

Online Newsletter

26 March 2008



Member Service Centre 1300 794 000

online@nswfarmers.org.au

Flood Grant deadline next week

Farmers affected by the floods in the Central West and Northern NSW only have one week left to apply for the State Government \$5000 flood grant.

The deadline is next Monday 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](#).

Drought Figures

Recent drought figures have indicated that areas officially 'in drought' are down to 40%.

Announced by Primary Industries Minister Ian Macdonald, a further 16% of the State is classified as 'marginal' (down from 21%), with 43.7% of the State classified as 'satisfactory' (up from 32.9%). To see the most recent drought maps, go to the Department of Primary Industries website here <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/emergency/drought/situation/drought-maps>

Your PNF PVP privacy

The NSW Farmers' Association is alerting farmers that the Association has received information that the Environmental Defenders Office ('EDO') is seeking access under the Freedom of Information Act to private information contained within the PNF PVP's for around 16 NSW properties. The Association considers this information to be 'private'.

The Association is recommending that farmers respond urgently if they have any concerns about the details of their PVP and forestry activities being released.

To assist in preventing your details being released, you must immediately contact the Department of Environment and Climate Change to object to the release of your details to another party. If you don't do this, your details will be released.

Contact DECC Head Office on (02) 9995 5000

Meeting with NSW Treasurer, the Hon Michael Costa MLC

The proposed electricity privatisation, the Association's State Budget submission, drought support and the grain rail network were some of the issues on the agenda at a meeting between NSW Farmers' Association President Jock Laurie and NSW Treasurer, the Hon Michael Costa MLC

The Association will be writing to the Treasurer shortly to formally advise of the resolution regarding electricity privatisation which was passed at the Parkes Executive Council meeting.

Water Buy Back - Murray Darling Basin

The Association has received queries from Members regarding a recent statement from the NSW Shadow Minister for Water, Adrian Piccoli MP, regarding his support for the compulsory acquisition of water.

The wording in the media release was the result of an error within Mr Piccoli's office. The media release has now been revised and it states that the National Party is firmly against compulsory acquisition. The current media release is available at www.adrianpiccoli.com/mediareleases.html

Meeting with Federal Minister for Agriculture – Quarantine Review

The Association has raised concerns with the Federal Government regarding the Quarantine Review being conducted by Roger Beal, following a meeting with Agriculture Minister Tony Burke.

At a meeting with Mr Burke and Professor Malcolm Nairn, NSW Farmers' Association Exotic Disease, Quarantine, Plant and Animal Health Committee Chairman Peter Carter raised concerns about the timeframe for completion of the inquiry, the need to remove the Department from the review and the need to provide "in camera" sessions for those giving evidence.

The Minister has indicated that, if requested by the Chairman of the review, Rodger Beal, the Minister would consider granting an extension as well the Minister agreed with the suggestions to facilitate the collection of evidence.

NSW Pork 2008 Conference – Next week

The future of the local pork industry post Productivity Commission will be the focus of the 2008 NSW Pork Conference in Dubbo on Wednesday 2 April.

To register contact the Member Service Centre on 1300 794 000. Click [here](#) for more details.

Don't miss out - Farming Convention on the North Coast

Members are being urged to book their spot for the North Coast Region 13 Convention and Buffet Dinner, which features Guest Speaker MLA's Dr Beverley Henry next week in Coffs Harbour.

Dr Beverley will address industry response to climate change and carbon trading.

The "The Future of farming on the North Coast" forum will be held in Coffs Harbour on April 4. Contact North Coast Regional Service Manager Michael Burt on 0428 228 988.

Region 12 Convention – Homebush

Members in the Western Division are being invited to attend the upcoming Region 12 Convention at the Homebush Hotel on Thursday 10 April.

Just for the record - the event is being held at Homebush in the Western Division, not its namesake in Sydney.

For more information, contact Dougall Roberts on 0428 411 221.

Farmer of the Year

Members are being encouraged to consider entering this year's Farmer and Young Farmer of the Year Awards. For full criteria and an entry form, click [here](#).

Farm Post – Letters to the Editor

Members are being urged to submit their "Letters to the Editor", with production of the next edition of The Farm Post to get underway next week.

