

February 2011

Cumberland landholder newsletter

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Chairman's message

Locally the past year has been one of consolidation as directors of the Cumberland LHPA have worked with the State Management Council and Policy Council to deliver results that best serve landholders.

Cumberland and Mid Coast LHPAs operated from Cumberland's Maitland office until August when Mid Coast decided to relocate its operations to Tocal. We intend to let out some floor space within the office to ensure the most efficient use of resources and facilities.

Additionally we are proposing to establish a depot at Morisset to better enable us to serve landholders in the southern part of Division A.

Cumberland LHPA has set its 2011 rates, with the overall increase in rates across the authority kept within CPI.

Mark Honey
Chairman



Infrared cameras show feral pig activity at a food station.

Landholders see feral pig program results in south

Cumberland LHPA has been working with landholders to eradicate a population of feral pigs on the urban interface in B Division and the program has already produced results.

The feral pigs were causing damage to surrounding crops, sensitive environmental areas, turf areas, landscaping and native plantings.

LHPA rangers have worked with a number of landholders to coordinate a program that combines control methods such as trapping, shooting and baiting with 1080.

The program has proved successful and approximately 25

pigs have already been eradicated. Landholders have reported that at this stage there are only two known pigs remaining.

Camera monitoring of food stations has proven extremely successful in helping target the feral pigs for baiting.

Extensive free feeding (using unpoisoned grain) and camera monitoring has ensured that no non-target animals have accessed the free feed or poison and has given accurate accounts of the number of animals out there and the number of animals baited.

Free feeding and monitoring is continuing in an attempt to remove the few remaining feral pigs.

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

Directors set goals for 2011

The Cumberland LHPA board of directors has set a number of goals for 2011. An important goal is to improve capacity to identify potential emergency animal health risks and to work with others to ensure any response to an emergency situation is appropriate and timely. Another important goal is to foster more group activities for a greater impact on pest control. Your involvement in helping to coordinate group activities is welcome.

As the plague locust campaign continued late in 2010 our rangers were at times co-opted to assist in other areas. It is very important that assistance be provided to the LHPAs in the areas affected. The produce from these areas is

important as a source of food for this area and for export income. In the past staff from those parts of NSW have assisted in this area with emergencies like the equine influenza outbreak in 2007.

Thank you to those in Division A who responded to our survey last year. The main concerns noted were weed control and pest animal control. Weeds advice was seen as an additional service that we could provide. The results are similar to those of an earlier survey undertaken in Divisions B and C. Further training is planned to provide our rangers with additional skills in weed advice.

Greg Wood
General Manager
Cumberland LHPA

Contact

Camden (district main office)

61 John Street, (PO Box 141),
Camden NSW 2570
Ph 02 4655 9165 Fax 02 4655 3054

Maitland

53 New England Highway
Maitland NSW 2320
Ph 02 4932 8866 Fax 02 4932 5706

General manager

Greg Wood 0418 424 591

Senior district vet

Keith Hart 0408 409 391

Senior ranger

Geoff Mills 0418 210 681

Email enquiries

admin.cumberland@lhpa.org.au

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 12XXXXX
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 201
Payment Due Date: 21 February 2

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.

New vet for Maitland and district

Kylie Greentree has joined the Cumberland Livestock Health and Pest Authority as a district veterinarian servicing A Division, which runs from the Hunter River in the North to the Hawkesbury in the South.

Kylie grew up in Newcastle and says her new role 'feels like she has finally come home.'

Kylie graduated from the University of QLD with a Bachelor in Veterinary Science at the end of 1999. She spent time in private practice, worked in small and mixed animal practice in Inverell, Tweed Heads and surrounding areas, Byron Bay and Nerang.

During the past four years she worked for I&I NSW based in Bourke.

'This role was a similar role to what I have here at Maitland with the LHPA but obviously western NSW has a larger sheep focus and different climatic conditions which in turn leads to differing animal health issues,' Kylie said.

While at Bourke Kylie completed a certificate in Production Animal Pathology for Field Veterinarians and a Certificate 4 in Government (Statutory Compliance).

Kylie, her husband and two young daughters have settled well into Maitland.

'Since starting with the Cumberland LHPA I have come



Cumberland LHPA district vet Kylie Greentree conducts a post mortem on a calf found to have been affected by the clostridial disease Blackleg.

across some very interesting cases and I look forward to assisting many other landholders,' Kylie said.

Integrated approach key to rabbit control success

Rabbit numbers have increased dramatically under favourable conditions and it is time to start preparing for control once pasture dries off.

Effective rabbit control will require an integrated approach and there is much that can be done before the end of summer to compliment control efforts.

A vital component of integrated rabbit control is harbour destruction and/or modification. Noxious weeds such as blackberry, lantana and african boxthorn are commonly used by rabbits as harbour.

Control of these weeds is most effective during the warm summer months with a suitable herbicide whilst they are actively growing.

Dieback opens up the canopy and exposes rabbits to risks of predation whilst any burrows that may have been hidden underneath are able to be accessed more easily for treatment.

