

Western Division news letter

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Produced for landholders in
the Western Division of NSW

Organic Livestock Conference on track

Balranald Shire Council Mayor Cr Allan Purtil said: 'The Organic Livestock Conference being held in Balranald on 4-5 June 2006 is on track.

'I understand the Conference Planning committee recently met at Dareton and finalised most of the Conference details. Some of the industry speakers presenting at the conference include,

Tim Marshall organic certification specialist; Simone Tully CEO of OBE Beef and organic beef exporters; Katrina Hobbs from Country Heritage Feed in Toowoomba; Brad Nott from the organic certifying body NASSA; David Hardwick from the organic certifying body BFA; and Dr Bryce Douglas of the Australian Organic Red Meat Association.'

Cr Purtil strongly encouraged pastoralists to attend: 'It is clear that the Organic Lamb Industry is about to erupt. Don't miss out on this opportunity to be in Balranald to listen to an impressive list of speakers, network with industry and be there when real efforts are being

made to establish a new industry around "Outback Lamb". Let's serve it up.'

Those involved on the Planning Committee include Stephen Blore, and Michael Spinks, both Lowbidgee organic grain growers; Trevor Ablett of the Balranald Wentworth PP Board; Peter Crettenden and John Clothier,



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- ORGANIC LIVESTOCK CONFERENCE -

OUTBACK LAMB

Let's serve it up

4-5 June 2006

Balranald & District Ex-Servicemen's Club, Market Street Balranald NSW

The Organic Lamb Industry is just about to erupt. Don't miss this opportunity. Be at Balranald on 4-5 June 2006 to hear an impressive list of speakers, network with industry and be there when real efforts are being made to establish a new industry around 'Outback Lamb'.

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

SUNDAY 4 JUNE 5.00-9.00PM

Pre-Conference Social Barbecue at Greenham Park Pavilion to meet other participants & speakers

MONDAY 5 JUNE 8.30AM-5.00PM

Speakers and Presenters Include

- **Tim Marshall** – Organic Certification Specialist
- **Terry Hare** – Established Victorian Organic Dairy Co-Op
- **Simone Tully** – CEO OBE Beef
- **Katrina Hobbs** – Country Heritage Feeds Toowoomba
- **Brad Nott** – Organic Certifying body NASSA
- **David Hardwick** – Organic Certifying Body BFA
- **Bryce Douglas** – CEO Australian Organic Red Meat Association
- And a range of other industry representatives who will be available for networking

FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT

Stephen Blore: (02) 6993 6738 Mob: 0427 346 407 – Michael Spinks: (03) 5020 1775 Mob: 0429 201 775
Hank van Apeldoorn: (03) 5020 1300 Mob: 0428 601 266

Continued on page 2

Editorial

by Sally Ware, Rangelands
Officer, NSW DPI, Hay

Many thanks to those people who returned the survey that was contained in the last Newsletter. Your input is much appreciated. The winner of the book prize will be announced in the next Newsletter. I do apologise if anybody had trouble faxing their survey to our office as our fax was not working for a short period.

This Newsletter contains a number of important topics and forthcoming events. In particular, let's resolve now to 'be at the table' in Balranald on the 4 and 5 June when 'they serve up' the exciting opportunities that going organic with 'Outback Lamb' are going to present. We shouldn't miss this one.

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MOB: 0427 267 271**

(02) 6993 8173

It is illuminating to read John Williams's Farrer Memorial Oration – broadening landholders' earning base and being paid to deliver ecosystem services are constructive ideas that are worth doing something about. We should follow most keenly the progress of the ten properties that are trying these ideas under the EBC program piloted by WEST 2000 Plus.

NLIS has been extended to feral goats. Kids born in the Western Division are exempt from tagging but please be aware of our responsibilities when presenting them for sale or moving them to a property outside the Western Division.

Please note the extended deadline of 30 June for submission of Interest Subsidy applications by Western Division landholders.

