



January 2012

## Dear Member

Happy New Year and welcome to 2012: the Australian Year of the Farmer. I look forward to working with you and assisting you in your business.

Please find following an update and feel free to contact me should you require further information.

### **Fair Work Act and Modern Award Reviews: Surveys**

The National Farmers Federation will be making submissions to both the Fair Work Act and the Modern Award Reviews in 2012, and to assist in the development of these submissions, the NFF has developed surveys to seek the input of farm employers about the impact of the Act and the Award on their businesses. These surveys will assist with gathering evidence in order to seek changes to the Award and the Act that will benefit agriculture, ensuring increased flexibility of workplace relations arrangements. The surveys can be accessed here: [www.nff.org.au/review](http://www.nff.org.au/review).

### **Carbon Farming Initiative**

The Carbon Farming Initiative is now operational, allowing land managers, farmers and landfill operators to participate in carbon markets. Regulations to enable the operation of the Australian National Registry of Emissions Units (the Registry), recognition of offsets entities, approval of projects, transition of existing projects from Greenhouse Friendly and the Greenhouse Gas Abatement Scheme (GGAS) and the assessment of methodologies also come into effect the same day. Information to assist potential participants will be available on the CFI website, including information about how to join the scheme, manage a project and apply for Australian carbon credit units. Visit [www.climatechange.gov.au/cfi](http://www.climatechange.gov.au/cfi).

### **Coal Seam Gas**

Of interest, our Policy Director, Brianna Casey, made an appearance on Channel Ten news. It can be viewed at:

<http://bit.ly/zkFjgy>.

ABC's website, CSG by numbers, shows figures about water usage and waste from CSG, as well as a mapping tool to find wells and leases by postcode or town. There is also a basic graphic to explain the extraction process. It can be viewed at <http://www.abc.net.au/news/specials/coal-seam-gas-by-the-numbers/>

### **Q Fever**

Despite the low number of cases of Q fever currently reported in the state, there have been recent occurrences in dairying regions. These are a timely reminder for farmers to get themselves tested and if required, immunised. In this regard, any general practitioner can do the testing and vaccination, or at least direct you to a GP that can.

For more information go to the site: <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/factsheets/infectious/qfever.html> or the Australian Q Fever Registry <http://www.qfever.org/vaclist.php>

### **Vegetable Industry's Strategic Investment Plan White Paper**

The vegetable industry's Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) White Paper which aims to guide \$60 million of R&D expenditure over the next five years, is now available for comment by all industry members, supply chain (including researchers), retailers and the public. Comment regarding the SIP White Paper should be lodged in writing. For further information, contact [info@ausveg.com.au](mailto:info@ausveg.com.au)

**Growing Leaders – National Vegetable Industry Leadership Program** is currently seeking nominations. If you know of anyone who may be interested, please ask them to contact Jill Briggs – Managing Director Rural Training Initiatives on 0260357284; 0409455710 or [jill@ruraltraininginitiatives.com.au](mailto:jill@ruraltraininginitiatives.com.au)

## NSW Farmers Tertiary Scholarships

Applications close on 10 Feb. Visit: [http://www.nswfarmers.org.au/benefits\\_services/tertiary\\_scholarships/](http://www.nswfarmers.org.au/benefits_services/tertiary_scholarships/).

### Law and the Future of Food Conference,

9am-4pm, Friday 30 March 2012, National Library of Australia, Canberra. Cost: Free. Speakers include:

**Dr Nick Austin**, Chief Executive Officer, Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR)

**Dr Paul Smith**, Head of the Seed Conservation Department at Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and Head of the Millennium Seed Bank

**Prof Robert Henry**, Director, Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation (QAAFI), The University of Queensland

**Prof Brad Sherman**, Director, Australian Centre for Intellectual Property in Agriculture (ACIPA) and Deputy Head of School (Research), Griffith Law School, Griffith University

**Prof Carlos Correas**, Director of the Centre for interdisciplinary Studies on Industrial Property and Economics Law, University of Buenos Aires

**Kaitlin Y Cordes**, Human Rights Lawyer (New York) and Editor of *Accounting for Hunger - The Right to Food in the Era of Globalisation* (2011)

**RSVP:** Registrations are essential. **Enquiries:** Carol Ballard [c.ballard@griffith.edu.au](mailto:c.ballard@griffith.edu.au) 07 3735 7772

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