

21.10.08

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### Federal Government report highlights rural telecommunication failings

The Association has welcomed the release of the Regional Telecommunications Report by the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, Senator the Hon. Stephen Conroy, as a positive step towards addressing rural telecommunication issues. NSW Farmers' Association President Jock Laurie says the report recognises that telecommunication services in rural NSW are substandard.

To read more click [here](#).

### Report plague locust activity on your property

Large numbers of plague locust bands have been detected in parts of the Riverina, South West and Central West with the areas around Narrandera, Wagga Wagga, Grong Grong, Coolamon, Forbes, Condobolin, Young and Temora the most affected. The Association has urged Members to be vigilant in reporting all plague locust activity to their Rural Lands Protection Board and it is important that landholders work with their neighbours to ensure locust activity is reported. The Rural Lands Protection Boards are providing chemical free of charge to landholders to treat immature locusts and there is currently enough insecticide available to treat 31,000 hectares of locust bands.

Further information regarding plague locusts and the current control program is available from the Department of Primary Industries website. Click [here](#).

### New carcass weights prediction calculator

A new calculator is now available that can help cattle producers predict weight and fat specifications of animals destined for store and prime markets. The development of the computer-based *BeefSpecs* calculator, funded by Meat & Livestock Australia and designed by the Beef CRC, will assist cattle producers in making more accurate management decisions that could increase carcass compliance rates for fatness and weight targets specific to various beef markets.

The free *BeefSpecs* calculator is available for download from the More Beef from Pastures section of MLA's website. Click [here](#).

### Grain Freight a focus for Taskforce

The Association has welcomed the announcement that a Review Taskforce has been established to look for ways to rebuild an efficient grain transport network in NSW. Association President Jock Laurie said the Review Taskforce, announced by the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, the Hon. Tony Burke, and the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, the Hon. Anthony Albanese, will include a representative from the Association.

To read more click [here](#).

### Fertiliser prices dropping

During the week media reports suggested that fertiliser prices could dip sharply as a result of falling oil prices and diminishing global demand, from \$1000/t to as low as \$700/t for DAP. However some analysts argue the collapse in the value of the Australian dollar will take the edge of this reduction. DAP prices have increased 370 percent in the 20 months to August 2008, with urea following a similar trajectory, if less extreme.

Since August, fertiliser prices in general have fallen 18-26 percent which demonstrates the impact which movement in the Australian dollar has on the input costs for Australian farmers. Furthermore, Australian banking and financial leaders have suggested that access to rural credit has not been affected by the financial situation.

### Orange Meat Profit Day

The Association is encouraging Members to attend the Orange Meat Profit Day which will be held on Wednesday, 12 November at the Australian National Field Day site. The Meat Profit Day is an initiative of Meat and Livestock Australia and it will provide information on the latest industry research, products and trends as well as first hand information about domestic and global issues which are affecting the red meat industry.

The Meat Profit Day costs \$20 for MLA members who pre-register and \$30 for non-members. For more information or to register please call Meat and Livestock Australia on 1800 675 717 or click [here](#).

### Mental Health Sessions

The NSW Farmers' Mental Health Network is hosting a series of Mental Health Information Sessions across the state in coming months with Dr. Leanne Craze of Craze Lateral Solutions. The major aim of the sessions is to provide farmers and farming service providers with information about common mental disorders (stress, depression, anxiety, trauma, grief and loss), strategies to help people and appropriate local referral options.

Merriwa	Thursday 23 October, CWA Rooms, Bettington Street Merriwa, 8:00am - 11:00am
Walcha	Friday 24 October, Walcha Bowling Club, 14e Croudace St Walcha, 8.00am -11.00am
Mudgee	Monday 27 October, CWA Rooms, 48A Market St Mudgee, 8.00am - 11.00am and 6.00pm - 9.00 pm

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Bathurst	Tuesday 28 October, Bathurst RSL, 114 Rankin St Bathurst 12.00 - 3.00pm
Coolah	Wednesday 29 October, Coolah Valley Hotel, 8.00am - 11.00am
Cassilis	Wednesday 29 October, Royal Hotel, 23 Buccleugh St, Cassilis, 8.00am - 11.00am and 3.00 – 4.30pm
Cowra	Thursday 30 October, Uniting Church, 75A Darling St Cowra, 12.00 - 3.00 pm
Young	Friday 31 October, CWA Rooms, 7 Lovell St Young 12.00 - 3.00pm

To read the Association's press release click [here](#).