'Organic Livestock Conference on track' continued from page 1

almost neighbouring property owners from north of Wentworth and both just starting organic sheep production; Garry Hannigan from Churinga near Broken Hill and 2005 winner of a Nuffield Farming Scholarship; Ted Lowe Agribusiness Manager with the Department of State and Regional Development at Buronga; Malcolm Brady BR&C agent in Swan Hill; Mandy Tripcony of Fairview north of Hatfield, who is going through the organic certification program and Hank van Apeldoorn, Manager Economic Development with Balranald Shire Council.

The Federal Member of Parliament Susan Ley will open the Conference. You can obtain further details from Michael Spinks on (03) 5020 1775 or Stephen Blore on (02) 6993 6738 or Hank van Apeldoorn on (03) 5020 1300 (mob: 0428 601 266).'



NSW DEPARTMENT OF
PRIMARY INDUSTRIES



NSW Government
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

The Western Division Newsletter is jointly produced by NSW Department of Primary Industries and the Department of Natural Resources with funding assistance from the Department of Environment and Conservation (NSW), the Western Catchment Management Authority and the Lower Murray Darling Catchment Management Authority.



Sustainable agriculture in Australia – some ways forward

Farrer Memorial Oration

Introduction

by Geoff Wise, Regional Director, Far West and Western Lands Commissioner

John Williams, an outstanding, renowned, practical scientist is a worthy winner of the Farrer Award for 2005.

The following is a summary of the oration he gave when he received the Award.

In this, he has 'gone back to the future', identifying where we have come from with sustainable agriculture in Australia, and identified some ways forward.

The particular reference to the need for the wider community to pay landholders to deliver 'ecosystem services' and simultaneously have a more diversified income, is totally consistent with the Enterprise Based Conservation (EBC) program piloted by WEST 2000 Plus on 10 properties over the last three years.

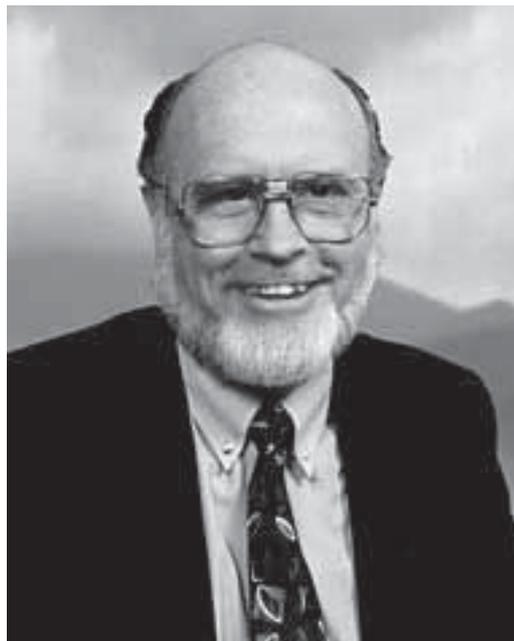
John has remained deeply interested in the EBC program. It will be primary producers working in collaboration with people like John Williams and programs like WEST 2000 Plus who will make an ongoing difference into the future.

The Oration

by John Williams

Summary – 2 November 2005

By 1886 the search for sustainable agriculture in Australia was underway when William Farrer suspected that problems of growing wheat were due to the unsuitability of the English wheat breeds which were especially vulnerable to rust fungi. His search to find wheat varieties more suited to Australian conditions and thereby provide the foundations for an Australian wheat industry; characterize the long journey that farmers and scientists have trodden for the last 125 years. It is a demanding journey to build an agriculture that works for the climate and soils of the great south land. Our pioneers were confronted by an ancient Gondwana landscape driven by a dry, extremely variable climate that generated extremes of droughts and flooding rains quite different from anything experienced in Europe or North America. These pioneer farmers and scientists and their descendents were challenged continuously to search out new ways to harvest the water, nutrient and carbon as food and fibre from ancient soils, in a very flat continent vegetated by a



