

18 October 2007

Member Service Centre 1300 794 000

online@nswfarmers.org.au

Federal Election campaign

The NSW Farmers' Association has been working with the National Farmers Federation to ensure that our priority federal issues are brought to the forefront of campaigning in the lead up to the Federal Election on 24 November.

The Association will continue to lobby the major parties and independents to ensure that their positions on key issues for farmers and NSW rural communities are consistent with the policies of the Association and the NFF.

To view the NFF's 2007 Federal Election Policy Platform head to www.nswfarmers.org.au

ALP policy ignores growers

The NSW Farmers' Association says it's greatly disappointed that the Australian Labor Party is supporting the removal of the Single Desk for wheat export marketing despite previous statements to the contrary.

President Jock Laurie says that the overwhelming majority of growers support one exporter selling Australian wheat, not multiple exporters as Labor espouses.

Banks and farmers look at drought long-term

State farming organisations welcome the Australian Bankers' Association's (ABA) commitment to take a long term perspective of the agricultural sector, following a meeting with the ABA this week regarding the current drought-related debt levels and forward grain contracts.

The ABA encourages growers to contact their bank if they are concerned about their financial position or they have entered into hedging arrangements with other financial service providers or grain merchants.

Executive Council this month

Farming representatives will converge on Sydney this month to debate the biggest issues facing farmers and rural communities at the NSW Farmers' Association's Executive Council, to be held from Tuesday 30 – Wednesday 31 October.

Spring dry sends drought figures up

Low rainfall in September has pushed the State's drought figures back up to almost 80%, with just 9.3% of NSW satisfactory from a climatic perspective.

Head Office official opening today

Deputy Prime Minister Mark Vaile will officially open the NSW Farmers' Association's new premises today, Thursday 18 October, in a small ceremony with invited guests from industry, State Parliament, the media and business partners.

The new office is at Level 25, 66 Goulburn Street, Sydney.

June farmers to host Single Desk update

The NSW Farmers' Association's Junee District Council is encouraging the region's wheat growers to attend an information meeting in Junee next Wednesday regarding the new Single Desk for export wheat due to commence in March 2008.

Wheat Export Marketing Alliance (WEMA) Chair Graham Blight will be the keynote speaker and NSW Farmers' Association's Grains Committee Chair John Ridley will give an update on the Committee's current activities and concerns.

The meeting will be held on 24 October at the Junee Ex-Services Memorial Club, starting at 7.30pm. For more information contact Ralph Billing on 02 6927 5171.

Narromine drought information meeting

The Narromine Branch is hosting a relaxed drought information session next Tuesday 23 October for all farmers in the region.

Guest speakers will cover a range of topics including what assistance farmers are eligible for, a banking perspective on farm viability, issues surrounding hedging of crops, and rainfall data collected over 100 years in the Narromine district.

The session will be held at the Narromine Golf Club from 12-2:30pm and includes lunch. A game of golf will follow. Please RSVP by Friday 19 October for catering purposes. Contact James Hamilton on 02 6889 0151.

Free workplace relations workshop in Albury next week

Farmers in the Albury region are urged to attend free a workplace relations workshop on dismissals next Thursday 25 October.

The workshop is specially designed to help farmers understand Australia's workplace relations system, and in particular dismissals. The workshop will be held at the Albury Convention Centre in Swift Street from 1-4pm. Please RSVP to the Member Service Centre on 1300 794 000.

Call for submissions on show-related red-tape

The Association is seeking feedback from members whose local show or community organisation is having trouble surviving as a result of onerous regulations such as security costs, public liability insurance or liquor licensing costs.

Feedback will assist with the Association's lobbying efforts to call for a review of these regulations that are hurting rural organisations and events.

Please submit a response in writing to Luke Jerdan at jerdanl@nswfarmers.org.au

Nominations open for the 18th McKell Medal

Farmers are encouraged to nominate for the 2007 McKell Medal, Australia's highest award for individual excellence and achievement in natural resource management.

Sponsored by Australian and State government agricultural agencies, the McKell Medal is awarded to individuals or partnerships. Winners receive a commemorative medal and funding to undertake public speaking engagements to promote their work and sustainable management practices.

For information on how to nominate yourself or another farmer, head to www.daff.gov.au/natural-resources/landcare/mckell

Free music camps for kids in drought affected areas

The Musicians Making a Difference team invites young people who live in drought affected areas of NSW to apply to take part in free urban music camps and workshops between 22 October and 2 November.

The workshops will be held in Batemans Bay, Wagga Wagga and Lake Burrendong (near Wellington), and are open to young people aged 14-17 who would like to develop their skills and confidence to potentially break into the music industry.

Email info@mmadprojects.com or phone 02 4322 5350 for an application form.

Association training courses

For information about training, dates and locations, please email training@nswfarmers.org.au. Please note that registration in Chemical Card or Senior First Aid is required 7 days prior to the workshop date to allow for delivery of home study materials.

Upcoming Region Specific Meetings & Events

Region 1- North West

18 Oct - Bellata - Region Electeds meeting (details to be confirmed)

19 Oct - Warialda - Grain & Graze Field Day at McMaster Research Station

Contact RSM Alicia Wilson for more information on 6766 9946.

Region 2 – New England

Contact RSM Gennie Gittoes for more information on 6766 9949.

