

February 2011

# Central West landholder newsletter

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## Feral pig shoot delivers results

In 2010 the Central West LHPA coordinated several shoots of feral pigs in the Coonamble and Nyngan areas to curtail rising numbers. Populations had built up in those areas due to increased water availability and food density.

Central West CMA funded an aerial shoot in October, which complemented other shoots undertaken during the year.

A total of 1603 pigs were destroyed in these programs, substantially reducing the local populations.

Landholders who are experiencing problems with feral pigs on their properties are asked to contact their local LHPA office or ranger for advice on control methods.



*LHPA district vet Dr Evelyn Walker taking a blood sample from a ram for ovine brucellosis testing.*

## LHPA staff provide assistance with ram examinations

In 2011 Central West LHPA is offering a service of assisting all sheep breeders with ram examinations, with a particular focus on diagnosing and reducing the incidence of ovine brucellosis.

Over the last few years, there has been an increase in the incidence of brucellosis in the Central West LHPA. This is an avoidable cause of ram wastage, which will turn into an expensive exercise when ram culling and replacement is undertaken. The biggest cost of the disease, however, will be felt with any reduction in the number of lambs weaned.

There is no effective treatment for brucellosis. Infected rams are a source of infection to the rest of the flock so they should be subject to a physical examination prior to joining and any positive cases culled as soon as possible.

With this disease the ewe does not have a major role to play, as she is not the reservoir for the disease as is the case with brucellosis in cattle. Eradication of ovine brucellosis can

be achieved by paying attention to the ram and maintained by only purchasing rams from Brucellosis Accredited ram sources.

When examining rams there are other simple – but important – things like feet problems, lameness, age and body condition which will also impact on their reproductive performance.

Incorporate this examination with palpation of the testicle and their contents, and 95% of the important examinations have been done for a commercial flock. All lumps and bumps have the potential to reduce ram fertility. These lumps can be infectious, but can also be from fighting, or from just getting older and the usual “wear and tear” of a ram’s life.

The LHPA vets and rangers can help with the examinations and palpations and will be using the opportunity to ensure that ram flocks are brucellosis free. Any sheep breeder that wants to make use of this offer should contact their local ranger, vet or LHPA office.

Contact your local office today – or visit [www.lhpa.org.au](http://www.lhpa.org.au)

# Contact your local LHPA

## Directors

### Chairman

Don Mudford - 0428 876 266

### Deputy chairman

Chris Noonan - 0428 474 958

Gloria Brown - 02 6889 8333

Lindy Carney - 02 6846 3506

John Holland - 02 6845 3619

David Lister - 02 6833 4459

Brian Mockler - 02 6848 8138

William Sims - 0428 848 821

### General manager

Narelle Rodway - 0428 464 884

### Senior district vet

Greg McCann - 0427 663 292

### Senior ranger

Lisa Thomas - 0427 465 634

### Email enquiries

admin.central.west@lhpa.org.au

## Office contacts

### Dubbo (district main office)

96 Victoria Street, (PO Box 6082),  
Dubbo NSW 2830  
Ph 02 6882 2133  
Fax 02 6884 2302

### Coonamble

15 Tooloon Street, (PO Box 40),  
Coonamble NSW 2829  
Ph 02 6822 1588  
Fax 02 6822 2338

### Nyngan

58 Cobar Street, (PO Box 45),  
Nyngan NSW 2825  
Ph 02 6832 1008  
Fax 02 6832 1635

## UNDERSTANDING YOUR RATES NOTICE

The **general rate** consists of a base charge and an amount payable on the notional carrying capacity of your property\*. This funds pest animal programs, TSR management and local administration and service delivery.

The **animal health rate** consists of a base charge and an amount payable on your notional carrying capacity\*. This funds locally delivered livestock health programs and is payable if you told us on your annual land and stock return that you had at least 50 stock units on your property OR if you did not return your land and stock form by the due date.


