

## Southern farmers convention tomorrow



By Liz Scarlett - Southern

Farmers from the south of the State are invited to join the NSW Farmers' Association's biennial Region 11 Convention at the National Press Club in Canberra tomorrow.

This event on Friday 25 June 2010 will explore the theme "Young Emerging Leaders with a Strong Connection to our Rural Communities."

NSW Farmers' Association Region 11 Chair Russell Deane says he is excited to have a great line up of inspirational speakers.

"Obviously our emerging young leaders are of interest and importance to everyone, so the strong links to our communities that some of our speakers have is fantastic," Mr Deane says.

Speakers include Mr John Ridley, NSW Farmers' Association Senior Vice President; Dr Michael Bonning, a depression awareness campaigner and a Director of Beyond Blue; Dr Geoff Cary, a leading international bush fire scientist Australian National University; Ms Adriana Downey, a Green Energy pioneer and Biochar researcher; Mr Ben Fargher, CEO National Farmers' Federation; Ms Sarina Locke, Rural and Environment journalist with the ABC and Mr Tim Wilson, Director Intellectual property and free trade unit Institute of Public Affairs.

People are asked to register their interest by calling the Member Service Centre on 1300 794 000 or call Russell Deane, Chair of Region 11 on Ph: 6226 4466.

Registration is from 9am with the convention starting at 10am at the National Press Club, 16 National Circuit, Barton, ACT.

## Fees water licence holders can do without



By Frances Vella - Central West

Word spread that farmers were going to have to cough up for the costly maintenance of 1200 water meters installed as part of the National Water Initiative.

Under the program the State Government covered the cost of installation but ongoing maintenance and replacement costs of the high tech meters, valued at around \$15,000 each, would fall to irrigators.

For Members with multiple extraction points, who required up to five meters, a liability of around \$75,000 was estimated. Local farmers were outraged and while this program was limited to the Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment, it is the first of many programs that will be carried out across NSW.

Now, thanks to the concerted lobbying efforts of Horticulture Members from the Camden Horticultural Branch of the NSW Farmers' Association who have attended some 12 meetings in the last six months on this issue, the State Government has announced that it will retain ownership of the meters and responsibility for funding any maintenance or replacement meter costs.

The Camden Horticultural Branch reported fruitful meetings with the Minister for Water, thanking Phillip Costa for recognising the implications of the financial burden on irrigators and rectifying it.

"This is one of the many examples of intervention by the NSW Farmers' Association," President Charles Armstrong said.

"And because farmers have been saved from the financial impost before they ever saw the bill in their mail

boxes, they may be totally unaware of what could have been.

Significant concern still exists however around the unresolved issue of the annual fees. The NSW Farmers' Association has communicated these concerns via a submission to IPART this month and will continue to work to ensure the interests of Members are represented on this issue.

### Alan Unitt Award

Further north, we're getting ready to present the prestigious Alan Unitt Award to a Central Coast resident who has demonstrated meritorious service to agricultural industries.

The Award will be presented at the NSW Farmers' Association Central Coast Horticultural Branch Annual General Meeting at the Mangrove Union Church hall on the corner of Bloodtree and Wiseman's Ferry Roads next Tuesday 29 June at 7.00pm.

## Changes to NLIS Sheep and Goats



By Megan Rogers - Livestock and Wool, Industry and Investment NSW, Forbes

From July 1 there are new rules for the movement of mobs of sheep and goats. They will help to protect our valuable export markets and businesses from the effects of an emergency animal disease or food safety issue.

All movements of sheep and goats to a property with a different Property Identification Code (PIC) will need to be recorded on the NLIS database, as a Mob Based Movement - a mob can be as few as one animal.

This requires logging onto the NLIS database on the internet at [www.nlis.com.au](http://www.nlis.com.au), activating your NLIS database account, and then recording these movements each time you take delivery of stock, from another property, including agistment. If you receive them from a saleyard or public auction, then

the stock and station agent, or saleyard operator will be responsible for performing the database transfer.

