

February 2011

Riverina landholder newsletter

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Message from the chairman

The undoubted highlight of 2010 was the removal of the state drought declaration from the entire district for the first time since early 2006. Hopefully, we can progress for some time into the future without having to consider drought declarations. Over the last ten years we have processed thousands of drought freight subsidy applications for our ratepayers. The Exceptional Circumstances - Drought declaration for the district will continue until 31 March 2011 when it is to be reviewed by the Federal Government.

As conditions improved work began to prevent major damage by plague locusts in late 2010 and into 2011. I would like to acknowledge the huge workload undertaken and effort put in by our senior ranger Peter O'Shannassy, together with all our rangers and office staff. The cooperation of landholders in reporting and

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LHPA staff are using GPS technology to assist with the locust campaign.

Landholders urged to keep reporting and treating locusts

To date the Riverina LHPA has received over 2200 locust reports. Throughout the locust campaign, rangers have worked with landholders to ensure effective control of locusts. We also had a lot of help from other authorities with rangers from all over the State coming to help out.

Variable weather meant hatchings were erratic and the nymphs did not all band as predicted.

As second generation hatchings started on 1 January and bands are beginning to form, rangers are urging landholders to remain vigilant, particularly in areas around Corowa, Mulwala, Tocumwal and along the Murray River system.

Continue to check your properties for signs of hatchings and banding locusts, report all sightings to your local LHPA and continue undertaking necessary ground control.

We 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.

GPS technology assists with locust campaign

The current locust campaign is making use of GPS mapping technology, creating greater efficiencies and streamlining the reporting and treating process. The technology provides rangers with property maps and means all locust reports are captured electronically and sent directly to the Locust Command Centre in Orange.

With the help of this technology, the Riverina LHPA can now provide colour property maps of the district or section of your choice, available from local offices. These maps can be adjusted to have your property on the centre.

The units will also be used in our ongoing programs e.g. mapping and recording pest animal property inspections and livestock health incident reports.

Contact your local office today – or visit www.lhpa.org.au

Message from the chairman

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treating infestations is appreciated. We hope this will continue as further generations of locusts appear.

Although the locust campaign was the most time-consuming pest issue in 2010 many other pest programs continued throughout the year, with rabbit and fox control programs conducted across the district.

The recruitment of a new district veterinarian, Colin Peake, to service the Hay district was particularly pleasing. We now have

a full complement of DVs available to implement our livestock health programs and answer stock owner queries. A producer vote was conducted in January on proposed amendments to the district's ovine Johne's disease exclusion area. The result of the vote is expected to be announced soon.

This year the overall increase in rates across the Riverina LHPA is below the CPI rate of 2.8%, as approved by the Minister for Primary Industries.

It is hoped the new office in

Moulamein will be in use by our staff by the time this newsletter is received. The board of directors believes it is important to maintain our presence in the towns where we are currently located, such as Moulamein, to provide a service for our landholders across the district.

Although each director now represents a larger area we are still here for the landholder. If you have a query or problem, please don't hesitate to call on your local directors or myself.

Butch Lane, chairman

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



JOHN CITIZEN
PO BOX XXXX
GUNS GULLY NSW XXXX

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

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

EXAMPLE

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 C**

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.

Look out for signs of Barber's Pole worm

LHPA district vets are urging landholders to look out for signs of Barber's Pole worm. The warm, wet conditions over spring and summer have been ideal for worms to proliferate.

LHPA vets recommend that when you get your faecal egg counts done you ask for worm types as well. Landholders should also employ good drenching practices, which involves consideration of which drench will be most effective for each flock.

Most drenches will kill Barber's Pole worm, although they tend to be more resistant to drenches than other worms, and there are some specific drenches which give a few weeks of protection.

Barber's Pole worm needs warm, wet conditions to develop on the ground and causes anaemia rather than

the scouring which we are used to seeing in wormy stock.

All sheep are susceptible to Barber's Pole worm, not just lambs and hoggets. It is unusual to see them in this area but they tend to build up when we get a string of wet summers.

The worms drain the blood from the sheep leaving them extremely anaemic. Signs of anaemia include pale skin, gums and inside the eyelids. The colour of the blood is another sign of anaemia, often more pale than usual.

Sheep will become lethargic, develop a regular cough and have 'bottle jaw' which is a swelling along the bottom of the jaw from the mouth to the angle of the jaw which may be 5cm thick.

For more information contact your LHPA district vet.

Tips for avoiding grass seed worries in sheep

With the improvement in seasonal conditions, vets from the Riverina LHPA have observed an increase in the number of animals affected by grass seeds infestations.

Spring and summer rain has caused a significant growth and seeding down of grasses containing awned seeds such as spear grass/ corkscrew grass and barley grass. The awn on these grasses allows the seed to penetrate the skin, eyes and ears of sheep in affected paddocks.

