



## South West Ben Poynter

Growing  
the Business  
of Farming | **NSW  
Farmers  
ASSOCIATION**

Member Service Centre 1300 794 000

[www.nswfarmers.org.au](http://www.nswfarmers.org.au)

May/June 2011

Welcome to the May/June edition of the South West Regional newsletter. This newsletter can also be accessed via the NSW Farmers Association Website. Simply click on the SW region and then click "Regional Newsletter". For any information about any items within this newsletter please don't hesitate to call me directly in the office or via email.

*Ben Poynter - Regional Services Manager South West NSW.*

### **NSW Farmers Association Annual Conference 2011**

Annual Conference runs between Tuesday 19 and Thursday 21 July, 2011 at Sydney Showground, Sydney Olympic Park. You are able to attend for the day only or for the full three days. This year the conference highlights include eight dedicated policy sessions, 'Food Security' panel session, Informative breakfast sessions, Access to more than 20 agribusinesses in the exhibitor hall, Great social events including 'Urban Paddock' and the announcement of the 2011 Farmer and Young Farmer of the Year. For those wishing to have their farm produce showcased or promoted to the vast city media in the "Urban Paddock" event, please contact me directly to find out how. We would love to have our South West Region on the menu!

### **Riverina Field Days May 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> in Griffith**

Come and visit NSW Farmers Association Reps at this years event. We have a stand in the Winegrapes Marketing Board Sponsor Marquee at the south end of the oval. We also have free access for Members to the Murrumbidgee Division of General Practice "Pit Stop Health Checks".

### **Membership Offer- Young Farmers**

Young farmers under the age of 35 can join the Association at no cost for the first 12 months. If you would like to join up a friend or neighbour, then now is the time and comes at a significant saving. Young people are the lifeblood of the future of agriculture in NSW and as such we have targeted this group. Please contact me if you would like me to follow up any new memberships in your area.

### **OH & S Induction & Training Day at CSU Wagga**

A Charles Stuart University Ag and Animal Science OH&S induction training day was held recently at which the Association provided resources and assisted with training students in basic farm safety and OH & S principals. The day finished with a BBQ and we were able to sign up approximately 50 new student Members at this event. The Association looks forward to participating in this event annually at several Ag based Universities. Our involvement gave the Association the opportunity to highlight what we do and how important we are in the students' futures in working in the fantastic agricultural industry in NSW.

### **Access Agreements for Exploration and Mining**

Recent Mining & Exploration Developments have been noted in Junee (Gold), Bethungra (Uranium and Gold), Lockhart (Iron Ore), Oaklands (Coal) and Tocumwal (Gas). The Association has prepared a briefing note for Members to assist them in negotiating access agreements with mining and exploration companies. As a result of the inadequate application and approvals process, particularly in terms of community consultation, many landholders are not aware when an exploration licence has been granted in their area. As such, most landholders do not expect to be contacted by mining/gas companies, nor are they familiar with the ideal terms of an access agreement pertaining to their property. The briefing note provides information on exploration licences; what happens during initial contact from a mining/gas company; what should be included in access agreements (including information on the requirement for the explorer to pay the reasonable legal costs of the landholder in obtaining initial legal advice); what happens if negotiations break down; and some suggested communication strategies. Following legislative amendments last year, the Director General of the Department of Industry and Investment "may, with the concurrence of the NSW Farmers Association and the NSW Minerals Council, publish templates for use for standard access arrangements. The use of any such template is not mandatory." Whilst there are advantages to having a template agreement, the Association is concerned that it may represent the 'lowest common denominator' and given the unique exploration and extraction activities (eg coal vs coal seam gas vs iron ore vs gold), it would be extremely difficult to achieve a 'one size fits all' agreement. The Association is however, canvassing the potential for a template agreement to be developed for non ground disturbing activities. For further information about access agreements visit the NSW Farmers' Association website at [www.nswfarmers.org.au/policy\\_committees/crm/priority\\_issue\\_9](http://www.nswfarmers.org.au/policy_committees/crm/priority_issue_9)



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### Farmer of the Year and Young Farmer of the Year Awards

Applications are now open for the 2011 NSW Farmer of the Year and Young Farmer of the Year Awards, with prizes of \$10,000 and \$5,000 going to the winners. The annual awards recognise excellence in agriculture through management skills, the use of innovation, profitability, environmental sustainability and community involvement. As land managers, the environmental and innovation credentials of farmers are sometimes overlooked so we want farmers who can share their approaches with their industry peers and also as ambassadors to the broader community. The Awards are a celebration of our industries' achievements and resilience.

The Awards are an initiative of the NSW Farmers' Association and Industry & Investment NSW, with support from The Land and the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW. The Young Farmer of the Year Award is open to farmers aged 16-35 years, while the Farmer of the Year Award is open to all farmers aged over 35 years. The Young Farmer receives \$5000, and the Farmer of the Year wins \$10 000. Application forms are available at [www.nswfarmers.org.au](http://www.nswfarmers.org.au) or at [www.industry.nsw.gov.au](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au) and entries close Thursday 9 June.

