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## Horse flu help available

The NSW Farmers' Association says Australian Government assistance for people and businesses affected by the outbreak of Equine Influenza will be very welcome in rural NSW.

NSW Farmers' Association President Jock Laurie says the additional costs and financial losses being experienced in rural NSW are significant.

"The horse flu situation is affecting more than the racing community. Droving and mustering has been stopped in some areas, and small businesses reliant on horses, such as farriers are facing serious problems due to the outbreak. The cost to the cattle and sheep industries is significant," Mr Laurie said.

"The Federal Governments announcement of funding for relief payments such as the Equine Workers Hardship Wage Supplement, and the Business Assistance Grant are sorely needed in many areas," Mr Laurie said.

"I would urge any person who believes they may be eligible to make the necessary enquiries," Mr Laurie concluded.

Application forms and further information are available from State racing, harness and equestrian organisations. Contact details and further information is available on the Equine Influenza Hotline on 1800 234 002.

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***Fast fact: Without the reduction in land clearing by farmers Australia's greenhouse emissions would be 30% above 1990 levels by 2010***