

Hume landholder newsletter

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Contact your Directors

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Wild dogs trapped in the Gilmore valley, resulting in a dramatic reduction in stock losses.



Successful East Gilmore wild dog management plan continues

Since its launch in 2007 Hume LHPA's East Gilmore wild dog management plan has been responsible for a dramatic reduction in the number of livestock lost to wild dogs in the Gilmore valley, with no stock losses recorded for the last two years. A two year period without stock loss has not occurred in the Gilmore valley for over 20 years.

During 2005, 125 sheep were lost to wild dogs which represented over 20% of sheep grazed in the area. These numbers were unacceptable to landholders and the LHPA.

The Hume LHPA has worked closely with stakeholders including Forests NSW, NPWS, NSW Land and Property Management Authority and local landholders to form a working group to address the issue. The efforts of this working group culminated in the East Gilmore Cooperative Wild Dog Management Plan. The plan aimed to minimise the impact of wild dogs by providing a buffer zone around pastoral properties.

In order to create a buffer zone, a variety of control techniques were used. Proactive baiting and trapping programs were undertaken. In its first year of operation in 2007, 17 wild dogs were trapped. This saw a large drop off in dog numbers and subsequently a dramatic reduction in stock loss in 2008. Five sheep were killed in 2008 totalling less than 1% of sheep in the area, down from 22% in 2005. In 2009 no stock were lost to wild dogs.

Success has continued, with no stock loss recorded in 2010. Proactive trapping and baiting continued throughout 2010 with four dogs trapped and four 1080 bait takes by dogs.

The success of the East Gilmore Cooperative Wild Dog Management Plan can be attributed to the commitment of all stakeholders to make the plan work. The LHPA will continue to monitor and liaise with stakeholders to ensure continued success of the program.

Wagga Wagga (main office)

17 Trail St, Wagga Wagga NSW 2650
Ph 02 6923 0900 Fax 02 6921 8365
Office hours 8:30am - 5:00pm

District veterinarians

Helen McGregor 0428 262 112
Tony Morton 0427 213 034

Rangers

Alan Dawes 0428 481 817
Trent Fordham 0427 481 821
Richard LeLievre 0427 481 820
Mark Luff 0427 481 819

Gundagai

87 Sheridan St, Gundagai NSW 2722
Ph 02 6944 1588 Fax 02 6944 1867
Office hours 9:00am - 4:00pm

District veterinarian

Ian Masters 0428 441 588

Rangers

Michael Leane 0427 002 922
Richard Lloyd 0427 012 739
Toby O'Brien 0429 441 588

Holbrook

74 Albury St, Holbrook NSW 2644
Ph 02 6036 2733 Fax 02 6036 2618
Office hours 8:30am - 5:00pm

Rangers

Chris Hyde 0427 362 003
Michael McFarlane 0427 362 703
Neale Whitsed 0427 362 733

Lavington

462 Wagga Rd, Lavington NSW 2641
Ph 02 6040 4210 Fax 02 6025 6431
Office hours 8:30am - 5:00pm

Senior district veterinarian

Steve Whittaker 0411 274 542

District veterinarian

Britgit Pitman 0428 256 431

Rangers

James Abell 0427 362 618
Allan Scammell 0427 404 210

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 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 C:

Particulars of Rates and Charges		Units	Cents per Unit	/
RATES—GENERAL	BASE CHARGE \$62.00	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	3.5660	
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 in this notice are indicative only. Actual amounts will vary according to when you live.

Message from the Chairman

What a difference a year makes. We have witnessed a great turnaround in conditions across the State, and yet we are all still at the mercy of the weather, both good and bad.

In our last newsletter I praised staff for the assistance given to those suffering from the bushfire damage to livestock and property in the south of our authority. This time I thank our staff for the assistance given to landholders during the December floods and the earlier flash flooding, the locust campaign and the ongoing livestock health work arising from the

changing weather and conditions.

I am constantly impressed by the work undertaken by our vets and rangers in identifying disease and problems associated with such a diverse range of circumstances. This work is vital to the future of our livestock markets (and thus our hip pockets), our husbandry practices, stock movement and forms the basis of the general biosecurity of the State. To this end I request reporting and surveillance of any unusual animal health matters, and compliance with NLIS and Property 2 Property transfers. If you are worried about the process please call your local office for assistance.

The Hume LHPA has eight directors across the authority, and we have included our contact numbers in this newsletter. Please feel free to call us at any time. We request that you offer suggestions of services needed or changes to be made.

Our customer service officers are located at our Gundagai, Holbrook, Lavington and Wagga Wagga offices. Most of you will know our great team, so just drop in or call if you need assistance. Thank you to the landholders of the Hume LHPA. This year we look forward to a successful year in agriculture.

