



Dear Central Members,

The past months have been busy with a wide range of issues across the region. We are now starting to prepare for field days with Henty and Aust National Field days (Orange) coming up in the next two months. I will also flag with you that planning has started for Region 6 (Oberon) and Region 8 (Young) Regional Conferences in April 2012 (more details in next newsletter).

I hope you all received some welcomed rain recently and more is heading your way...

Kind Regards

Gennie

### Upcoming Meetings and Events

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	EVENT	CONTACT	COST
29 Aug	6pm	Canowindra Taste, Canowindra	Dinner with guest speaker, Fiona Simson NSWFarmers ' President	Gennie Gittoes 0429180560 Frances Anderson 02 68592202	\$30 members \$45 non- members
30 Aug	5pm	Rugby Hotel, Orange	Orange Hort AGM with guest speaker Fiona Simson, NSWFarmers ' President followed by dinner	Gennie Gittoes 0429180560 Peter West 02 63653159	Pay for meal on night
4 Oct	6pm dinner 7.30 meeting	Parkview Hotel. Orange	Orange DC meeting	Reg Kidd 63617061 Gennie Gittoes 0429180560	Free

### Local News

#### **Bushfire season approaching**

The Association meets monthly with DPI to update current situation on bushfire fuel build up across the state and the suggested message is *get active now while one can to reduce fuel loads coming into spring /summer.*

RFS Bushfire Coordinating Committee met at Cobar. It was agreed that the heavy fuel loads were of major concern. Any rain from now will provide extra fuel levels, however it depends on when & how it falls as to any increased consequences or otherwise of fuel levels.

### Policy Update

#### **Wool bale transport reprieve (POLICY WIN)**

Wool producers will be able to avoid costly fines as a result of the NSW Government's decision to allow wider bales to be transported by road. As of the 21st July Roads Minister Duncan Gay increased the current maximum wool bale width from 2.5 meters to 2.7 meters. This common sense outcome means that once loaded wool bales should not exceed the width unlike previously. Oversize signs, delineators and flashing lights are needed for loads that exceed the maximum as in the past.

#### **CRM (CSG & Mining)**

NSW Farmers President Fiona Simson and Senior Policy Manager Brianna Casey attended the National Farmers' Federation (NFF) Mining and Coal Seam Gas meeting held in Canberra Monday 15 August 2011. The meeting was well-timed given the media-storm that erupted following Opposition Leader Tony Abbott's comments the Friday prior regarding the need for farmers to have a right of veto, and his view that prime agricultural land be protected from mining and coal seam gas (CSG) activities. The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss in detail the legislative responsibilities of both the Federal and State/Territory Governments, and to finalise NFF's Mining and CSG policy, which will be presented to NFF Members Council for endorsement in the near future.

### Of Interest

#### **CFI bill passes: On-farm carbon mitigation to be rewarded**

The National Farmers' Federation (NFF) has acknowledged the passage of the Carbon Farming Initiative (CFI) through the Parliament late Tues 22<sup>nd</sup> Aug, enabling farmers to be rewarded for carbon mitigation practices undertaken on-farm.

The NFF has been broadly supportive of the concept and intent of the CFI from the outset as positive recognition of the major role agriculture can play in mitigating carbon emissions through on-farm management.

They long said that voluntary, market based mechanisms, using a carrot rather than a stick approach to carbon abatement, is the best way to

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engage with farmers in this challenge. The CFI fits this description.

The NFF has also been consistent in saying that Australian farmers are under no illusions that the CFI will transform farm income, especially not in the short- to medium-term. However, with a continued focus on productivity-based research and the development of methodologies underpinning abatement projects they hope that the CFI can mature to draw a meaningful contribution to Australia's carbon mitigation effort.

It is positive that the CFI legislation passed late Tues 23rd has addressed a number of the key concerns raised by the NFF, particularly surrounding the potential for shifting regional land use away from agriculture and towards forestation.

This Bill has undergone extensive debate and scrutiny and for this reason we feel confident that many of the potential pitfalls in this relatively new and complex area of carbon abatement have now been ironed out.

However, they will continue to closely monitor outcomes under the CFI to ensure that no unintended consequences emerge in regional Australia to the detriment of our farmers.

It is now vital that the Government intensifies its education process to ensure that farmers who decide to engage with the CFI do so with complete and unbiased information about the responsibilities that comes with the program

#### **Annual Conference held 19-21 July**

Annual Conference was a busy week and the Central region was well represented by your delegates. I have attached a copy of outcomes all the motions from this Region and you can get more detail of other motions on the website([www.nswfarmers.org.au](http://www.nswfarmers.org.au)). The elections saw a new President, Fiona Simpson and few other new faces (see full list of Board and EC's attached). From this Region, congratulations to those successfully elected to the Board and Executive Council (EC). I have also attached a copy of all the Advisory Committees.

NSW Farmers Board	Vice President – <b>Peter Darley</b> (Orange); Directors- <b>Peter Carter</b> (Wellington) & <b>David Clarke</b> (Rylstone)
Region 6	EC's- <b>Graham Brown, Reg Kidd, David Clarke &amp; Peter Carter</b> ; Region Chair- <b>John Little</b>
Region 8	EC's- <b>Wayne McKay</b> ; Region Chair- <b>Chris Groves</b>

#### **Beyondblue – Supporting Communities affected by Disasters**

Beyondblue is working with communities affected by disaster to provide free Community Support Training on mental health and wellbeing. Community leaders, local business owners and other interested community members are invited to take part. They are running Community training workshops across the Region. They are free and each have a limit of 25 places. If you are interested please Ph Di Gill 0427460430.

13 Sept-Parkes Shire Office 1.30-4.30pm

14 Sept- Orange, Ex services club, Anson St 6.30-9.30pm

15 Sept-Rylstone Club 1-4pm

15 Sept-Mudgee, CWA rooms 1-4pm

There will also be ones held in Canowindra and Grenfell

#### **Young Farmer and Student**

##### **Cattle Council's Rising Champions Initiative APPLY NOW - APPLICATIONS CLOSE 31 AUGUST**

An all-expenses paid beef tour to Denver, Colorado, USA is up for grabs!

Do you want to 'get involved' in the Australian beef industry? Do you want to meet like-minded young people committed to the Australian beef industry to share ideas, create networks and contribute positively to our industry at the state, national and international level?

If so, Cattle Council Rising Champions Initiative may be the gateway to your involvement in the Australian beef industry you've been waiting for!

The Cattle Council Rising Champions Initiative, is designed and coordinated by Cattle Council of Australia with the support of NAB Agribusiness, Rural Press Limited and is supported by funding from the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry under Australia's Farming Future. The Initiative aims to inspire, empower and support young people, who are passionate about the Australian beef industry, to harness the opportunities and address the challenges arising in our industry now and into the future.

Those who want to create networks among beef industry leaders and between the ages of 21 and 35 passionate about cutting positive tracks for Australia's cattlemen and women can apply for Cattle Council Rising Champions Initiative. Matched with a mentor, who is also a beef producer on Cattle Council, candidates will travel to Longreach in November 2011 to share their views through a personal project on the 'real-life' beef industry challenges and participate in field tours and leadership days. The 2012 NAB Agribusiness Rising Beef Industry Champion will win an all-expenses paid beef tour and attend the Livestock Congress in Denver, Colorado, USA, aligned with the National Western Stock Show.

Applications close 31 August. Visit [www.cattlecouncil.com.au/risingchampions](http://www.cattlecouncil.com.au/risingchampions) to apply!

Also visit the CCA Rising Champion Initiative YouTube site: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lz-qh9XV3Ag>

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