For more information contact Leanne Craze on 02 62381549 or [leanne.craze@bigpond.com](mailto:leanne.craze@bigpond.com) or click [here](#).

#### On the radio

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 Rural Affairs Committee Chair Sarah Thompson, Barraba District Council Chairman Don Mack, and Biotechnology Taskforce Chair Hugh Roberts discuss the issues in rural and regional NSW.

#### Media

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

To view the current edition of Farm Post click [here](#).

To visit President Jock Laurie's blog click [here](#).

To read recent press releases click [here](#).

#### Training

Course	Location	Date
<b>Chemical Card Initial &amp; Refresher</b>	Glen Innes	28/10/2008
	Walcha	04/11/2008
	Tenterfield	06/11/2008
	Online (Initial Only)	10/11/2008
	Deepwater	14/11/2008
	Wagga Wagga	24/11/2008
<b>Chemical Card Refresher</b>	Online – 1pm to 4pm	30/10/2008
	Online – 1pm to 4pm	13/11/2008
<b>Succession Planning</b>	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](mailto: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 Wilson

- 30 October 2.30pm @ RSL Club, Narrabri: **Public Meeting on Local Government issues**. Contact John Melbourne (02) 6792 1807. Free.
- 30 & 31 October 9am – 5pm @ Australian Cotton Research Centre, Narrabri Rd, Wee Waa: **Integrating Production & Biodiversity for a Sustainable Future** (2 x 2 day workshops). Contact Robyn Walters (02) 6828 0122 or Stacey Spanswick (02) 6799 2417. Free.

**Region 2  
New England**  
Gennie Gittoes

- 24 October 8am-11am @ Walcha Bowling Club: **Mental Health Information Session for Farmers and Rural businesses**. Contact Leanne Craze (02) 62381549. Free.

**Region 3  
Central and North West**  
Rick Bremner

- 21-23 October Tuesday-Thursday @ Borenore: **Aust National Field Day**. Contact RSM Rick Bremner.
- 21 October Tuesday 9.30-1.00pm @ "Burrendah" Gilgandra: **Trial Site Field Day**. Contact Kathi Hertel (02) 6881 1270. RSVP for free lunch.
- 27 October Monday 8-11am and 6-9pm @ Cassilis Royal Hotel: **Mental Health Information Sessions**. Contact Leanne (02) 6238 1549. RSVP to book. Free.
- 29 October Wednesday 8-11am @ Mudgee CWA 48a Market St: **Mental Health Information Sessions**. Contact Leanne (02) 6238 1549. RSVP to book. Free.
- 29 October Wednesday 9.30-12.30 @ Dubbo Cattleman's Motel: **DPI - Healthy and Contented Sheep**. Contact Clive Roberts (02) 6882 2133.
- 30 October Thursday 9.30-12.30 @ Coonabarabran CWA Rooms: **DPI - Healthy and Contented Sheep**. Contact Clive

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Roberts (02) 6882 2133.

### Region 4 Lower New England and Liverpool Plains

Darren Greentree

- For information on Region 4 events contact Regional Service Manager Darren Greentree on 0427 411 214.

