

19.11.08

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REGION 6

Graham Blatch

Third annual *Oysters in the House* enjoyed by all

Held at Customs House in Sydney, Oysters in the House is the Oyster Committee's premier oyster marketing event where oysters are matched up with regional wineries and restaurants from all over NSW. The event is always a great success with cityfolk and this year's event was no exception with a large number of people from the general public, industry and Government in attendance.

The presenter for the day was Simon Marnie from ABC radio, who both entertained the audience whilst educating them on the finer details of oyster appreciation and selection. A feature of the event was the people's choice award where attendees were presented with a tray of 6 Sydney Rock Oysters from different NSW oyster producing estuaries and they were asked to select their favourite Oysters based on appearance and taste.

This year's people's choice award winning Oyster went to the Hastings River Oysters entry from Port Macquarie and second place was awarded to Graham Barclay Oysters of Forster.

Survey: Has your bank passed on RBA rate cuts?

Following the Reserve Bank of Australia cash rate reductions, the Association is seeking information from Members to help determine which banks have been passing on rate reductions to their variable rate commercial loan customers.

Please click [here](#) to complete a short survey by Wednesday 26 November 2008 as your responses will assist the Association with this important issue.

Dairy farmers welcome sale to National Foods

The Association has welcomed the announcement of a successful bid by National Foods to acquire Dairy Farmers. Association Dairy Committee Chairman Adrian Drury says the \$910million sale will give dairy farmers a secure outlet for the raw milk they produce.

To read more click [here](#).

Meat Profit Day 'Where Orange and Red Meat'

Last Wednesday, 12 November more than 450 cattle, sheep and goat producers attended the Meat and Livestock Australia Meat Profit Day at Orange. The day was a huge success with attendees hearing from a number of speakers including Sergey Yushin, Chief of the Executive Committee of the Russian National Meat Association, and Mick Keogh from the Australian Farm Institute.

Branch Rail Line Suspension

As part of Mini Budget, the NSW Government has announced the suspension of five branch lines as the Government believes they are unviable. Details of these lines are as follows:

Suspended lines	Maximum capacity in tonnes on these lines (not including bunkers)	Average annual grain rail freight on this sites
Ungarie – Lake Cargelligo	70 000	50 000
Nevertire – Warren	50 000	30 000
Cowra – Koorawatha Koorawatha – Demondrille Koorawatha – Greenethorpe	100 000	20 000

The decision by the State Government to suspend these grain lines is premature given the recent establishment of the joint State and Federal Grain Rail Freight Taskforce. The Association will be seeking further information regarding the suspension shortly.

Drought funding a welcome relief

The Association has welcomed the Federal Government's announcement that drought assistance will be extended for parts of northern NSW around Coonabarabran and the Northern Slopes until 30 April next year. Association President Jock Laurie said the decision to continue providing Exceptional Circumstance (EC) funding for two parts of the expired Central North-North West EC region provides reassurance for farmers in those areas.

To read more click [here](#).

Member survey on ISDN Internet

The Association is continuing to work with Members to ensure that rural communities are not disadvantaged by Telstra's proposed switch-off of ISDN internet services on 31 December this year. The Association is seeking feedback from Members regarding the ISDN switch off and how it will affect their business and family.

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If you currently have an ISDN internet service or you have recently made the switch from an ISDN service to another internet service, please complete our short online survey before Monday 17 November. To access the survey click [here](#). For information regarding this issue click [here](#).

Sheep Info Day on Thursday

The Sheep CRC Information Open day will be held on Thursday 20 November at Trangie Research Station, Mitchell Hwy, 7 km west of Trangie, NSW from 9.30 am until 4pm. Sheep CRC will provide a free BBQ lamb lunch. Presentations and displays will feature work in genetics.

As a large attendance is expected, if you are planning to attend please RSVP to NSW DPI Trangie by 14th November, Tel: (02) 6880 8000 Fax: (02) 6888 7201 Email: trangie.office@dpi.nsw.gov.au

On the wireless

Primary Report is the NSW Farmers' Association's weekly radio program that has been broadcast, under various names, for over 50 years and is the longest running produced radio program in Australia. It is produced in-house by the Association and, while it is an opportunity to let farmers and rural communities know what the Association is doing, the program also discusses everything in terms of what issues mean to the average farmer and how they might be impacted.