John Williams, Farrer Award winner for 2005

great diversity of trees, woody shrubs and perennial grasses. Over millions of years the landscapes had accumulated, from atmospheric deposition and weathering, enormous amounts of salts in the soils and groundwater. Most of our rivers and groundwater systems are sluggish, with only a small capacity to move salt and sediment from the continent. Consequently a sustainable Australian agriculture must be able to work in this old, flat, salty land, driven by a highly variable climate, and

modulated by native vegetation that leaks water to the landscape's internal drainage systems at rates approximately equal to the drainage or discharge rates of water from the landscape. Further the agriculture had to work with surface movement of wind and water under a highly variable climate that drove episodic erosion, loss of soil and deposition of sediments in rivers and floodplains. This is a tough call. Unfortunately farming based around annual crops and pastures does not work well in such a landscape. These annual crops and pastures leak far too much water past the roots so that much more water enters the landscape than can leave the landscape via the sluggish drainage system. Groundwater rises as the landscape fills causing the abundant salt stores to be moved to valley floors, rivers, and wetlands. The increased leaching associated with water leakage carries valuable nutrients past the root zone and drives accelerated rates of soil acidification as well as soil nutrient depletion and delivery of increased nutrient loading to groundwater, streams and wetlands. The challenge is to build agro-ecosystems that generate wealth from food and fibre products and which have within them flows of water, nutrient and carbon that are well matched to the flows that can be accommodated in hydro-geochemical cycles of the ancient continent.

The way forward has required scientific capacity to measure, model and predict the flows of water, nutrient, and carbon in our agro-ecosystems and relate these to the flows occurring in the landscape. This coupling of paddock to catchments and ultimately river basin continues to stretch scientific knowledge and capacity, but progress has been made. There is sufficient knowledge now to shape the re-thinking of our farming systems. This re-thinking will require radical change to current land use incorporating:

- development of commercially driven tree production systems and/or novel tree species for large areas of the current crop and pasture zones. These would include trees to produce fruits, nuts,

oils, pharmaceuticals, bush foods and forestry products such as specialty timbers, charcoal, and biomass energy;

- new farming systems made up of novel mixes of all the best current annual and perennial plants, the best agronomy, companion plantings, rotations and combinations;
- new forms of cereals, pulses, oilseeds and forages selected or bred for characteristics that substantially reduce deep drainage and nitrogen leakage; and
- new land assessment tools that
 - best locate trees, other perennial plants, high-value annuals, and native vegetation to meet water quantity and quality targets, and biodiversity goals, and
 - facilitate identification and re-assignment of land so that on some parts of the landscape, productivity is greatly enhanced (double yield) and other parts are removed from production to provide a range of ecosystem services and protect the native biota.

The future will also require a new vision for the role of agriculture in the landscape. The future form of sustainable agriculture can be discerned to require a mosaic of new and old agricultural enterprises that yield food and fibre coupled with native ecosystems that provide a suite of ecosystem services which are valued and paid for by stakeholders and beneficiaries. For this to happen we will need to develop innovative and inclusive approaches that permit fair comparison of market and non-market values. Developing the concept of valuing and paying for ecosystem services as part of this process is will be increasingly important.

A key function of agriculture in the future will be to manage the landscape, its rivers, wetlands and estuaries, in ways that produce ecosystem services for our urban societies. The agricultural community continues to be caught with declining terms of trade and can no longer be

National Livestock Identification Scheme – feral goats

by Bill O'Halloran, Industry Leader, Sheepmeats,
NSW DPI, Armidale

Do kid goats born in the Western Division need to be tagged?

Kids born in the Western Division are not required to be tagged if they remain in the Western Division. Kids sent to a property or saleyard outside the Western Division will need to be tagged. However, if they are going straight to slaughter for sale over the hooks in the Central Division or via a depot in the Central Division before sale over the hooks, they do not need tagging.

Kids born this year outside the Western Division will need to be tagged unless they are sent direct to slaughter for sale over the hooks or via a depot and then sold over the hooks.