All sheep can be affected, but the most susceptible are younger animals and merino and merino cross sheep.

The effects of grass seed infestation in sheep and lambs include:

- Lower body weight and growth rate, possibly due to infection, or to reduced feed intake from irritation of mouth, eyes, skin and feet.
- Discounts in carcass value due to weight reductions, less tissue depth at GR site and presence of infected abscesses and visible seeds.
- Reduced skin quality and value as seeds leave small abscesses in the skin and small permanent holes that enlarge during tanning.

- Eye and ear infections, often oozing, which attract flies and can further depress grazing. Sheep can be blinded.
- Lameness from the pain of the seeds under the skin, causing reluctance to move.
- Joint infections (arthritis) and blood poisoning (toxaemias) have been seen in association with heavy grass seed infestation.
- Increased risk of scabby mouth infections.
- Deaths can occur due to starvation, dehydration, blindness, lameness and severe pain and distress.

This condition can be diagnosed by skinning affected sheep to see the extent of seed penetration on the underside.

Strategies or short-term reduction (avoidance) of the impact of grass seeds on the sheep include:

- Avoid exposure of sheep to high risk paddocks. Prioritise young sheep in this aspect.
- If possible shear sheep before high risk period as shorn sheep are less susceptible. This should be considered in terms of other management practices and of the discounts that apply to short wool.
- Strategic short-term heavy stocking rates may help reduce the grass seed problem.
- Use cattle, horses or goats to knock the seeds off before sheep are put into the paddock as these animals are a lot less susceptible to grass seeds;
- Slashing tracks to allow safe access to water or to feed.



Senior district vet Dan Salmon checking sheep at the Denilquin sale.

Wet weather presents difficulties for worm control in sheep

The wet winter and late spring presented problems with worms in sheep that Riverina vets have not seen for some years. As well as the regular problems experienced from year to year there were a few, particularly black scour worms, which usually only appear in the eastern part of the district that have spread to the west and beyond.

With the prediction of further rain this summer, another problem that will arise will be issues with the control of sheep worms.

One of the cornerstones of worm control in this part of the world has been summer drenching. The hot dry summers ensures the worms on the ground are killed and the drench kills the worms in the sheep. If the summer is warm and moist the paddocks don't dry out and they aren't as clean as we would like them to be.

A solution is to use pasture rotations to reduce the number of worms that the sheep are picking up. Keep in

mind that when it is cool hardly any of the worm larvae on the ground die, but when it is hot and dry hardly any of them will live.

When it is warm and moist the worm larvae on the ground don't live for a long time. When we were doing research with tracer worms on summer pastures we found that most of the worms on the ground died within a month on pastures which were being watered through the summer.

Stubbles will still have very few worms as well, but if you don't have stubbles think about boxing some mobs and resting some paddocks. This way if the faecal egg counts conducted in February shows that you should drench your sheep you will have a reasonably clean paddock for them.

For more information on worm control contact your local LHPA vet.

1080/Pindone help available for landholders

This year the Riverina LHPA will be running more 1080 and Pindone training courses in the area following high demand from local landholders during 2010.

The new shorter course, which only takes three hours to complete and allows participants to use 1080 and Pindone baits on their properties, has been very popular with landholders and will be run again during autumn for a cost of \$11 to ratepayers.

The new training course covers topics such as baiting techniques, toxicity, storage, transport, legislation and OH&S.

Those completing the course are issued a certification card and will remain accredited to use 1080 and Pindone for five years.

Rangers advise that when you pick up baits they still need to sight the end users card (the person actually laying the bait). This course does not replace the

AQF3 Chemical Application courses as this remains a requirement for all other 'restricted chemical' use.

For further information contact your local Riverina LHPA office.



LHPA rangers will run further 1080/Pindone baiting courses again in 2011.

How to transfer cattle on or off your property on the NLIS database

In our July newsletter we showed you how to create a new account on the NLIS database. Below we explain the steps to transfer cattle off or onto your property on the NLIS database.

1 Open your NLIS Database account by browsing to www.nlis.mla.com.au and entering your username and password (see your July issue of our landholder newsletter for further information - contact us if you would like a copy).

2 Choose 'Notify the Database of: Cattle moved off my property' and select Go.

3 Select 'I want to type in the details manually on-screen.'

4 Follow the steps. You can copy and paste a list of numbers into the bottom box if you have them, otherwise type in the numbers separately. The numbers can be the electronic number inside the tag or the NLIS ID number stamped on the outside of the tag. Source PIC if your PIC. You will not be able to continue unless the information has been entered correctly.

5 Click continue, check the details on the next screen and then click send.

Your transfer is complete and the database will send an email notifying you of the transaction.

Note: If you have purchased or sold through a saleyard or abattoir this will already have been done for you.