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More research needed for climate change

The NSW Farmers' Association has acknowledged the Federal Government's \$46.2 million commitment to help farmers better adapt to climate change but feels that a far greater research and development effort is needed.

As Professor Garnaut has stated, the farm sector will bear the brunt of massive price hikes caused by the ETS of up to half of its cost base. Australian Bureau of Agriculture and Resource Economics (ABARE) data reveals that for sectors like cropping, 45% of their input costs are energy dependent – including fuel, electricity and other energy-dependent costs, such as freight, fertilisers and crop contracting.

To read more click [here](#).

Minimum wage changes

Last week, the Australian Fair Pay Commission increased the standard Federal Minimum Wage (FMW) and all Australian Pay and Classification Scales (Pay Scales) by \$21.66 per week (\$0.57 per hour). This means the standard FMW has increased from \$13.74 to \$14.31 per hour.

These increases flow on to junior employees, employees to whom training arrangements apply, employees with a disability, casual employees and employees receiving basic piece rates of pay. The decision will take effect from the first pay period on or after 1 October 2008.

To read more click [here](#).

Members encouraged to have their say

As part of the Australian Government's national review of drought policy, the expert panel will examine the social impacts of the drought on farm families and rural communities.

The expert panel led by AgForce President Mr Peter Kenny is aiming to determine the types of social support people value in times of drought, irrespective of whether they are eligible for Exceptional Circumstances assistance.

The Association encourages Members to get along to these meetings and to have their say.

Meetings will commence next week:

Inverell Thursday 24 July 2pm – 5pm RSM Club
Bourke Friday 25 July 9am – 12pm Bourke Bowling Club
Gilgandra Monday 18 August 1pm – 4pm Gilgandra Services Club
Forbes Tuesday 19 August 10am – 1pm Forbes Services Memorial Club
Griffith Thursday 21 August 9am – 12pm (Venue TBA)
Goulburn Friday 22 August 9am – 12pm Goulburn Workers Club

For more information click [here](#).

NLIS campaign

Over the next four weeks, the NSW Department of Primary Industries is rolling out a National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) property to property transfer public awareness campaign with a television commercial airing in July, newspaper articles, saleyard posters, case studies, inclusions in the Rural Lands Protection Boards (RLPB) newsletters and materials being distributed to agricultural colleges.

As well as reminding people to complete their property to property transfers, the campaign is encouraging producers to look at expanding NLIS in their business. With the aid of NLIS technology and computer software, producers can integrate NLIS as

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management tool.

For further information on the benefits of NLIS or creating an NLIS management system, click [here](#) or contact NSW DPI on 1300 720 405.

Annual Conference celebrates 30 years

The 30 Year Anniversary Annual Conference this month will have a number of highlights including the announcement of Farmer and Young Farmer of the Year, Mackellar Media Awards, the Young Farmers Forum and Regional Food Fair. Over 400 delegates will represent farmers from across the state and form the direction of the Association for the coming twelve month period.

The NSW Farmers' Association Annual Conference will be held from 29-31 July at Sydney Showground, Homebush.

Dinner celebrating horticulture

The NSW Farmers' Association is inviting all interested producers to come along to the 2008 NSW Horticulture Industries Dinner at the end of this month.

The NSW Horticulture Industries 2008 Dinner will be held on Saturday 26 July, 2008. The Association expecting over 400 guests to come along Dockside, Darling Harbour to celebrate the Horticulture industry.

For bookings and enquiries contact NSW Farmers' Association Regional Service Manager Frances Vella, 0428 228 818. The ticket price also includes return bus trips from Theresa Park, Leppington, Wilberforce, and Windsor.

To read more click [here](#).

Horticulture Survey deadline extended

The NSW Farmers' Association Horticulture Committee is asking for your help as they investigate publishing farm gate prices on the internet, with the aim of creating greater market transparency by showing actual farm gate prices received by horticulture producers.

The Association has created an online survey for Members to fill out while the proposal is being discussed.

The deadline has been extended for the survey until 22 July 2008. So if you haven't completed the survey and wish to help shape the outcome of this investigation please click [here](#).

Celebration of State's finest

Following the success of the inaugural Regional Food Fair in 2007, the NSW Farmers' Association will once again feature our state's farmers as their raw product is shaped into contemporary gourmet delights served up for 450 guests. This year we will feature 15 different dishes each served alongside the details of the suppliers of the produce.

If you think you are producing the best veal, limes or oysters in NSW you can register you details or see a full list of produce requirements by contacting the Member Service Centre on 1300 794 000 or emailing ac@nswfarmers.org.au

Training

Course	Location	Date
Chemical Card- Initial & Refresher Accreditation	Warren – funded	24/07/2008
	Deepwater	01/08/2008
	Glenorie	12/08/2008
	Narromine – funded	14/08/2008
	Parkes - funded	21/08/2008
Chemical Card Refresher	Mudgee Field Days	18/07/2008
	Online 1pm – 4pm	21/07/2008

	Online 9am to 12pm Ag Quip, Gunnedah	07/08/2008 20/08/2008
First Aid	Grenfell	24/07/2008

For bookings: please contact Robyn or Kathy on 02 6884 8822, or at 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