The **pest insect special purpose rate** is collected for I&I NSW to cover the cost of plague locust control campaigns. LHPAs do not retain these funds. The pest insect rate includes a flat contribution per rate notice, plus a cents per dry sheep equivalent (DSE) amount. This year, the NSW Government provided \$18.5 million towards the spring/summer plague locust campaign.

The **meat industry levy** is collected for the NSW Food Authority. LHPAs do not retain these funds.

The **base charge** is a uniform charge within an authority, similar to a 'flag fall' in a taxi.

\*The **notional carrying capacity** is an estimate, worked out by the local authority, of the number of stock a property would normally carry in an average year and is based on stock units per hectare.

RURAL LANDS PROTECTION ACT 1998 Section 63



**LHPA**  
Safeguarding Agriculture in NSW

**2011 RATE NOTICE**  
TAX INVOICE ABN 12XXXXXX  
Livestock Health and Pest Authority  
Guns Gully Rd, GUNS GULLY, NSW

JOHN CITIZEN  
PO BOX XXXX  
GUNS GULLY NSW XXXX

Reference No: 12XXXXX  
Date of Issue: 21 January 2011  
Payment Due Date: 21 February 2011

**Holding Name:** J Citizen  
**Holding Address:** Guns Gully  
**Associated Holdings:** N/A

**Area of Land (hectares):** 61.75      **Notional Carrying Capacity:** 545.55      **Notional Intensive Carrying Capacity:** 545.55

Particulars of Rates and Charges		Units	Cents per Unit
RATES—GENERAL	BASE CHARGE \$62.90	545.56	13.5000
RATES—ANIMAL HEALTH	BASE CHARGE \$27.00	545.56	9.7000
SPECIAL PURPOSE RATE			
- PEST INSECTS	BASE CHARGE \$16.00+	545.56	3.6660
MEAT INDUSTRY LEVY	\$ 5.00+	545.56	0.6000
STOCK MOVEMENT PERMIT RENEWAL	\$ 11.00		

All rates and charges are exempt from GST under Division 81 of the Goods and Services Tax Act 1999 unless otherwise indicated.

The Meat Industry Levy is a statutory levy collected on behalf of the NSW Food Authority. The Pest Insect Special Purpose Rate is collected for I&I NSW to cover the cost of plague locust control campaigns. If a Routine Stock Movement Permit renewal is not required please notify your local LHPA.

*NOTE: The rates and charges amounts shown left are indicative only. Actual amounts will vary according to where you live.*

# Central West has fox control on the radar

Following the success of its coordinated group fox baiting programs across the district over the past 12 months, the Central West LHPA will once again be running a large number of group baiting programs during March and July.

This autumn we will be conducting information meetings on fox baiting methods in many locations around the authority. The dates and locations for these are currently being finalised and will be published on our web site at [www.lhpa.org.au](http://www.lhpa.org.au).

Group programs are undertaken strategically twice each year to reduce fox numbers and help increase lambing percentages.

Central West LHPA rangers have also been working with the vertebrate pest research unit of I&I NSW on research into fox predation. A recently published research paper, 'The potential for participatory landscape management to reduce the impact of the red fox on lamb production', shows that group baiting programs conducted twice yearly result in higher lamb survival.

The key results of the research included:

- The frequency and timing of fox control correlates with lamb survival.

- Lamb survival was higher where fox baiting was carried out twice a year, in autumn and late winter/spring.
- Spatial coverage of the control program was also positively correlated with lamb survival.
- Properties that had near neighbours (up to 2.5km away) participating in group fox control programs had higher survival of lambs than those that did not.

**If your area does not have a regular group baiting program in place and you would like to get one organised contact your local Central West LHPA office.**

## 1080/Pindone help for landholders

In 2010 more than 40 landholders successfully completed the 1080/Pindone course coordinated by the Central West LHPA at several venues around Dubbo and Cummock. With feral pig and rabbit numbers increasing as a result of the good seasonal conditions the authority is encouraging landholders to control pests on their land as much as possible.

Pesticide legislation makes it a requirement for all users of chemicals to hold an AQF Chemical Application Certificate, otherwise known as a 'chemical users card'. This requirement has also recently been applied to those who use 1080 and Pindone products to destroy rabbits, foxes, wild pigs and wild dogs.

