

Online Newsletter

11 March 2008

Member Service Centre 1300 794 000



online@nswfarmers.org.au

Broadband commitment firms guarantee

The NSW Farmers' Association has labeled the Federal Government commitment to continue funding the Australian Broadband Guarantee program a great win for regional NSW.

The Australian Broadband Guarantee (ABG) aims to ensure affordable metro-comparable broadband internet services are available to all Australians.

For more info head to the Associations briefing note [here](#).

Meanwhile...in other telecommunications news

The Association has provided further feedback to the National Farmers Federation ('NFF') regarding some ongoing concerns Members continue to hold with the Next G network.

NFF will include this feedback in its submission to the Federal Government this week.

NSW Pork 2008 Conference – 2 April

The future of the local pork industry post Productivity Commission will be the focus of the 2008 NSW Pork Conference in Dubbo.

The challenges created by imported pig meat are causing enormous stress on the local industry, and producers are anxious to ensure their future is secured.

The Conference will include a free grain management workshop prior to the AGM, with a focus on grain markets and forward buying. Guest speakers include NSW Farmers' Association President Jock Laurie, Australian Pork Limited CEO Andrew Spencer and Pork CRC CEO Roger Campbell. A produce dinner will be held after the meeting. To register contact the Member Service Centre on 1300 794 000. Click [here](#) for more details.

Future Farming on the North Coast – Friday 4 April.

The NSW Farmers' Association is inviting all north coast farmers to attend an exciting Convention that will focus on the future of farming in our region.

The 'Looking Forward to Farming on the North Coast' forum will be held in Coffs Harbour on April 4 and features headline topics such as farming for climate change, biological farming, land use planning and alternative wealth creation.

Contact North Coast Regional Service Manager Michael Burt on 0428 228 988.

Grain Meeting at Condobolin

The NSW Farmers' Association is urging growers to attend a grains forum in Condobolin next week, being held to discuss the major issues affecting the grains industry, such as wheat marketing, research and development and the future of the grains industry.

Guest speakers will include NSW Farmers' Association Grains Committee Chair John Ridley, AWB's Lachlan Benson, Keith Perritt of the GRDC and Graham Blight from WEMA.

The grains forum will be held at the Condobolin Agricultural Research and Advisory Station (Trundle Road) from 9am – 5pm on Wednesday 26 March, 2008

Farmer of the Year

Members are being encouraged to consider entering this year's Farmer and Young Farmer of the Year Awards, announced last week by NSW Farmers' Association President Jock Laurie and Minister for Primary Industries, Ian Macdonald.

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

Flood Grant deadline

Farmers affected by the floods in the Central West and Northern NSW must be aware that the deadline for grant applications close on the 31 March.

The grants are available for clean-up and immediate restoration costs including costs associated with damage to farm buildings, crops, livestock, fences equipment and other infrastructure, and are not intended to cover loss of business income, or to replace insurance. For more information, click [here](#).

Beef Spectacular Success

The Association was a sponsor of the recent Beef Spectacular in Dubbo, which saw attendance numbers double on last year's event.

The Association shared a stand with Cattle Council of Australia, ensuring a strong presence amongst the many producers across the region who attended to see over 700 cattle and trade exhibitors.

The Minister for Primary Industries, the Hon. Ian Macdonald MLC, has announced that Beef Spectacular will be held once again in 2009.

Wheat Industry Expert Group Discussion Paper

Last week, the Wheat Industry Expert Group ('IEG') released its discussion paper which outlines the future funding and delivery of industry development functions under the Australian Government's proposed wheat marketing reforms.

Industry functions include research and development, variety classification, receival standards, promotion and trade advocacy. A copy of the discussion paper is available here www.daff.gov.au/agriculture-food/wheat-sugar-crops/wheatmarketing/wheat_industry_expert_group/discussion_paper

Submissions to the discussion paper close on 27 March 2008 and the IEG must report to the Minister by 24 April 2008. The Association will be making a submission in response to the discussion paper.

Region 1 – North West

20 March, Walgett – Chemical Card training, call the Training Department for further details

26 March, Moree – Succession Planning Workshop, call the Training Department for further details

27 March, Goondiwindi – Chemical Card training, call the Training Department for further details

28 March, Inverell – 8.30am – 4pm, Inverell Town Hall – Climate Change Forum

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

Region 2 – New England

21 March – Inverell - Climate Change Forum and Expo Ph 67211241

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

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

Region 3 – Central and Northwest

17 March – Online – Chemical Card – 1.00-4.00pm Contact Robyn 6884 8822
28 March – Warren – Saltbush Establishment & Management – Merryanbone North- Members free, 6845 1044
1 April – Dubbo – Chemical Card – Initial 8.30-4.00pm Refresher 1.30-4.30pm Free – Contact Robyn 6884 8822
8 April – Coonabarabran – Chemical Card – Initial 8.30-4.30 Refresher 1.30-4.30, member discount. Contact Robyn 6884 8822
15 April – Coonabarabran – Stipa / Water Supply Planning – Contact Angela 6845 1044

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

Region 6 – Central West Tablelands

27 March – Blayney - Chemical Card.

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

Region 7 – Sydney Basin

19 March – Beresfield - Bowling Club, Hunter Contract Poultry Meat Branch Meeting, 7pm start. PH: Gary Ekert 0428 689 656
25 March – Maitland, Chemical Card Training PH: 6884 8822

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

Region 8 – Lower Central, West & Slopes

25 March - Forbes – Sam Bailey Dinner and Inspirational talk – Forbes Inn. Tickets \$30. Ring 02 68519500
31 March - Orange –Vertebrate Pest Management Course at Orange Agricultural Institute –Forrest Road. Ring 02 63913800
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

20 March – Griffith - DC AGM – Ex Services Club Griffith Contact Roy Stacy
3 April - Bunnaloo - Branch Meeting and AGM –Bunaloo Rec Complex Contact Kevin Barnes
28 March – Ardlethan - DC Farm Family Gathering – Beckom Park 7pm Contact K Maslin 69783810

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

Region 10 - Southern Central

28 March – Wagga RLPB field day, Wagga Wagga

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
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Region 12 – Western Division

10 April - Region 12 Convention at Homebush. "Farming for the Future on the North Coast" with a range of
guest speakers. (Contact Dougall Roberts For more Information)

12 April - Bourke Show

26-27 April - White Cliffs Gymkhana

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