On this week's edition:

- President Jock Laurie "State mini-budget outcomes for rural NSW"
- Oyster Committee Member Don Burgoyne "Oysters in the House"
- Cattle Committee Member Terry Toohey "The reputation of our beef"

To hear the current edition of Primary Report click [here](#).

On the web

For regular updates by NSW Farmers' Association President Jock Laurie on the issues important to farmers, visit Jock's online blog at www.blognow.com.au/jocklaurie

In the news

To view the October edition of Farm Post click [here](#). Edition 29 is due out in early December.

Training

Course	Location	Date
Chemical Card Initial & Refresher	Wagga Wagga	24/11/2008
	Dubbo	24/11/2008
	Online Initial	02/12/2008
Chemical Card Refresher	Online – 9am to 12	04/12/2008
Succession Planning	Yeoval	17/11/2008
	Glen Innes	20/11/2008

For bookings: please contact Robyn or Kathy on 02 6884 8822, or at training@nswfarmers.org.au

Note: Please book at least 7 days in advance for Chemical Card training to allow time for delivery of the home study materials.

Regional events

Region 1 North West Alicia Harrison	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 26 November 3pm onwards @ "Keytah", Moree: Innovation in Irrigation field day. Contact Michael Murray (02) 6752 1399• 27 November 9am – 3pm @ Walgett: Rural Women's Gathering. Tickets will be available soon from the Walgett Tourist Information Centre
Region 2 New England Gennie Gittoes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 19 November 9am - 1.30pm @ Somerton Hall followed by farm visit at The Chaffey's "Weenona" (include morning tea and lunch): 'Ever graze' Field Day learn to develop farming systems to improve profitability for meat & wool producers. Please RSVP to NSW DPI, Tamworth (02) 6763 1100. Free event.• 22 November 12 onwards @ Wollomombi Hall: Annual Farm Family Gathering including free BBQ, entertainment and info. Contact David Moen (02) 67781255 or Gennie Gittoes (02) 67669949. Free.• 22 November 9am - 5pm @ Bendemeer: Boer Goats Field Day. Contact Carol Murray (02) 6769668. Cost \$20/hd \$20/couple.• Late Nov/Early Dec (TBA) 8 half day workshops held throughout the year to cover all seasonal variations @ Guyra area: Prograze workshops. Contact Matt McKiernan (02) 6730 1941 or 0400 351 866. Cost Normally \$500 but with CMA funding only \$160/business.
Region 3 Central and North West Rick Bremner	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 14 November 9am - 3pm @ Gilgandra: Survive with Style Seminars. Contact Pip Brown NSW DPI 0429 396 697.• 20 November 9.30-4.00pm @ Trangie Research Station: Sheep CRC Information Nucleus Open Day. RSVP DPI Trangie (02) 6880 8000. Free. Lunch provided• 25 November 9am - 3pm @ Warren Sports Centre: Warren Rural Women's Day. Contact Pip Brown NSW DPI 0429 396 697.
Region 4 Lower New England and Liverpool Plains Darren Greentree	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 19 November 9am - 1.30pm @ Somerton Hall followed by farm visit at The Chaffey's "Weenona" (include morning tea and lunch): 'Ever graze' Field Day learn to develop farming systems to improve profitability for meat & wool producers. Please RSVP to NSW DPI, Tamworth (02) 6763 1100. Free event.• 4 December 9am @ Quirindi: Namoi Healthy Soils Workshop. Contact Col Easton (02) 67 645940. Free.