You need to use Movement Documents for all goats sold

Regardless of the destination of the goats you are selling or whether they need to be tagged or not, all movements of goats need to be accompanied by a movement document. These documents can be:

- A National Vendor Declaration
- A Transport Stock Statement
- A Health Statement

The document must have the following information recorded:

- The number and type of stock
- The PIC of the property where the stock were last held
- * The PIC or the address of the property, saleyard or abattoir to which the stock are being sent

- The date the movement started

Where can I get more information about NLIS for goats and sheep?

More information on the new scheme can be found from the following sources:

- NSW DPI toll free help line
1300 720 405
- NSW DPI website
<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/nlis>
- RLPB local office



LEADER PRODUCTS

Suppliers of:

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Colin Curnow ph 0418 359 122

Farrer Memorial Oration from page 4

expected to produce cheap, clean food and fibre, as well as provide a free service to maintain all the ecological functions of the landscape that provide ecosystem services essential to urban societies. The services will need to be paid for and be recognized

as a fundamental part of the economy. The agriculture of the future will be paid not only for the goods it produces but will receive increasing remuneration for the services delivered through its management of healthy landscapes, rivers, wetlands and estuaries. Agriculture will broaden its perspective to be seen by society as the custodian and manager of the life support systems for society as a whole.

The 'Kallara' Total Grazing Pressure Trial

Justin and Julie McClure
Kallara',
Trudie Atkinson, NSW DPI
Livestock Officer, Broken Hill
Ian Toole, NSW DPI Technical
Officer, Trangie

This article reports the findings from the Kallara Western TGP trial. The Kallara trial operated from August 2001 until April 2005 on the McClure family's property Kallara, which is situated on the western side of the Darling River near Tilpa.

The objective of the trial at Kallara was to determine the capacity of electric fencing to exclude kangaroos from rangeland paddocks. The trial also aimed to determine the effects of kangaroo exclusion on pasture condition and animal production, and evaluate the economic feasibility of managing kangaroos with electric fencing.

Four paddocks were used in the trial covering an area of 9400 ha. Two of the paddocks, both approximately 1600 ha were electrified in an attempt to exclude kangaroos, and the other two paddocks allowed kangaroo access.

The electric fence was ineffective at excluding kangaroos, and Justin and Julie found the level of maintenance required on the fence was impractical. The trial relied on the electric fence being able to exclude a reasonable proportion of kangaroos from the exclusion paddocks. This meant the impact that kangaroo numbers have on native pasture and in particular native perennials and non-desirable natives e.g. woody weeds, could not be investigated as intended.

Estimations of kangaroo populations were conducted during the trial, using the step-pointing method described in *The Glove Box Guide to Tactical Grazing Management*. Kangaroo densities were similar in all paddocks prior to the fences being electrified. Kangaroo numbers did decrease initially in the exclusion paddocks after the fence was electrified. However, this was not sustained and after six months no difference in kangaroo densities could be found between the paddocks.

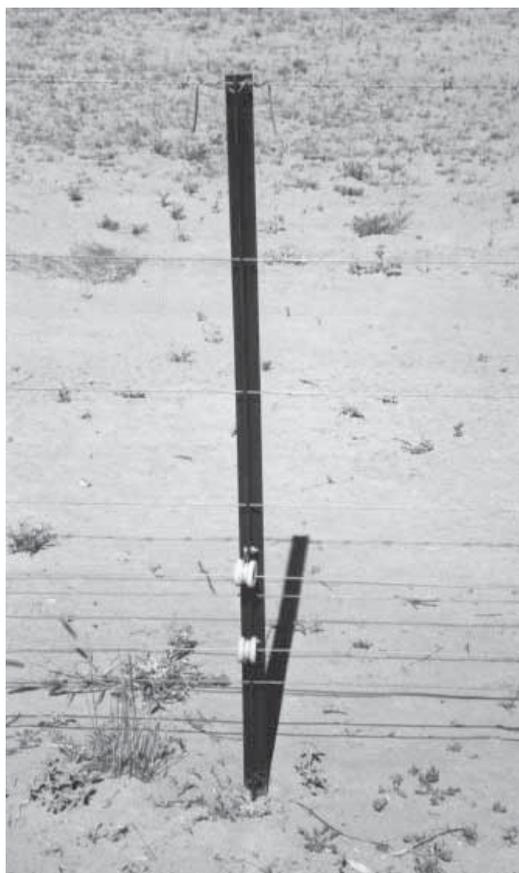
Electric fences would need to be of a higher standard than the designs used at Kallara, to exclude kangaroos. On three sides of the exclusion area, existing fences were converted to electric using either porcelain insulators or insul-timber off-sets. Old wire lying around the existing fences, posts lifting out of the ground and old wires breaking caused the electric fence to short out. The fourth side was a new fence, graded on either side, with electric wires attached with porcelain insulators. This section of the fence appeared to be more effective. However, being connected to the other portions of the fence, it also was affected by the shorts.