18 July 3.30pm @ Narrabri Bowling Club: Narrabri DC & Branch meeting. Contact Alicia Wilson 0427 437 103.

23 July 10.30am – 12.30pm @ Post Office Hotel, Moree: Regional Electeds Meeting (TBC). Contact Alicia Wilson 0427 437 103. Cost: Small contribution towards lunch

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

Region 2 – New England

25 July Friday 10.00 am – 1.00pm @ The New England Club Glen Innes: A Women's gathering. The gathering will be an opportunity to meet with other women, learn some new skills (relaxation techniques/yoga) as well as:- learn more about Drought Support Worker Program Rural Financial Counsellor Program, Rural Mental Health Programs as well as YWCA NSW Wellbeing Programs and what they can offer. A FREE lunch will be provided. There is no cost but it is asked that you RSVP for catering purposes by phoning Jenny Croft on 0429 446 417 Genevieve Marchiori 02 67852914 or Mary Hollingworth on 67345254

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

Region 3 – Central and North West

16 -18 July Wed-Fri 8.00am to late @ Griffith (Bus from Dubbo): Innovation Generation 18-35yrs. Contact GGA – Georgie 1800 620 519. Rego by 30 Jun. \$295 for 4 nights.

24 July Thursday 5-8pm @ Tooraweenah Tennis Club: "Looking Forward". Contact Robyn 6884 8822. Cost: \$5.00

31 July Thursday 5-8pm @ Gulargambone 2828 Blding: "Looking Forward". Contact Robyn 6884 8822. Cost: \$5.00

7 Aug Thursday 5-8pm: Trangie Bowling Club: "Looking Forward". Contact Robyn 6884 8822. Cost: \$5.00

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

Region 6 – Central West Tablelands

12 July Saturday @ Bathurst: Drought Concert

18 - 19 July Friday – Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm @ Mudgee Field Day. Contact Graham Blatch 0427411220

22 July Tuesday 9.00 pm @ Canowindra: Chemical Course. Contact Robin Diamond

28 July 10am @ Homebush: Horticulture Conference. Contact Claire Hull 1300794000

29 July @ Homebush: Annual Conference. Contact Graham Blatch 0427411220

30 July 9.00am @ Homebush: Egg Conference. Contact Sarah Kelly 1300794000

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

Region 7 – Sydney Basin

15 July Tuesday 7.00 @ Beresfield Bowling Club: Hunter/Newcastle Poultry meat branch and AGM. Contact Gary Ekert (pres) 0249 831 572 or Peter Cashman (PMM)

0428 882 178

22 July Tuesday 10am @ Bull'n Bush Hotel, Port Stephens: Oyster AGM. Contact Richard Widows on 82511 808. Lunch and snacks at attendees cost.

26 July Saturday 6.30pm – midnight @ Dockside, Darling Harbour: 2008 Horticultural Industries Dinner. Enquiries to Regional Service Manager Frances Vella on 0428 228 818. Cost: \$75 inclusive.

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

Region 9 – Southern Murrumbidgee

16-19 July 9-6pm @ Griffith Ex Servicemans Club: Innovation Generation Conference. Contact: GCA. Cost: \$295.

17 July @ Corowa: Chem Card Course. Contact NSWFA Training Dept on 68448822

25 July @ Barellan: James Blundell Bush Concert FFG

26 July @ Jerilderie: James Blundell Bush Concert FFG

For more information on Region 10 events contact Regional Services Manager Ben Poynter on 0427773584

Region 10 – Southern Central

15 July 6.30pm @ Jindera: Albury DC. Contact: Maragaret Pierce

17 July 7.30pm @ Lockhart Ex Services Club: Lockhart DC AGM. Bill McDonnell

Region 11 – Southern Tablelands, Monaro & South Coast

15 July Tuesday 2pm - 7pm @ Goulburn Workers Club: WorkCover Managing for Safety Workshop - Attend this workshop and be eligible for a rebate from WorkCover for a "safety solution" you put in place at your workplace. Come and find out more! Tea/coffee on arrival, afternoon tea at 3.30pm and a light snack at 5.30pm. FREE. Contact Jill Dyson on Ph 4872 4884, Mob 0419 617 021 Fax 4982 4883 Email jill.dyson@bigpond.com by Tues 8 July 2008.

19 July Saturday 9.30am – 3.00pm @ Towrang Community Hall, Towrang: Rural Safety Day. Contact Helen Ward on 48286752 or fax Jill Dyson on 48724883

2 August Saturday @ South Coast: Property Management Planning Course DPI - Maryke Archbold-Hession Ph 0246 406333, Mob 0408 492 039 or email:

maryke.hession@dpi.nsw.gov.au

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

Region 12 – Western Division

19 July Saturday 11:00am @ Engonnia: Engonnia Races

9 August Saturday 11:00am @ Louth: Louth Races

6 – 7 August 8:00am @ White Cliffs: White Cliffs Landcare Forum. Contact Pip Stalley 02 6872 2144

30 - 31 July 9:00am @ Homebush Olympic Park: Young Farmers Forum. Contact Dougall Roberts 0428411221

For information on any events in Region 13, contact Dougall Roberts on 0428411221

Region 13 – North Coast

17 July Thursday 7.00pm @ Wingham Golf Club, Wingham: Wingham branch meeting. Contact: Deborah Willis 02 65567216.

19 July Saturday 8.45am @ Blue Knob Road, Nimbin: Farm Forestry Field day David Cameron 02 66213634.

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