Deb Paton Blackwell, Chairman

Lameness in sheep

With such a wet, mild season in 2010, reports of lame sheep have flooded all of our offices over the past six months. Most cases of lameness have been due to common problems such as foot abscess, grass seeds, and scald. The good news from these investigations has been that very little virulent footrot has been found in all these lame sheep. This highlights the exceptional success of the Footrot Eradication program in NSW.

Most new incidents of virulent footrot involved the recent introduction of boxed lines of sheep – and a number of these sheep have originated from Victoria.

Victoria has no formal footrot eradication plan and introducing sheep from the south remains the greatest danger to keeping our flocks footrot free.

Check the national Sheep Health Statement that must accompany sheep into NSW as the vendor's declaration of footrot freedom. Isolate and subject new purchases to local challenge conditions.

It remains extremely important that sheep owners notify authority staff immediately if there are any concerns of lameness problems in their flocks.



An autopsy by your district veterinarian can help diagnose OJD in your flock.

OJD prevalence areas change in Hume LHPA

Ovine Johne's Disease (OJD) prevalence continues to increase in the Hume LHPA. Hume LHPA veterinarians are regularly diagnosing new cases of OJD. If you are suspicious of a 'growing tail' in your flock, contact Hume LHPA veterinarians for advice and assistance, as this may be due to OJD.

On 1 January 2011 there will be changes to the OJD Prevalence Areas in the Hume LHPA. The changes are the consequence of an increasing level of OJD over the past two years, which has pushed some districts

above their allocated prevalence area cut-off under the National OJD Management Plan. Abattoir monitoring since the last review has shown an increase in cases of OJD in the Wagga district of the Hume LHPA, more in line with the numbers expected in a high prevalence area.

The medium prevalence wedge north of Temora between the Young and Barmedman road has joined the rest of the high prevalence areas in Wagga, Hume and Gundagai districts of the Hume LHPA.

Combined approach best for beating worms in young sheep

The recent weather conditions we have experienced have brought with them their share of parasite issues, many of which have been absent or significantly reduced in previous dry years.

There has been a high level of variability in the range of worm egg counts at testing, ranging from zero to very high counts. In most cases the variability in results can be explained due to differences in age of sheep or previous management and drenching history. This highlights the need for strategic testing.

It is well established that young sheep are among the most susceptible and that there are definite and measurable benefits from targeted testing and

drenching in these mobs. Reports of high egg counts and reinfestation in young sheep grazing heavily contaminated pastures, raises the importance for a multifocal approach to parasite control.

Farmers need to utilise pasture and grazing management, strategic testing and targeted treatments as an armoury against worms rather than relying on a single approach.

On most farms we are also currently faced with the best opportunity in 10 years to conduct drench resistance tests or at the very least take samples 10–14 days after drenching weaners to check the drench used was fully effective.

Theileria in local cattle herds

Over recent months the Hume LHPA have investigated a number of unusual but remarkably similar incidents of disease in cattle. In each affected herd there were a few sick animals that showed jaundice and anaemia. The affected cattle lagged behind at mustering and breathed rapidly. A few were aggressive to handle and some subsequently died. Investigation revealed that each of these episodes was probably caused by a blood parasite called *Theileria*. This is an unusual disease to occur in our area as it is generally transmitted by bush ticks that do not readily survive in our colder winter climate. I&I NSW started monitoring *Theileria* in 2008 when the disease first became apparent in north coast cattle.

We are very interested to hear from producers concerned that they may have any unusual sickness in their cattle. Look out for aggressive behaviour, difficulty mustering, weakness and rapid breathing in calving or recently calved cows. *Theileria* may also be associated with abortions. If you suspect this condition do not stress the cattle further.

Contact a veterinarian as helpful treatments are available.

Keep reporting locusts

The Hume LHPA received 430 locust reports up to the end of November 2010, with most reports being followed up by rangers within 24 hours.

The success to date is due to the hard work put in by both landholders and locust control campaign staff including LHPA operational staff in the field with some assistance from the weather.

Conditions throughout spring helped locusts hatch, but thick ground cover and the continued cool and wet weather meant many nymphs were not able to survive long enough to pose a significant threat.

If you see egg laying, it's a good idea to both report to your local LHPA office and mark the spot so the location can be monitored for future hatchings.

It is still important for landholders to report adult swarms to their local LHPA office.



Helen McGregor, new district vet for the Hume LHPA.

New district vet for Hume

Helen McGregor has recently been appointed as district veterinarian with the Hume LHPA, based in Wagga and working across the whole of the Hume LHPA district.

Helen will be involved with traditional disease investigation and surveillance work, with a focus on research projects that have been identified as being of local interest and relevance.

Helen has commenced work on a collaborative project with CSU and MLA to clarify a problem of penile infection in bulls and its apparent association with reproduction loss in a number of herds in the Upper Murray and Gundagai areas. Further studies are also planned for the metabolic diseases and nutritional conditions that have been affecting local livestock.

Helen can be contacted at the Wagga LHPA office on 6923 0900 or 0428 262 112.