The trial has also highlighted the fact that certain country types are less suited to electric fencing. In sandhill country, sand movement would either cover the bottom wire of the fence shorting it out, or expose a large gap under the bottom wire, which kangaroos could move through. Kangaroos would also dig under the fence in this country type.

Despite the difficulties with the original aspects of the demonstration comparative observations made by Justin and Julie comparing paddocks of different sizes, and the impact of reducing paddock size on their pastures and livestock did generate unexpected outcomes from the trial.

The trial involved sub-dividing a 6835 ha paddock with three watering points into one 3626 ha paddock with two watering points, and two smaller paddocks (1534 ha and 1675 ha) each with one strategically placed watering point in the northern corner.

Initially the impact that a higher number of stock has on watering points was noted. In the two smaller paddocks the minimal impact the stock had around the watering points, in a particularly dry time was very



noticeable when compared to the larger 3626 ha paddock where the stock tend to 'hammer' one water or the other depending on the wind.

As the trial progressed additional advantages of smaller paddocks were



Left: The new electric fence on Kallara comprised 4 plain wires, a top barb and 2 electrified wires powered by the solar panel on the right. It appeared more effective in excluding kangaroos than old fencing that was upgraded to electric.

observed. The condition of the smaller paddocks has improved even during the drought. These improvements include increased perennial grasses and scald reclamation.

Justin and Julie feel the smaller paddocks are also associated with improved livestock production performance. The smaller paddocks have reduced the stress on stock, mainly due to smaller mob size as the sheep come into water. Smaller paddocks have also made animal husbandry practices (such as treating for fly strike) more time and cost effective.

The long-term property plan for Kallara will incorporate reducing the size of paddocks and increasing watering points, from the observations made during the trial.

Interest Subsidy deadlines for Western Division

In December the Government announced that the Western Division which encompasses the Wanaaring, Cobar, Wentworth, Milparinka, Hillston, Broken Hill, Wilcannia and Balranald Rural Lands Protection Boards, had their Exceptional Circumstances Declaration extended for the period 23 Dec 2005 to 30 June 2006. This therefore entitles producers to apply for another round of Interest Subsidy (6 month subsidy only not 12 month) before the 30 June 2006.

You can lodge the application at any time before June 30 regardless of when you lodged your 3rd round application. Previously, the NSW RAA would only allow producers to apply for the Interest

Subsidy nine months after a previous approved application subject to only one Interest Subsidy being received in each EC declaration period, but the nine month rule between applications no longer applies and producers are able to apply at any time before the June 30 cut off.

Please contact your local Rural Financial Counselling Service for assistance.