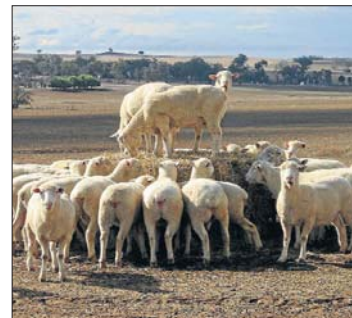
You won't need to record a mob-based movement when you sell animals through a saleyard, send them direct to an abattoir, feedlot or export depot. These operators are already required to record mob-based movements on the NLIS database.

With NLIS Sheep and Goats, you do not need to scan individual animals. It is usually the responsibility of the receiver of the stock, or person responsible for the stock to record the movement on the database. The required information will be as follows:

- Date of movement;
- Species;
- Number of head in the mob-based movement;
- From PIC (the PIC where the animals have come from);
- To PIC (the PIC where the animals are moved to);
- Movement Document Serial Number (from NVD or TSS).

Other information may be included such as whether the animals were bred by the owner, and if not, how long they have been under ownership of that person. You can also upload a scanned image of the movement document if you have the facilities to do so.

For more information on NLIS Sheep and Goats, you can contact your local Livestock Officer, LHPA Office, or NLIS.



## Commercial Report - NLIS Tag deal for Members



By Guy Hannan - General Manager Commercial Services

This week I am pleased to announce that NSW Farmers' Association has entered a supply arrangement with Livestock ID Company, Datamars.

In the multi-tiered arrangement Members will be able to purchase NLIS cattle tags through their Association, which will also act as the conduit direct with Datamars for the flow of information on new product development and trialling for all species.

Not only does this deal provide a better avenue for Members to source high quality tags, but a partnership whereby new products can be developed and trialled to directly meet the requirements of Members, at the request of Members.

Product trials on Members properties began in April and already development has been undertaken based on member feedback in the Sheep, Cattle and Aquaculture industries.

On-line ordering at [www.datamars.com.au](http://www.datamars.com.au) allows Members to elect NSW Farmers' Association as their billing option, or orders can be made direct with the Association.

Meanwhile, The NSW Farmers' Association in conjunction with

renewable energy company Ingenero, are offering Members an additional incentive of \$300 off an Ingenero Solar Power System, making going solar even more affordable!

Within Australia, individual states operate one of two feed-in-tariff options, Gross or Net.

A gross feed-in tariff (like the one implemented in NSW) allows the customer to receive payment or credit for all the electricity their renewable energy generator generates; a net feed-in tariff, allows the customer to receive payment or credit for the excess generated electricity they export to the national electricity grid from their renewable energy generator, after their use.

These feed-in-tariffs can make the economics of going solar not only affordable but also profitable.

If a rural property in NSW were to install a 10 kW system, they would produce around 16,000 kWh hours from which they would receive approximately \$9,600 due to the \$0.60 gross feed in tariff available until the 31st of December 2016. This could potentially generate \$67,200 over the life of the system, creating a nice incentive for those in rural areas to go green.

For more information on the initiative visit [www.ingenero.com.au/nsw-farmers](http://www.ingenero.com.au/nsw-farmers)

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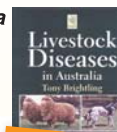


### Beef Cattle Australia

By Russell Reed

Beef Cattle Australia retraces 220 years of the people, organizations, companies and the many breeds of cattle that have developed the beef industry in Australia. It is a record of both the original pioneers and how those that came after have maintained and continued to improve the high standards that the Australian beef industry.

\$115.00



### Livestock Diseases in Australia

By Tony Brightling

Livestock Diseases in Australia has been written specifically for Australian farmers and people working with livestock on Australian farms. It brings together information about diseases of cattle, sheep, goats and farm dogs, in a form that is friendly, well illustrated and readily understood.

\$114.95



### Keeping Chickens

By Nicholas Brasch

This book includes all the information you need to keep your very own chickens: How to choose a breed suited to your needs, space and climate; How to choose and build or buy a coop; How to care for your chickens; How to breed chicks successfully.

\$37.95



### The Country Show Cookbook

A selection of award winning recipes. Fresh from the country many of these tried and true recipes have been handed down from generation to generation. Bake up a storm with more than 190 homemade favourites. Including: scones, cakes, puddings, pies & tarts, biscuits and slices, pickles, chutneys and relishes, jams, jellies, marmalades and spreads.

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