If you have an issue you want to raise, write a letter to Amanda Barwick barwicka@nswfarmers.org.au

Region 1 – North West

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

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

21 April –Walcha - AGM Council Chambers 7.30pm WFI & Prime Super as guests

22 April – Uralla Dinner (free for members) and AGM. Jock Laurie as guest speaker. 6:30 Whyworry winery Kingstown Rd. RSVP essential for dinner

28 April – Deepwater - Top Pub 7pm Branch and Tenterfield DC AGM

29 April – Glen Innes - DC AGM 7.30pm New England Club

30 April – Guyra - DC AGM 7.30pm Rafters Restaurant

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

Region 3 – Central and Northwest

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

2 April – Dubbo – Pork AGM – RSL Club Resort, 1.00 Grain workshop Jacaranda Room, 4.00pm NSW Pork AGM, Producer Dinner 6.00 for 7.00pm Contact MSC 1300 794 000

8 April – Coonabarabran – Chemical Card – Initial 8.30-4.30 Refresher 1.30-4.30, member discount. Contact Robyn 6884 8822

9 April – Tullamore – Branch meeting. Telstra and Police speakers. 7.30pm Bowling Club

15 April – Coonabarabran – Stipa / Water Supply Planning – Contact Angela 6845 1044

16 April – Tullamore – DC/Branch - AGM and Annual Conf. motions 7.30pm Bowling Club

20 April – Nyngan – Quick Shear Competition & Show – Showground

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

Region 6 – Central West Tablelands

25, 26 & 28 March – Mudgee - Paddock Plant Field Days, ring Jenene 63724700

26 March – Condobolin - Grains Committee Meeting, Condobolin Agricultural Research and Advisory Station (Trundle Road) from 9am – 5pm

26, 27, 28 March - Peak Hill and Parkes - Controlled Traffic Farming Forbes

27 March – Blayney - Chemical Card.

2 April - Dubbo Pork AGM & Dinner

16 April – Cumnock - Living Soils Field Day

16 April - Orange – DC meeting

17 April – Rylstone - Branch meeting

21 April - Dubbo, Junior Farmers Reunion

22 April – Molong – DC meeting

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

Region 7 – Sydney Basin

28 March – Blacktown - Sydney Contract Poultry Meat Branch meeting, Blacktown Workers Club, The Wattle Room, 7.30pm start. PH: Joe Vella 4653 1293

2 April – Central Coast - Contract Poultry Meat Branch meeting, Mangrove Mountain Memorial Club, 7pm start. PH: Lorraine Wilson 4376 1218

10 April – Maroota - Chemical Card Training PH: 6884 8822

17 April – Region 7 Convention

29 April – Central Coast - Horticulture Branch AGM, Mangrove Mountain Memorial Club, 7pm start PH: Michael Champion 4374 1036

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

Region 8 – Lower Central, West & Slopes

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

28 March – Ardlethan - DC Farm Family Gathering – Beckom Park 7pm Contact K Maslin 69783810

3 April - Bunnaloo - Branch Meeting and AGM –Bunaloo Rec Complex Contact Kevin Barnes

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

Region 10 - Southern Central

27 March – Junee - DC Meeting, Junee Ex-Services Club 7.30pm

28 March – Wagga - RLPB field day, Wagga Wagga

24 April – Wagga DC Meeting, Wagga RSL Club 7.30pm

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 411 218

Region 12 – Western Division

29 March - Oxley/Booligal - Branch AGM, Yamba Station Booligal Friday 29th March @ 4pm, followed by a BBQ

10 April - Region 12 Convention at the "Homebush Hotel" near Balranald 10th April. "Western Division Globally Focused" with a range of guest speakers. (Contact Dougall Roberts For more Information)

12 April – Bourke Annual P & A Show

18 April – Balranald -"Homebush Field Day" near Balranald

18 & 19 April - Cobar Annual Show

26-27 April - White Cliffs Gymkhana

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

Region 13 – North Coast

01 Apr- Casino branch meeting, Casino RSM Club, 7.30pm start

02 Apr- Lismore/Alstonville branch AGM, Lismore Workers Club, 7.30pm start

03 Apr- Tabulam branch AGM, Bonalbo Bowling Club, 7.30pm start

04 Apr- Region 13 'Farming for the Future on the North Coast' convention, Coffs Harbour Catholic Club, 8.30am to 5.00pm followed by dinner. More details to come.

10 Apr- Grafton branch AGM, South Grafton Ex-Serviceman's Club, 7.00pm start

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