Bourke Rural Counselling Service: Alanna Edwards/ Sharon Knight
(02) 6872 3255

Wentworth/ Balranald Rural Counselling Service: Brian Dodson
(03) 5021 1558

Bogan Advisory Service: Liz Brown (02) 6832 2169

Southern Riverina Rural Advisory Service: Ella Credlin
(02) 6993 4130

Or NSW Rural Assistance Authority (02) 6391 3000



Western Lands Advisory Council COMMUNIQUE

by Jenny McLellan
Chair, Western Lands
Advisory Council
Phone: (02) 6839 1813
Fax: (02) 6839 1820
Mobile: 0419 279 610

28 February 2006

The fifth meeting of the Western Lands Advisory Council was held at Dubbo on 14 and 15 February 2006.

As determined in the previous meeting of the Western Lands Advisory Council, a major focus for the fifth meeting of the Advisory Council was on the Legal Road Network. A presentation was made on the background and implementation of the Legal Road Network project that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has commenced. Although public access was accommodated by a provision within the *Western Lands Act 1901*, many roads within the Western Division do not currently have legal status. The Western Lands Act was amended in 2002 through the Kerin Review to allow for the creation of public roads and for the establishment of easements. At present a major concern to lessees across the Western Division is the issues regarding trespassing and the legalities that could potentially arise from accidents.

The Legal Road Network project proposes:

- The identification and rationalisation of legal access rights across the Western Division;
- Reduction of the number of access routes within leases;
- Enhancement of property management, security and privacy; and
- Provision of certainty of access rights by lessees and the general public.

The objectives of the project include to:

- Negotiate contracts for the provision of services, data and a minimum standard for document lodgment;
- Identify, withdraw and dedicate land used by the public as roads that have not previously been dedicated as public roads;

- The provision of restricted easements to properties that do not have direct access to a public road;
- The progressive removal of the access condition from Western Lands Leases; and
- Closure of unnecessary Crown (paper) roads.

It is proposed that the project will commence in the north-west corner of the Western Division, with the project progressively working east and south. During the Advisory Council meeting a small committee was established to work in cooperation with DNR on this project consisting of Ken Turner who resides in the Unincorporated Area and represents the Pastoralists Association of West Darling (PAWD), Lance Howley representing NSW Farmers Association, Wayne O'Mally representing the Western Division Group of Shires Association of NSW and the Chair, Jenny McLellan, when required. The Advisory Council will look forward to the continued support of the local member for the region, Mr Peter Black OAM MP, Member for Murray-Darling, as the project progresses in his electorate.

The Legal Road Network project is a long-term commitment that will require considerable resources in the human and financial element, so it was pleasing to receive a letter from the Hon Ian Macdonald advising that DNR is committed to the recommendations of the Kerin Review and DNR has recently reinstated the Legal Road Network project and the Minister has asked DNR to give a high priority to the project.

A business paper was presented addressing the concern shown by some Western Division landholders regarding the administration of boundary fencing issues with respect to the impact of new animal

breeds on existing grazing enterprises with particular reference to fibre contamination. There are currently some inefficiencies with the manner in which boundary fence disputes could potentially be managed and resolved, and a small working group from the Advisory Council has reviewed the issue with DNR and subsequently presented to the Advisory Council the most acceptable and workable recommendations that would best resolve the issue. These recommendations involve amendments to either the *Dividing Fences Act 1991* or the Western Lands Act. Further legal interpretation is required regarding the requirements for compliance with lease conditions that refer to fencing and the requirement for fencing subdivided leases and the Advisory Council will be advised of the legal interpretations and what further compliance requirements may be needed.

A presentation was made from Peter Benson, District Valuer, Department of Lands which focused on outlining to the

Advisory Council members how valuations are conducted and the differences between the commonly used definitions relating to land value. The presentation provided a useful background with regard to the impact that changes in valuation will have on the conversion of residential Western Lands Leases to freehold.

The next meeting of the Advisory Council will be held in Broken Hill on 26 and 27 May 2006. An invitation to attend the meeting is to be extended to Hon Ian Macdonald (Minister for Natural Resources), Mr Peter Black OAM MP (Member for Murray-Darling) and Dr Richard Sheldrake (Director General, DNR). It is expected that the Legal Road Network project and the boundary fences issue will be ongoing and will be major agenda items for the Advisory Council at future meetings, and the Advisory Council will receive regular updates from DNR staff.

