

Region 6 Update

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RSM – Graham Blatch

Ph: 6366 9104 Mobile: 0427 411 220

Email: blatchg@nswfarmers.org.au

Hello all

Crop in the ground and looking not too bad but in need of that big winter rain. Feed scarce and a fair bit of feeding going on especially on the tablelands. We can only hope for that rain going into spring.

Plenty of activity re drought with NRAC visits, Productivity commission forums and Expert panel on Social impact on drought meeting in Forbes on August 19. Held at Services Club at 10am to 1 pm.

Our Conference is coming up the last few days of the month and the agenda is out now. If you have an input on any motions, please see your delegates and discuss as soon as possible. I hope to catch up with you at Homebush.

Some of you have memberships due in the June, July, August period. If there is any problem in paying, let me know.

ASSOCIATION POLICY BRIEFING NOTES

Financial Members can access the Association's Briefing Notes through the Association website, this is a Members Only section, so Members will need to login to gain access. Members should use their Association Member number as their username and their password which was printed on their fulfilment letter (which Members would have received when they renewed or joined the Association). If Members are unsure of their login details or have difficulties logging in please contact our Member Service Centre on 1300 794 000.

Drought

27 areas of NSW are due to have their Exceptional Circumstances (EC) status reviewed between June 2008 and September 2008. The National Rural Advisory Council (NRAC), which provides advice to the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry on rural issues including EC declarations, NRAC has toured the Molong, Mudgee Merriwa & Central Tablelands areas of Region 6, and will continue to assess information provided by producers, DPI, RLPB and the Association. An announcement should be pending by August hopefully.

RLPB Review

A couple of weeks ago the report regarding the RLPB system review was released. The aim of this review was to critically analyse the structure and administration so as to deliver the maximum service at maximum efficiency to ratepayers. Key recommendations from the report include:

- The core business of the RLPB system should be animal health, pest animal and insect management
- The number of Boards should be reduced from 47 to 14 across the state
- Each new Board should have 8 directors, 6 elected by ratepayers and 2 appointed
- The 14 regional boards should be managed locally and overseen by a 9-member State Board of Management
- General policy and strategic directions should be set by a new State Policy Council consisting of 28 members, 2 from each regional board
- The management of Travelling Stock Reserves (TSRs) should be ceded back to the Dept of Lands in cases where they place an unreasonable financial burden on Boards

The Association will be meeting with representatives from the RLPB State Council this week to discuss the report. A full copy of the report is available from www.rlpb.org.au/publications/rlpb-review.

Some boards and RLPB constituents are examining the boundaries and are suggesting there may need be some changes. Contact your board CEO if you have a problem.

CHAIRPERSON AND SECRETARIES CORNER

- Don't forget to let the MSC know if there has been a change of office holders in your Branch or DC.
- You should have received your Chairman's and Secretaries Manual by now – if not call me for a copy.
- Remember to confirm your delegates for Annual Conference as soon as possible – if you need any further information packs please contact me. Get your accommodation in early.

FREE booklet "A Guide to Best Practice Husbandry in Beef Cattle" ordered through MLA www.mla.com.au or by phoning 1800675717. For producers to stay on top of changes to animal welfare standards and know what's acceptable as well as what is best practice for the animals that they manage, get a copy.

Workers Compensation

The NSW Farmers' Industrial Association welcomes recent changes to the Workers Compensation Scheme that have been announced by the NSW Government, as they reduce the burden of workers compensation insurance for many small farmers. Under the amendments, from 30 June 2008, only employers whose annual wages declared for workers' compensation are greater than \$7,500 will be required to take out an insurance policy. Also announced was the reduction of the requirement to keep records for the purposes of workers' compensation from seven years to five.

Information, contact Industrial Relations team via the Member Service Centre on **1300 794 000**.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

The Association is offering practical, relevant training specifically designed for farmers. Workshops currently available include Succession Planning, Farm Safety Management, Understanding Farm Financial Statements, First Aid and Chemical Card™. If you would like a workshop in your area, please contact Kathy Sims or Robyn Diamond on **(02) 6884 8822** to register your interest. Please note that workshops require a minimum of 10 participants.

On Line workshops for Chemical Refresher Check with Robin

Grain Marketing (Free) : 8/08/08 Dunedoo 19/08/08 Parkes 22/08/20 Cowra 20/08/2008 Lake Cargelligo

WorkCover - Power Take Off Guarding Rebates - \$ for \$ rebate subsidy for 100% of the price, up to the value of \$200, for PTO guarding on tractors and equipment. For a rebate form, WorkCover PH: 1800 300 377 or 13 10 50.