### Grain Grower Survey

The Association is trying to obtain from our grassroots Members feedback on national grains representation in the future and the survey below is your opportunity to provide your feedback. There is some background information as part of the survey which provides information on National Grain Australia (NGA) and the Grain Producers Australia (GPA) to assist you in providing valuable feedback to the NSW Farmers Association. The survey is due **Tuesday 17 May at 5pm.** [www.surveymonkey.com/s/NSWFAGrainGrowerSurvey](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NSWFAGrainGrowerSurvey)

### The Carbon Tax and Agriculture

The NSW Farmers' Association is opposed to a Carbon Tax or Emissions Trading Schemes. The NSW Farmers' Association gave evidence recently to the Senate Inquiry regarding the Carbon Farming Initiative Bill, where this opposition was outlined. The Association has circulated an easy to read question and answer fact sheet about carbon tax and the Carbon Farming Initiative (CFI.) If you would like to read it, contact the [Member Services Centre](#).

### South Western Region- Executive Council Contacts

John Ward – Hanwood/ Coleambally (R9)  
Helen Dalton – Binya(R9)  
Derek Schoen – Corowa (R9)  
Gai Marshall – Berrigan (R9)  
Rod Hatty – Matong (R10)  
Sam Archer – Gundagai (R10)  
Bill McDonnell- Yerong Creek (R10)  
Martin Honner – Junee (R10)

\*If you would like these phone numbers please call or email me and I can pass details on to you.

### Country of Origin Labelling

The Association has received photographs and information from Members about the absence of Country of Origin Labelling for fresh produce in supermarkets and other retail outlets, and questions about how Country of Origin Labelling is enforced. There have been instances of Chinese apples and American Navel Oranges not being labelled (each individual apple or orange does not need to be labelled, just a sign in front of the stand) and mixes of fresh produce stating it is a mix of local and imported produce (rather than stating the actual country of origin). In NSW the NSW Food Authority is responsible for enforcing Country of Origin Labelling and be contacted if anyone has a complaint. It has established a Consumer and Industry Contact Centre to respond to queries and complaints about food safety and labelling in NSW. You can telephone the Contact Centre on 1300 552 406. A voice mail service is available after hours to record messages for attention from the next business day. Alternately, you can email the Contact Centre on [contact@foodauthority.nsw.gov.au](mailto:contact@foodauthority.nsw.gov.au) or fax 02 9647 0026. I would encourage members who do the groceries each week to keep an eye on the fruit and veg section of your supermarket. We need to send a clear message to enforcement agencies that we are keen to see our Australian farmers prosper!



## South West Ben Poynter

### Upcoming Meetings;

- Chemical Card Course Online 1300794000
- Riverina Communities Rural Network Meeting Arian Park 10am 27th May
- I & I Animal Handling Workshop Yanco 7-9 June Contact Kim Griffiths on 1800 025520.
- NSW Farmers Assoc. Wool Forum Albury Ent. Centre 10am on 16<sup>th</sup> June. Contact Charles Thomas on 1300794000
- Charles Sturt University Wagga- Agriculture and Animal Industries Careers Fair (AAICF) 4pm on 28<sup>th</sup> July Contact Tegan Nock 0428835944 for more information
- Griffith, Carathool and Murrumbidgee Shires Rural Service Network Meeting 11<sup>th</sup> August Darlington Point.

### Farm Plus - Information Assist

Information Assist is an agricultural online information centre, developed right here in Australia for the Australian farmer. Information Assist researched the web, categorised and indexed the most important information sources for Australian agriculture and made them accessible from one point. This includes information from the Research and Development Corporations, Government Departments, Universities and online agricultural resources. All you need to do is type in your question and the Information Assist website will find the answer for you. Visit:

[www.nswfarmers.org.au/benefits\\_services/farmplus\\_info/](http://www.nswfarmers.org.au/benefits_services/farmplus_info/)

### **DATAMARS NLIS Tough Tags – MAY PROMOTION**

Exclusive to NSW Farmers Members is this great deal from DATAMARS

- order 100 NLIS Tough Tags and receive a free applicator
- Order 500 NLIS Tough Tags and receive a 2GB Victorinox Swiss Flash Army Knife.

Conditions Apply and this offer is available only to NSW Farmers Association Members. Order:

- through NSW Farmers on 1300794000 or
- Online at [www.datamars.com.au](http://www.datamars.com.au) using NSW Farmers as your billing address and quote your membership number in the designated field.

Free freight for all orders over 100 NLIS tags. These tags have fantastic retention and the discount you receive as a Member of NSW Farmers makes them the cheapest on the market. Delivery is usually within the week of order.

To order or for further information, please feel free to give me a call 0427 773584 or email [poynterb@nswfarmers.org.au](mailto:poynterb@nswfarmers.org.au)

### Contact Us

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