Joint projects to target pests

by Jacki Roberts, DEC Dubbo

Two major projects are being undertaken to tackle pest species in the Far West of the state.

Funding through the Lower Murray Darling and Western Catchment Management Authorities has enabled important pest control works to occur on private agricultural land adjoining some of the most precious cultural and natural sites in NSW.

This funding is complemented by pest control works on national parks and nature reserves that are part of the State Government's \$18 million pest control program.

This cross-tenure approach is the most effective way to protect wildlife, cultural heritage and stock from a range of pest species that don't recognise property boundaries.

In the Willandra Lakes World Heritage Area, the National Parks and Wildlife Service is coordinating a project on private land using and training local Aboriginal tribal groups.

The Mutthi Mutthi, Ngyiampaa and Barkindtji tribal groups are working with NPWS and landholders controlling such species as goats, rabbits and foxes on private lands within the World Heritage Area, concurrently with pest control works carried out by NPWS in the 116,000 hectare Mungo National Park.

The aim of the project is to apply best practice and cost effective methods that will have minimal impacts on the extremely sensitive cultural sites and the environment.

Similarly NPWS is managing a project funding landholders adjoining Mutawintji Nature Reserve to protect the Yellow Footed Rock Wallaby colony.

The project is being funded to assist landholders in constructing traps and yards on existing watering points for feral goats as well as providing some 8000 fox baits.

Goats compete with the Rock Wallabies for food, water and shelter. Removing them from the landscape will greatly assist this species which is listed as endangered in NSW.

A school to learn about Dorpers!

by Sally Ware, Rangelands Officer, NSW DPI, Hay

Do you want to learn more about the White Dorper or Dorper breed before purchasing a ram or some ewes? A course has been developed by NSW TAFE under the Module Name 'Identify and Select Animals for Breeding' that provides two days of training with plenty of hands-on learning in the sheep yards with Dorpers.

Two courses have been run to date by Mal Henman from Leeton TAFE and Ken Butcher from Bushveld White Dorper Stud at Booroorban, south of Hay. Based to date at Ken and Tertia Butcher's White Dorper Stud, participants learn about the White Dorper breed and about the breed standard that indicates the animal's degree of excellence. In addition, time is spent looking at the various age groups both in the Stud and commercial flocks. A manual called *Dorpers into the New Century* by Dolf Lategan is used as one of the main texts for the course.

CWA drought aid

by Danny Byrnes, Drought Support Worker, NSW DPI, Hay

Drought hit farmers and rural communities can still access financial assistance for domestic expenses through the Country Womens' Association of NSW.

In late 2005, the Department of Fisheries and Forestry donated more than \$1.4 million in emergency drought aid funding for the CWA of NSW to distribute to those suffering financial hardship as a result of the drought.

Funds of up to \$1000 for domestic (non-farm) expenses are available and can be paid on receipt of application forms and copies of unpaid invoices. Farmers are urged to contact either a Drought Support Worker or a Rural Financial Counsellor to try and maximise the benefit they receive.

Farmers need to realise that this funding is Federal funding and it is being distributed through the CWA network. It is not CWA funds and it is made available with few strings attached. The form is available through the CWA network or from Drought Support Workers. Farmers also need to be aware that these funds are allocated from the Sydney branch of the CWA network and not through local networks, so no one in their local area would be aware of what assistance is distributed.

Funds of up to \$3000 can be accessed to help with costs of community events run to assist those suffering from the drought. Organisers would need to complete an application form and provide full event details.

The CWA confirmed this week there was also the possibility of a further allocation of funding from the Department.

Contact Danny Byrnes, NSW DPI, Hay ph: (02) 6993 1608; 0428 973 141 or Lyn Leigo, NSW DPI, Bourke ph: (04) 2726 5810.