WorkCover - Silo Safety Improvement Rebates - for improvements to Silos and field bins to reduce the need to climb them and to provide safer access and egress. \$ for \$ rebate subsidy (excluding GST), up to \$1000. One rebate per farm. For a rebate form Workcover Ph: 1800 300 377 or 13 10 50.

Rainwater Tank Rebate is available for the installation of any new rainwater storage system for residential properties in NSW. Households not connected to the mains supply are eligible for a rebate for the purchase of the tank only. The tank(s) must have a minimum 2000-litre capacity and be purchased in full and installed between 1 July 2007 and 30 June 2009. The rebate of up to \$1500 is based on the size of the tank and whether the rainwater is plumbed into your toilet or washing machine. Customers of all other NSW water utilities outside Sydney Water, apply through the Department of Environment and Climate Change NSW (DECC). Visit www.environment.nsw.gov.au/reabtes/index.htm or contact DECC on 1300 361 967.

Hail netting assistance for fruit growers

The Special Conservation Scheme now includes hail netting, allowing individual fruit growers to apply for a concessional loan of up to \$150,000 through the Rural Assistance Authority to install hail netting.

Please contact your rural financial councillor for help in filling out the form

MEMBER SPONSOR AND BUSINESS PARTNER BENEFITS

- **AgCentral** – Special prices on farm chemicals, fertiliser and animal health products.
- **Manchester Unity** – Corporate Rate.
- **Prime Super** – Superannuation tailored to the rural industry.
- **Mitsubishi Motors** – Members receive Mitsubishi's National Fleet Discount & \$500 worth of free genuine Mitsubishi accessories. Under the present promotion, that means \$1000 worth of extras.
- **Wesfarmers Feration Insurance (WFI)** – Farm & Business Insurance tailored to the rural industry. Personal service with traditional values.
- **Tax Advice Service** – Free of charge personalised online tax advice service for personal and business taxation matters.
- **Beaurepaires** – Large discounts to list prices including **tyres & batteries** (varies per product). Congratulations to Goodyear who was named one of the "100 Best Corporate Citizens" in the current issue of CRO (Corporate Responsibility Officer) magazine. Goodyear came in at No. 72, the first time the company made the list in nine years of ranking the top corporate citizens.
- **Regional Express (REX)** – Cheapest available airfare OR 20% off full economy fare.
- **HE Silos** – 5% discount on all silos.
- **Diamond Petroleum** – Discounts on bulk fuel purchases (35,000) litres.
- **Maddison Safety** – 20% off Personal Protective Equipment and signs.
- **Repco** – Various discounts at all auto part outlets in NSW. Have a look at filter prices. Up to 25% savings.
- **David Benn fine jewellery** – 10% Discount on all jewellery items (*formerly Arthur C Easy*).
- **SoilTech Australia** – 15% discount on soil tests.
- **Golden Chain Motor Inns** - 10% discount on rack rates.
- **Hertz Car Hire** – Corporate discount on car hire.

Note: privileges are subject to change and are current at time of publication.

Tax changes help with fuel costs

The NSW Farmers' Association is reminding farmers they can now claim 38c per litre of fuel tax credits for petrol and other taxable fuels used on farm, following tax changes this July.

The Australian Tax Office is urging all those farmers who are registered for goods and services tax but not fuel tax credits, such as the diesel fuel rebate, to register for the scheme by phoning 13 72 26 with your ABN and business tax file number ready.

Four Letter Words

Please excuse the rough language in the following story... I would have deleted them, but the story wouldn't be the same.

A young couple got married and went on their honeymoon. When they got back, the bride immediately called her mother. 'Well', said her mother, 'so how was the honeymoon?'

'Oh mama', she replied, 'The honeymoon was wonderful! So romantic'.....Suddenly she burst out crying. 'But, mama, as soon as we returned, Sam started using the most horrible language -- things I'd never heard before! I mean all these awful 4-letter words! You've got to take me home! PLEASE MAMA!'

'Sarah, Sarah', her mother said, 'calm down! You need to stay with your husband and work this out. Now, tell me, what could be so awful? WHAT 4-letter words?'

'Please don't make me tell you, mama,' wept the daughter. 'I'm so embarrassed, they're just too awful! COME GET ME, PLEASE!!'

'Darling, baby, you must tell me what has you so upset. Tell your mother these horrible 4-letter words!' Sobbing, the bride said, 'Oh, Mama..., he used words like:..... Dust, Wash, Iron, and Cook...'

Mother replies.....'I'll pick you up in twenty minutes'.

Keep warm during winter!! Any problems let me know.

Regards Graham

“Together we're a force to be reckoned with”