### Region 5 Central West

Hannah Williams

- 21 – 23 October @ Orange: **Australian National Field Day**. Contact Regional Service Manager Hannah Williams.
- 25 October Saturday 3:45pm @ Hillston Golf Club: **Hillston Men's Gathering**. Enquiries to Steve Tuckett on 0427 358 814

### Region 6 Central West Tablelands

Graham Blatch

- 21 – 23 October 8.30am till 5pm @ Orange: **Australian National Field Day**. Contact your Regional Service Manager Graham Blatch.
- 27 October Monday 8am-11am and 6pm-9pm @ Mudgee CWA Rooms: **Mental Health Information Sessions**. Contact Leanne Craze (02) 62381549 or 0408 869 051
- 27 October Monday 7.30pm @ St Pats Club: Bathurst District Council Meeting. Contact Eulyce 0427 400 046.
- 28 October 12noon -3pm @ Bathurst RSL: **Mental Health Information Sessions**. Contact Leanne Craze (02) 62381549 or 0408 869 051
- 30 October 12noon -3pm @ Cowra Uniting Church: **Mental Health Information Sessions**. Contact Leanne Craze (02) 62381549 or 0408 869 051
- 3 November 7.30 @ Bathurst St Pats Club: **Bathurst District Council Meeting**. Contact Eulyce Arkleysmith
- 12 November @ ANFD Site: **Meat for Profit Day**. Contact MLA.

### Region 7 Sydney Basin, Lower Hunter & Port Stephens

Frances Vella

- 31 October Friday @ UWS, Richmond Demonstration Farm: **Brassica and Lettuce Field Day**. Contact Leigh James 0412 429 418.
- 10 November Monday 6pm for light meal, 7pm start @ Plant Breeding Institute, University of Sydney, Cobbitty: **Camden Horticulture Branch Meeting**. Contact Vince Hewson 0419 618 537.

### Region 8 Lower Central Western Slopes

Liz Young

- 6 November Thursday 8am – 11am @ Gunning: **Mental Health Information Session**. Sessions are conducted by Dr Leanne Craze, an experienced mental health trainer. To book or make inquiries call Leanne Craze 02 62381549 or 0408869051. Email: [Leanne.Craze@bigpond.com](mailto:Leanne.Craze@bigpond.com) or visit [www.CrazeLateralSolutions.com](http://www.CrazeLateralSolutions.com)

### Region 9 Southern Murrumbidgee

Ben Poynter

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

### Region 10 Southern Central

Ben Poynter

- 30 October 7.30pm @ Wagga RSL Club: **Wagga District Council Meeting**. Contact Bill Baker (02) 6924 6429.

### Region 11 Southern Tablelands, Monaro and South Coast

Liz Young

- 31 October Friday 6.30pm @ Bomaderry Bowling Club: **Social Evening** being organised by the South Coast and Highlands Dairy Industry Group (aka DIG). An invitation is extended to all members of the community to take advantage of this unique opportunity to hear Mr Sam Bailey (an inspirational/ motivational speaker) at a local venue and free of charge. RSVP forms available from Kerry Allan – contact on M 0401 015 670. \$25 for cost of meal
- 6 November Thursday 6pm to 9pm @ Goulburn: **Mental Health Information Session**. Sessions are conducted by Dr Leanne Craze, an experienced mental health trainer. To book or make inquiries call Leanne Craze 02 62381549 or 0408869051. Email: [Leanne.Craze@bigpond.com](mailto:Leanne.Craze@bigpond.com) or visit [www.CrazeLateralSolutions.com](http://www.CrazeLateralSolutions.com)
- 12 November 9:00am – 2:00pm @ Queanbeyan Kangaroo RLFC Stuart Street Queanbeyan: **WorkCover OH&S Workshop**. Please contact 1800 624 097 to register your seat, or visit [www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/safebusiness](http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/safebusiness) for further information.

### Region 12 Western Division

Dougall Roberts

- 24 October 5:00pm @ White Cliffs: **White Cliffs Branch Meeting**. Dinner will be provided by the DPI. Contact Jeremy McClure (08) 80915016
- 5 December afternoon @ Booligal: **Oxley/Booligal Branch Meeting**. Contact Helen Morphett 0269938157

### Region 13 North Coast

Michael Burt

- For information on Region 13 events contact Regional Service Manager Michael Burt on 0428 228 988.

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