Introductory course Breeding and Selecting Dorpers and White Dorpers

- breeding • fertility • reproduction • genetics
- breed standards • conformation
- condition scoring

2 days at a property near Wentworth in late July 2006
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Further details about the next course can be obtained from Malcolm Henman on phone number (03) 5027 7700 or email malcolm.henman@tafensw.edu.au.

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LOT 26 SIDONIA ROAD
HAY NSW 2711

Cattle NLIS Reader Subsidy

by Gemma Junk, Livestock Officer, Bourke

If you have been thinking of purchasing reading equipment for cattle NLIS, now is the time to do it. The government is currently offering a subsidy of \$330 (inc. GST) for each producer or group of producers wishing to purchase this equipment. To be eligible, you must provide a copy of the receipt along with your Property Identification Code and ABN. Already bought yours? Not to worry, the subsidy is available to those that have already purchased this equipment, dating back to 1 January 2005.

For further details or to obtain an application form, log onto the NSW DPI website www.agric.nsw.gov.au/reader/nlis-reader-subsidy or contact your local NSW DPI Livestock Officer.

Farm safety field days

WorkCover NSW is holding a series of Farm Safety Field Day throughout New South Wales as part of its Safer Farms, Safer Farming program.

Actively supporting the Field Days will be the NSW Farmers Association, Farmsafe NSW, NSW Department of Primary Industries, the Australian Workers Union, the Country Women's Association, Tractor & Machinery Association of Australia, the Motor Traders Association, TAFE NSW and Country Energy.

Local field days will be an ideal opportunity to obtain practical advice about safety issues you may have on your farm.

You will also be able to view a wide range of practical solutions and demonstrations that will help you and your employees

work more productively and safely. Displays will include animal handling, child safety, silo safety improvements, fuel tank modification, shearing shed upgrades, auger safety, ATV safety, electrical safety, farm chemicals, as well as machinery specific to the agricultural activity of the region.

The NSW Police will also be in attendance to provide information on rural crime prevention.

WorkCover's new Business Advisory Officers, along with the newly commissioned Safety Bus, will also be on site to provide small to medium business operators with personalised advice on any safety or workers compensation matters.

The Farm Safety Field Days will be held at the following locations and dates:

29 June - Forbes

Forbes Showground, Show St, Forbes

13 July - Wagga Wagga

Wagga Wagga Agricultural Institute
Pine Gully Road, Wagga Wagga

27 July - Griffith

Griffith Centre for Irrigated Agriculture,
Murray Road, Griffith

31 August - Bourke

Renshaw Showground, Anson St

14 September - Balranald

Greenham Park, Balranald

5 October - Narrabri

Australian Cotton Research Institute,
Wee Waa Road, Narrabri

For more information call the Rural Safety Hotline on 1300 799 003.

FARM SAFETY FIELD DAYS

WorkCover NSW, as part of its *Safer Farms, Safer Farming* program, is holding a series of **Farm Safety Field Days** throughout New South Wales to demonstrate practical solutions to common safety issues that farmers face.

This is an ideal opportunity to talk to health and safety experts about farm safety issues, see practical demonstrations and get helpful information on a range of farming equipment such as silos, augers, fuel tanks, post drivers, farm chemicals, ATVs, shearing, electricity and more.

The **Farm Safety Field Days** are being held in conjunction with NSW Farmers Association, Farmsafe NSW, NSW Dept of Primary Industries, the Australian Workers Union, the Country Women's Association, the Tractor & Machinery Association of Australia, the Motor Traders Association, TAFE NSW and Country Energy.

For details on the nearest Farm Safety Field Day to be held near you or more information, call the **Rural Safety Hotline on 1300 799 003.**



LOOKING FOR A TOUGH, HARD WORKING,
RELIABLE WORKMATE TO GO THE LONG DISTANCE



LMD 17590

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ON THE FULL
RANGE OF
TOYOTA UTES
AND WAGONS

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To the Landholder



Western Division newsletter

The WDN welcomes contributions

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114	Nov–Dec	1 October 2006	Fax: (02) 6993 2177
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