

## Contact us

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## State Budget

The NSW Farmers' Association is looking for action on climate change, drought and transport infrastructure in the upcoming State Budget.

Specific proposals included in the Association's Budget submission are:

- Climate Change – funding of \$540,000 over three years for an NSWFA Climate Change Extension and Liaison Officer
- Climate Change – a \$5 million renewable technology partnerships fund for rural NSW.
- A long term solution for the impost of Fixed Water Charges in times of drought.
- Improved National Park management, with a request to reinstate maintenance funding commensurate to 1997/1998 cost per hectare maintenance levels.
- A North/South Rail Corridor, with an estimated cost of \$1 billion
- Investment in Local Roads Strategy at an estimated cost of \$38 billion in capital, plus \$80,000 for a preliminary strategic planning and prioritisation project.
- A Carcass Disposal Facility, with an estimated cost of \$2 million
- Continued funding for Drought Support Workers and Rural Financial Counsellors
- Changes to the Fire Service Levy, with no budgetary impact
- Waiving of Western Lands Rent, at an estimated cost of \$1.4 million

The details of the Budget will be known next week.

## Farm gate prices published?

The NSW Farmers' Association Horticulture Committee is investigating setting up a website to show actual farm gate prices received by horticulture producers. The expected advantages of this type of website would be more accurate market reporting, greater transparency in wholesaler/retailer margins as well as information which could be used to highlight market power within the industry.

We need to find out if we have your support! Your contribution is important in shaping the outcome of this investigation.

To fill out the online survey please click [here](#).

## Quirindi Ball

To celebrate the strength of our rural communities, NSW Farmers' Association is commemorating its 30 years as a united voice with a black tie ball in Quirindi. Guest Speaker is Peter Fitzsimmons, broadcaster and author.

Come and join us to celebrate our birthday. Saturday 28 June, 7pm until late. \$60pp (prepaid only), including a 3 course meal and pre dinner drinks. RSVP Darren Greentree 0427 411 214

## Seeking top farmers - submit your entries now

There is only a few weeks left to get entries in for the first prize of \$10,000 for the Farmer of the Year.

With the closing date of 9 June rapidly approaching, organisers also encouraged friends and colleagues of outstanding farmers to nominate them for consideration in this year's statewide awards.

The annual awards are coordinated by the NSW Department of Primary Industries and NSW Farmers' Association, and supported by Rural Press and the Royal Agricultural Society. For application forms click [here](#).

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**Road to 2010**

Woolgrowers are welcome to attend the first round of forums being held around the state from next week, bringing them the latest information relating to the 2010 phase out of mulesing, and the initiatives in place to achieve it.

The forums will have up-to-date feedback and facts on what customers are saying and industry's response to them, market information from the supply chain down – as well as what the phase out means on farm with updates on flystrike management and alternatives to the practice of mulesing.

**Forum dates and locations:**

Monday 2 June	<b>Glen Innes Services Club, 120 Grey Street</b>
Tuesday 3 June	<b>Dubbo RSL Club, Cnr Brisbane and Wingewarra Streets</b>
Wednesday 4 June	<b>Orange Function Centre, Eyles Street</b>
Thursday 5 June	<b>Goulburn Soldiers Club, 15 Market Street</b>
Friday 6 June	<b>Wagga Wagga Country Comfort, Morgan and Tarcutta Streets</b>

**Get your goat!**

If you've ever considered goats, for their coat, weed fighting capacity, milk etc. come along to a Goat Forum in Wangaratta this Friday!

The forum, being jointly run by the NSW Farmers' Association, Victorian Farmers' Federation and Meat & Livestock Australia is being held on Friday, 30 May between 9:30am and 4pm at the Quality Hotel Gateway, 29–37 Ryley Street, Wangaratta, Victoria. The cost of the forum is \$10 and lunch is provided. Registrations are essential and can be made by phoning the NSW Farmers' Association Member Services Centre on 1300 794 000.

**Dairy**

It's one of the biggest events on the dairy calendar, so come along to the 2008 Combined Annual Conference of the NSW Farmers' Association Dairy Committee, the NSW Dairy Industry Association (DIAA) and the Dairy Industry Development Company (DIDCO).

With a theme of "Results Through Relationships" this event will bring together dairy farmers, processors, suppliers and others from across the dairy industry. Kicking off on 11 June with a golf day and welcome function, the joint conference will run over 2 days on 12 and 13 June.

To register please complete a registration form, which may be down loaded [here](#). Alternatively contact the organisers: Aim Higher Marketing, Tel: 61 2 9680 9311 or [email](#)

**Future Pathways for Dairy Youth**

The Association's Dairy Committee is sponsoring an all-breeds youth camp open to anyone between the ages of 13 to 25 who are interested in the dairy industry.

Topics include Calf Rearing Essentials, Nutrition, Careers within the industry, Pathways to Owning a Dairy, Dairy Cow Conformation.

