April 29 - Grenfell – Chemical card training. Contact Robyn on 6884 8822
May 1 - West Wyalong - mental health forum. Contact Chris Rigney on 6972 5265

For more information on Region 8 events contact Regional Service Manger Geoff Knight on 0427773581

Region 9 – Southern Murrumbidgee

3 April - Bunnaloo - Branch Meeting and AGM –Bunaloo Rec Complex Contact Kevin Barnes

For more information on Region 9 events contact Regional Service Manager Ben Poynter 0427 773 584

Region 10 - Southern Central

24 April – Wagga DC Meeting, Wagga RSL Club 7.30pm

For information on any events in Region 10 contact Regional Service Manager Deb Charlton on 6922 9297.

Region 11 – Southern Tablelands, Monaro & South Coast

10 April - Goulburn Branch Meeting, Goulburn Workers Club, 7.30pm
24 April - Moss Vale - Branch AGM, Bowral Golf Club, 6pm dinner, 7pm meeting, flyer will be issued for bookings.
28 April - Bombala DC meeting with Jock Laurie
29 April - Molonglo DC AGM with Jock Laurie
29 April - Goulburn DC AGM with Jock Laurie
29 April - Cooma DC meeting with Jock Laurie - Breakfast meeting, details to follow
29 April - Molonglo DC AGM with Jock Laurie and John Kilmartin from Monbeef Cooma, 12noon, Anglican Parish Hall, Butmaroo Street, Bungendore
20 June - Claiming the date - Region 11 Convention, Friday 20th June 2008 at the National Press Club, Canberra. Theme is *"Change - the stone age didn't end because we ran out of stone"*. An impressive and exciting line up of speakers is being arranged so don't miss this great day out - more details soon.

For information on any events in Region 11 contact Regional Service Manager Liz Young 0428 411 218

Region 12 – Western Division

10 April - Region 12 Convention at the "Homebush Hotel" near Balranald 10th April. "Western Division Globally Focused" with a range of guest speakers. (Contact Dougall Roberts For more Information)
12 April – Bourke Annual P & A Show
18 April – Balranald -"Homebush Field Day" near Balranald
18 & 19 April - Cobar Annual Show
26-27 April - White Cliffs Gymkhana
2 -3 May – Broken Hill "Ag Fair"

For information on any events in Region 12 contact Dougall Roberts on 0428 411 221

Region 13 – North Coast

02 April- Lismore/Alstonville branch AGM, Lismore Workers Club, 7.30pm start
03 April- Tabulam branch AGM, Bonalbo Bowling Club, 7.30pm start
04 April - Region 13 'Farming for the Future on the North Coast' convention, Coffs Harbour Catholic Club, 8.30am to 5.00pm followed by dinner. More details to come.
10 April - Grafton branch AGM, South Grafton Ex-Serviceman's Club, 7.00pm start
10 April - Kyogle branch Wild Dog meeting with National Parks, Bungajean Hall, Findon Creek, 7.00pm

For information on any events in Region 13, contact Michael Burt on 0428 228 988