The next step is to look at items around the farm, particularly stacks of building/fencing materials. These should be elevated off ground in order to create sufficient space to deter rabbits from using the

'A vital component of integrated rabbit control is harbour destruction.'

underside as a place to hide. Farm buildings and shipping containers can also be rabbit proofed by laying sheets of mesh around the perimeter to deter rabbits from digging under.

Biological control is another tool in the integrated process and in terms of the endemic biological control agents, Calicivirus has been active and has taken a toll on susceptible populations (around 50%). As daily temperatures warm and conditions

dry out, it is unlikely that this trend will continue. Myxomatosis may become active during this period.

To achieve a fast reduction in numbers (at least 90% if done correctly) the most effective option is control through pesticides.

Poisoning can be carried out at any time but is best conducted during times when the pasture is not so lush, i.e., late summer or during the winter months.

Legislation states that the user of a pesticide must have received formal training in the use and storage of pesticides. It is illegal for LHPA rangers to supply poisons to people who have not undergone suitable training in their use.

LHPA rangers conduct Pindone and 1080 training at various venues around the district. Contact the Maitland or Camden office if you are interested in attending or if you need to obtain baits.

Vaccination advice for pulpy kidney

Pulpy Kidney (PK) is a member of the Clostridial disease family which is protected against by the use of 5 in 1 vaccine. PK is a common cause of sudden death in unvaccinated cattle, sheep or goats (especially goats) grazing the sort of lush pastures which are widespread in the Cumberland District at present. Long range weather forecasts predict above average rainfall until at least autumn, so the risk of PK will remain high.

Vaccination of cattle, sheep and goats is good insurance against PK, but it needs to be done properly to be effective. Vaccination at marking and again 4-6 weeks later is a standard recommendation to protect calves, lambs or kids against Clostridial diseases such as PK, blackleg or tetanus. A follow up booster is recommended annually. However, the vaccine only

protects livestock against PK for relatively short periods (as little as 3 months) in high risk periods like this one. An extra booster vaccine to protect against PK over this summer/autumn makes sense.

7 in 1 vaccine also protects against the disease Leptospirosis, but is twice the cost of 5 in 1. Cumberland LHPA senior district vet Keith Hart recommends 5 in 1 as appropriate for in sheep and goats. In dairy cattle, 7 in 1 should be used due to occupational health risks of handling Leptospirosis infected cattle. However, for beef cattle, unless there is a known risk of Leptospirosis (a fairly common cause of abortions in cattle), 5 in 1 is the preferred option.

It is important to follow vaccine storage recommendations.

National program's local benefits

The National Arbovirus Monitoring Program (NAMP) has been running for many years, and is designed to assure Australia's livestock export customers that we have an effective handle on the spread of important Arbovirus diseases, which are carried by biting insects.

Cumberland LHPA veterinary staff check for Ephemeral fever (3 day sickness), Akabane (Curly calf disease) and particularly Bluetongue through monthly bleeding of calves on strategic co-operator properties during the October-June spread period.

We have sentinel herds located at Cattai (near Windsor), Sutton Forest (near Moss Vale) and Nowra. I&I NSW runs sentinel herds on its properties at EMAI and Tocal.

Bluetongue, the most important disease from an export perspective, is spread by a small biting midge called *Culicoides*. While the Bluetongue strains we have in Australia show no clinical signs in cattle (although they can cause disease in sheep), it is important that these strains are not present overseas.

The NAMP program was designed to demonstrate to our customers that we can track the movement of Arbovirus diseases. A significant dairy heifer export market to China from Illawarra dairy herds is developing and it is important that we safeguard this market through such programs.

Popular baiting courses on again in 2011

Cumberland LHPA rangers have recently trained approximately 260 landholders in 1080 and Pindone use.

The pesticide induction training course authorises participants to access and use Pindone and 1080 poison which are used to control pest animals.

Courses have been held in Maitland, Ourimbah, Dural, Castle Hill, Richmond, Colo, Camden, Mittagong and Berry and feedback from participants has been extremely positive.

More courses are planned for 2011.

The course takes approximately 3.5 hours and costs \$44 (morning tea included). It focuses on pesticide requirements and specific information on how to use Pindone and 1080 including how each chemical works.

Contact the Camden office on 4655 9165 to register your interest in attending a baiting course.



Landholders attend pest field day

Cumberland LHPA holds field days during the year to keep landholders up to date with local livestock health and pest programs and seasonal issues.

More than 50 landholders attended a pest and feral animal field day held at Nowra Showground in September. Cumberland LHPA staff including senior district veterinarian Keith Hart, rangers Charles Signorelli and Daniel Shaw and administrative officer Monique Micallef presented information.

Strong interest in predator proof fencing on the day led to a follow-up field day (pictured at left) on electric fencing on a private property in Woollamia. Twenty landholders were given advice and demonstrations by a local fencing contractor.

For information on field days planned for 2011 contact your local office.