Region 3 – Central and North West

23 Oct – Narromine - Drought information session hosted by Narromine Branch at the Golf Club, 12-2:30pm. Speakers include Fran Rowe - Rural Financial Counsellor, Paul Griffin- bank representative, Sam Ward - AWB Ltd and Matt Ward- agronomist. Phone James Hamilton on 6889 0151 for more information.

29 Oct - Coonabarabran- Chemical Card – Initial & Refresher

1 Nov - Mendooran- Chemical Card – Initial & Refresher

1 Nov - Narromine- DPI-Con.Farming (Extension day) – contact Ray Pratt 6845 4438

For more information contact Rick Bremner on 6845 3842

Region 4 – Lower New England and Liverpool Plains

30 Oct – Tamworth - Biological soils series. On the agenda is biological agriculture, carbon credits, improving soil structure and life in the soil. Tamworth Community Centre from 9am, and later in the field. Contact Col Easton on 6764 5940 for bookings or more information.

31 Oct – Kelvin Hall (near Gunnedah) - Biological soils series, agenda above. Starts 9am.

1 Nov – Gunnedah – Public Forum on Depression at the Rugby Club. Professor Chris Tennant, Hon. Prof of the University of Sydney and John Konrads, Olympic Gold Medalist will contribute to the forum. Free BBQ starts 6pm; forum begins 8pm.

For more information contact Darren Greentree on 0427 411 214

Region 6 – Central West Tablelands

For more information contact Graham Blatch on 6366 9104.

Region 7 – Sydney Basin

1-2 Nov – Camden, Dairy Symposium. Contact Angus Gidley Baird on 1300 794 000

9-10 Nov – Clarendon, Small Farm Expo. Contact Member Service Centre 1300 794 000.

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

Region 8 – Lower Central West and Slopes

16-18 Oct - Orange - Australian National Field Days

23 Oct - Cootamundra - Succession Planning workshop

For more information on any events in Region 8 contact RSM Geoff Knight on 6369 1701

Region 9 – Southern Murrumbidgee

18 Oct - Jerilderie First Aid Course

19 Oct- Griffith - First Aid Training Exies Club 9am

24 Oct- Deniliquin - IR Seminar

1 Nov- Association President Jock Laurie to visit Griffith DC

Berrigan Chem – Cancelled

For more information on any events in Region 9 contact Ben Poynter on 6962 9926

Region 10 - Southern Central

18 Oct – Tumbarumba, Mental Health Gathering RSVP: Wendy Jennings 6938 1987

19 Oct – Albury, Understanding Farm Financial Statements, 8.30am – 12.30pm

RSVP: Robyn 6884 8822

24 Oct – Junee DC meeting & WEMA information forum, Graham Blight as guest speaker, Junee Ex-Services Club, Enquiries Ralph Billing 6927 5171

25 Oct – Wagga, Meeting for Bankers/Accountants about drought relief for clients

RSVP: Wendy Jennings 6938 1987

25 Oct – Wagga Wagga District Council Meeting Postponed. A new meeting date will be announced soon.

25 Oct – Albury, NSW Farmers Association IR Seminar, RSVP essential, Justin Crosby 02 8251 1700

For information on any events in Region 10 contact RSM Deb Charlton on 6922 9297.

Region 11 – Southern Tablelands, Monaro, South Coast

25 Oct – Goulbourn - MLA More Beef from Pastures Regional Expo - NSWFA Will have a display at this Expo

26 Oct- Nowra - Free Workcover 'Managing for Safety' workshop, 9.30am-2pm

29 Oct- Moruya - Free Workcover 'Serious about Safety' workshop, 3.00pm-6.00pm

3 Nov- Windellama Small Farms Field Day

7 Nov- Ulladulla - Free Workcover 'Serious about Safety' workshop, 9.30am-12.00pm

19 Nov- Bega - Free Workcover 'Managing for Safety' workshop, 9.30am-2.00pm

30 Nov- Queanbeyan - Free Workcover 'Managing For Safety', 9.30am-2.00pm

For more information visit the Region 11 Webpage or contact Liz Young on 6453 7111.

Region 12- Western Division

27 Oct - Mini Field Day at Oxley Station. 10am Start. For more information call Andrew McFarland on 03 5744 3782.

2 Nov- Balranald Branch Meeting - Hatfield Hall. Meeting will include a wool/meat session with guest speakers discussing sheep genetics, mulesing and ram breeding. A meat buyer will also explain what buyers want. Tea to follow. All welcome. Contact Joy Harris 03 5020 6887.

For more information contact Regional Service Manager Dougall Roberts on 0428 411 221.

Region 13 – North Coast

25 Oct- Region 13 meeting - Coffs Harbour RSL Club, 10.00am start, with President Jock Laurie and Chief Executive Shaughn Morgan as Guests.

3 Nov – Casino - Free Farmers Night Out, Casino RSM Club, 6.30pm start.

20 Nov – Casino - Free Financial Skills Workshops for young farmers, 8.30am start, Please contact Robyn at NSWFA training on 68848822

21 Nov – Grafton - Free Financial and Business Skills Training for young farmers, 8.30am start, Please contact Robyn at NSWFA training on 68848822

22 Nov – Wauchope - Free Financial Skills Workshops for young farmers, 8.30am start, Please contact Robyn at NSWFA training on 68848822

For information on any events in Region 13 contact RSM Michael Burt on 6564 2355