<p>Region 5 Central West Hannah Williams</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21 November Friday 10:30am – 2:30pm @ Lake Cargelligo: Ladies Day Out. Enquires to Kim Jones via email on kjones@centacarewf.org.au. Cost \$5. • 22 November Saturday 6:30pm @ Goolooglong Country Club: Dinner with John Harper. Enquiries to Sandra Chrystall on (02) 6393 0001 (Tues, Wed & Fri) or 040 9000 733. Cost \$20 which includes a smorgasbord meal.
<p>Region 6 Central West Tablelands Graham Blatch</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19 November 7.00 @ Oberon RSL: Bruce Clements on “Strategies in a changing climate”. Contact John Lowe (02) 6359 3244. • 24 November 7.00 @ Rylstone Club: Christmas mtg. Light refreshments provided. Contact David Clarke 0427 791 384 • 29 November 5.00pm @ Newhaven Park Perthville: Christmas meeting with BMA. Contact Ian Hendry 0419419791
<p>Region 7 Sydney Basin, Lower Hunter & Port Stephens Frances Vella</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For more information on events in Region 7 contact Regional Service Manager Frances Vella 0428 228 818
<p>Region 8 Lower Central Western Slopes Liz Young</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 22 November Saturday 6:30pm @ Gooloogong Country Club: Dinner with John Harper. Enquiries to Sandra Chrystall on (02) 6393 0001 (Tues, Wed & Fri) or 0409 000 733. Cost \$20 which includes a smorgasbord meal.
<p>Region 9 Southern Murrumbidgee Ben Poynter</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For more information on events in Region 9 contact Regional Service Manager Ben Poynter 0427 773 584
<p>Region 10 Southern Central Liz Young</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19 November Wednesday 12pm – 2pm @ Cooma Ex-Services Club, Vale Street: Managed Investment Scheme Forum with Mike Kelly MP and Assistant Treasurer Chris Bowen. The forum will provide a unique opportunity for members of the community to hear from and speak directly with the Assistant Treasurer and Mike Kelly MP about MIS related issues. This Forum is being held in Cooma with the intent to attract participants from various regions such as Bombala and Tumbarumba. The Forum will cover all MIS including Forestry. Contact Liz Young or Mike Kelly MP Office on 6284 2211
<p>Region 11 Southern Tablelands, Monaro and South Coast Liz Young</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19 November Wednesday 12pm – 2pm @ Cooma Ex-Services Club, Vale Street: Managed Investment Scheme Forum with Mike Kelly MP and Assistant Treasurer Chris Bowen. The forum will provide a unique opportunity for members of the community to hear from and speak directly with the Assistant Treasurer and Mike Kelly MP about MIS related issues. This Forum is being held in Cooma with the intent to attract participants from various regions such as Bombala and Tumbarumba. The Forum will cover all MIS including Forestry. Liz Young or Mike Kelly MP Office on 6284 2211.
<p>Region 12 Western Division Dougall Roberts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 December afternoon @ Booligal: Oxley/Booligal Branch Meeting. Contact Helen Morphett (02) 6993 8157
<p>Region 13 North Coast Michael Burt</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 November Thursday, 7.30 pm @ Exchange Hotel, Kyogle: Kyogle branch meeting. Contact Russell Bonney (02) 6636 6100. • 27 November Thursday, 7.30pm @ South Grafton Ex-Serviceman's Club: Grafton branch meeting. Contact Michael Burt (02) 6564 2355 • 2 December Tuesday, 6.30pm @ Macksville Chinese Restaurant: Nambucca River branch annual Christmas Dinner. Contact Geoff Gough (02) 6569 1382. • 2 December Tuesday, 7.30pm @ Casino RSM Club: Casino branch meeting. Contact John Seccombe (02) 6663 3127. • 3 December Wednesday, 7.30pm @ Lismore Workers Club: Lismore/Alstonville Christmas Dinner. Contact Kath Robb (02) 6628 1110. • 4 December Thursday, 7.00pm @ Bonalbo Bowling Club: Tabulam branch Christmas dinner. Contact Marilyn Grundy (02) 6665 3290. • 8 December Monday, 7.00pm @ Coffs Harbour Catholic Club: Coffs Harbour branch Christmas Dinner. Contact Michael Burt (02) 6564 2355. • 12 December Friday, 7.30pm @ Exchange Hotel: Kyogle branch Christmas dinner. Contact Russell Bonney (02) 6636 6100. • 13 December Saturday, 7.00pm @ Venue TBA: Maclaey Valley branch Christmas dinner. Contact Susan Ramke. • 15 December Monday, 7.00pm @ Wingham Golf Club: Wingham branch Christmas Dinner, Association CEO Shaughn Morgan as guest. Contact Deborah Willis (02) 6556 7216

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