The LHPA will continue to assist landholders who do not hold AQF accreditation by offering a new short course developed by the LHPAs and approved by the relevant Government bodies to enable landholders to legally use 1080 and Pindone.

This course does not replace the AQF



*Ranger Scott Sullivan delivering a 1080/Pindone training course.*

3 Chemical Application Courses as this remains a requirement for all other 'restricted chemicals' use. Landholders must either have a current AQF 3 'chemical card' or have successfully completed the new 1080/Pindone training with the authority to enable them to obtain 1080 or Pindone baits.

The course, delivered by qualified rangers from within the Central West LHPA, runs for approximately four hours and is designed to give participants a clear understanding of 1080 and Pindone use and the landholders' legal obligations. It covers topics such as legislation,

transport, storage, neighbourhood notification, signage, toxicity, baiting techniques and OH&S requirements.

The 1080 and Pindone accreditation will be valid for five years and currently costs \$40 plus GST.

For landholders conducting rabbit and feral pig control programs using 1080 the LHPA will treat grain and carrots with 1080 for free during 2011.

**Contact your local office or ranger to express an interest in attending a course.**

# LHPA assists flood affected landholders

Central West LHPA rangers and vets were at the forefront in managing the local flood response for livestock related issues during December and January, responding to more than 275 requests for assistance, plus many other logistical requests, such as veterinary advice and TSRs for emergency stock refuge. LHPA staff assisted in fodder drops for livestock, assisting with stock movement onto dry land, shifting essential vehicles and dropping off essential agricultural and veterinary chemicals.

Surveillance and monitoring has also been undertaken and this will continue as the floodwaters recede.

TSRs are available to all Central West LHPA landholders at no cost and fenced in reserves for reduced costs until the end of February. Landholders affected by floods will

be given priority use of these reserves while their country recovers.

Landholders are advised to continue checking stock for several weeks following the floods, in order to detect early onset of diseases associated with floods, and to contact their local LHPA vet for assistance with diagnosis and treatment options.



## Tips for autumn rabbit control

Central West LHPA rangers are preparing to work with landholders to control rabbit numbers, which are on the increase following improved seasonal conditions.

Rangers are advising landholders to consider an integrated approach to control, as baiting programs have been less successful than usual due to the good season. Rabbits have had a great selection of green feed so have not taken bait as they normally would however, now that conditions are drying off normal baiting should be very effective.

Fumigating warrens is one effective way to control rabbits during the current seasonal conditions and destroying rabbit harbours, for example by warren ripping and cleaning up surface harbour, is the key to long term rabbit control.

For rabbit control advice specific to your property our rangers are only too happy to come and inspect your property and help you design a program to best suit your situation.

## Pink eye in sheep

The Central West LHPA has recently received increased telephone inquiries concerning sheep with pinkeye. Sheep with pinkeye have red, pink, cloudy or discharging eyes. Apparent blindness is commonly reported.

This disease is commonly spread between sheep in close contact which includes camp sites, yarding, trucking and shearing. Increased spread has also been attributed to flies and dust. It is important to remember that pinkeye in sheep is not the same as pinkeye in cattle, as they are caused by different organisms.

The decision to treat is based on individual farm management practices. Isolation of affected animals and treatment with topical drugs may be warranted in severe cases. Milder cases with or without treatment will take about two weeks to resolve.

Please seek advice from your local district vet.



Ranger Rhett Robinson (left) checking for locust hatchlings near Wellington.

## Landholder vigilance key to successful locust campaign

The Central West LHPA received 422 locust reports up to the end of December 2010, including reports of swarms. Further reports have been received in 2011. Most activity was centered around Nyngan, where extensive control operations were undertaken.

Throughout the entire locust season, rangers worked with landholders to ensure effective control of locusts, which resulted in minimal damage to crops and pastures in the district.

The Central West LHPA would like to thank landholders for their vigilance in the control of locusts to date.

**We encourage you to remain alert and to report locust activity so we can minimise the impact in the autumn.**