For further information contact [Andrew Green](#) or 0418 474 707

**Training**

Course	Location	Date
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<b>Chemical Card- Initial &amp; Refresher Accreditation</b>	Crookwell	30/05/2008
	Molong – funded	02/06/2008
	Cobar	04/06/2008
	Moree	06/06/2008
	Scone	10/06/2008
	Goondiwindi	13/06/2008
	Leeton	16/06/2008
	Boggabri	17/06/2008
Tullamore – funded	19/06/2008	
<b>Chemical Card Refresher</b>	Online 1pm – 4pm	11/06/2008
	Online 1pm – 4pm	30/06/2008
<b>Farm Succession Planning</b>	Tamworth	29/05/2008
<b>First Aid</b>	Lightning Ridge	09/07/2008
	Cryon	10/07/2008
	Grenfell	24/07/2008
<b>Farm Safety Management</b>	Lightning Ridge	05/06/2008

For bookings: please contact Robyn or Kathy on 02 6884 8822, or at [training@nswfarmers.org.au](mailto:training@nswfarmers.org.au)

Note: Please book at least 7 days in advance for Chemical Card and First Aid training to allow time for delivery of the home study materials.

### **Region 1 – North West**

For more information, contact Region1 Service Manager Alicia Wilson on 0427 437 103

### **Region 2 – New England**

2 June – Glen Innes - "Road to 2010 Woolgrower Forum" 9am-1pm Services Club. Spaces limited to this FREE forum. Register NOW on the AWI Helpline on 1800 070 099

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

### **Region 3 – Central and Northwest**

27-28 May – Narromine – Mental Health First Aid – Narromine RSL 9.00am-4.00pm Free. Contact Pip Brown 6881 1266

19 June – Tullamore – Chemical Card / Init 8.30am/Refresh 1.30pm Free Contact Robyn 6884 8822

20 June – Peak Hill – Stipa Grazing Management

24 June – Gulargambone - Chemical Card Int. 8.30am/ Refresher 1.30pm, Members \$265 Int. \$175 Refresh. Contact Robyn 6884 8822

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

### **Region 4 – Lower New England & Liverpool Plains**

28 June – Quirindi - Region 4 Bush Ball – Guest speaker Peter Fitzsimons. Contact Darren Greentree for more details

26 & 27 June – Tamworth – mental health first aid course. Centacare, Tamworth. Contact 6762 1783

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

### **Region 5 – Central West Lachlan**

3 June – Barmedman - Branch Meeting, guest speaker TBA, 8pm start, Barmedman Bowling Club, Barmedman

26 June – Forbes -"Tackling Tough Times" Gathering, speakers include John Harper (Mate helping Mate) and Barbara Fogarty (Clinical Psychologist), 6:30 start, Forbes

Services Memorial Club, Forbes

For more information on events in Region 5, contact Regional Service Manager Hannah Williams on 0488 009 060

**Region 6 – Central West Tablelands**

4 June – Orange - 2010 Road Show Orange

10 June - Ilford /Running Stream Branch

11 June - Parkes Men's mental health night

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

**Region 7 – Sydney Basin**

30 May – Richmond - Sydney Field Vegetable Demonstration Farm Official Opening by Minister Ian Macdonald, 10.30am – 2.30pm, free lunch and refreshments, University of Western Sydney-H, Southee Road. Variety comparison demos of zucchini, cauliflower, broccoli, head & fancy lettuce, and Asian leafy Brassica's. Featuring irrigation best practices, crop monitoring and live machinery demos. PH: DPI's Leigh James 0412 429 418 or Bill Yiasoumi 4588 2107

2 June – Cobbitty - Camden Horticultural Branch AGM, 6.30 for 7pm start, Plant Breeding Institute, University of Sydney. PH: Glenn Fahey 0408 426 061

4 June – Bilpin - Fruit Bowl, Bilpin Horticultural Branch AGM followed by Biosecurity workshop,

1pm start PH: John Galbraith 02 4567 1143

10 June – Vineyard, Horticultural Branch AGM, 6.30 for 7pm start PH: Joe Danastasi 0418 210 547

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

**Region 9 – Southern Murrumbidgee**

28 May – Deniliquin - 1.30-3.30 Deniliquin Community Water Forum with MP John Williamson and Adrian Piccoli. RSVP to (03) 58817034

28 May – Wakool - 11am – 1pm Wakool Community Water Forum with MP John Williamson and Adrian Piccoli RSVP to (03) 58817034

16 June – Leeton - Chem Card Course Leeton Contact NSWFA Training Dept on 68448822

20 June – Finley - Chem Card Course Finley Contact NSWFA Training Dept on 68448822

For more information on Region 9, contact Regional Services Manager Ben Poynter on 0427 773 584

**Region 10 Southern Central**

3 June – Batlow - Biosecurity workshop, Batlow bowling club 10am-12pm (including lunch) RSVP essential to Lucinda McIntyre at Plant Health Australia. [Email](mailto:Lucinda.McIntyre@aphis.gov.au) or phone 02 6260 4322

6 June – Wagga, AWI mulesing road show, County Comfort Motel, 9am – 1pm

For more information on Region 10, contact Services Manager Debra Charlton on 0427 773 496

**Region 11 – Southern Tablelands, Monaro & South Coast**

28 May – Bega – National Fireweed Conference – Bega RSL Club auditorium. Details available at [www.fireweed.org.au](http://www.fireweed.org.au). Contact 6499 0652.

20 June - Canberra - Claiming the date - Region 11 Convention "*Change - the stone age didn't end because we ran out of stone.*" National Press Club, Canberra. More details soon.

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

**Region 12 – Western Division**

For more information on events in Region 12, contact Services Manager Dougall Roberts on 0428 411 221

**Region 13 – North Coast**

5 June- Grafton branch meeting, South Grafton Ex-Serviceman's Club, 7.00pm start.  
10 June- Hastings River Oyster branch AGM, Westport Club, 7.00pm start  
12-14 June- Primex Field Days, Casino.

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