

July 2011

Central West landholder newsletter

3 simple steps

There are three simple steps to lodge online:

- 1 Look at the top-right hand corner of the enclosed Land and Stock Return for your Holding reference number and online password.
- 2 Visit www.lhpa.org.au/landandstock and log in using your Holding reference number and unique online password.
- 3 Fill in your land and stock details.

Even if you have no stock, it is important for you to complete a Land and Stock Return. Unless you complete a return, we automatically apply an animal health charge to next year's rates. It is a legal requirement that you lodge a return under the Rural Lands Protection Act 1998.

Online land and stock returns now even easier

Now the LHPA has made it even easier to lodge your Land and Stock Return online.

Last year thousands of landholders in NSW chose to take advantage of the online lodgment facility when they received their annual Land and Stock returns in the mail.

This year, you can also update your holding and occupier details online.

Your 2011 Land and Stock Return can be lodged online at www.lhpa.org.au/landandstock

Land and Stock Returns provide Livestock Health and Pest Authorities with important information about properties in NSW.

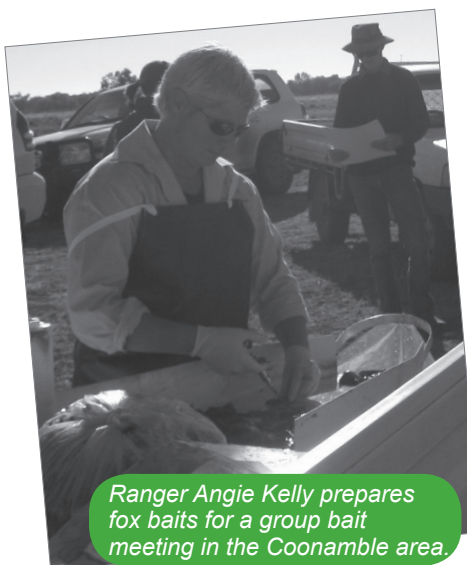
'The online form takes around five minutes to complete and asks the same questions as the paper-



based form,' said Central West LHPA general manager Narelle Rodway. 'All you need is access to a computer with internet.'

For more information about lodging online, including Frequently Asked Questions and privacy information, visit www.lhpa.org.au/landandstock.

Remember, your completed 2011 Land and Stock Return is due by 31 August.



Ranger Angie Kelly prepares fox baits for a group bait meeting in the Coonamble area.

Call to join fox bait meetings

Central West LHPA rangers at Coonamble are working with landholders to establish annual fox bait meeting groups.

These groups will be used for easy delivery of baits, up-to-date information about bait types and techniques and to provide the latest data on pest research. Groups are located across the Coonamble district and landholders are encouraged to join, as group baiting provides long-term widespread benefits.

In the Central West we have seen a big increase in the use of prepared

meat baits which seem to be more favourable to foxes and are cheaper for the landholder to use.

These meetings are also attended by our district vet, who provides information about local livestock health issues.

Our rangers welcome all landholders to participate for a few hours and catch up with your neighbours and share information.

Contact the Coonamble office to arrange a meeting in your area. Our rangers can also help you coordinate a baiting group.

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

Prevention best option for pregnancy toxaemia

With failing seasonal conditions, producers should be aware of pregnancy toxaemia (or twin lamb disease). Pregnancy toxaemia can affect pregnant ewes in any condition even though pregnancy toxaemia is commonly thought to be associated with late pregnant ewes in poor body condition or with inadequate feed supply.

Many areas have experienced low rainfall events over the last couple of months and this has led to a decline in the nutritional status of standing feed. Inadequate feed availability combined with any stress can result in significant losses in heavily pregnant ewes especially if they are in fat body condition as a result of the good feed availability over summer.

Stressors that can precipitate this negative energy balance include yarding, handling, cold weather, lack of

shelter, shearing too close to lambing, sudden changes in diet, a break of the season, or even health conditions such as development of foot abscess.

The best way to manage pregnancy toxaemia is prevention.

Preventative measures include ensuring ewes are on rising plane of nutrition and in body condition score 3 in the last 2-3 months leading up to lambing. Avoid situations where pregnant ewes drop too quickly (e.g., drop one whole body score or more) during any stage of pregnancy as this can lead to low birth weight lambs.

Pregnant ewes should also have access to high quality digestible pasture.

For more information contact the district vet at your local Central West LHPA office.

Rangers helping landholders zoom in on pig activity

Central West LHPA rangers have been showing landholders how to use remote cameras to monitor feral pig activity on private land.

Rangers have instructed landholders on the easy use of the cameras, resulting in capturing excellent footage of pig activity. This has helped determine the amount of pigs being targeted, the mob sizes and the size of the pigs being fed. Results have helped determine the amount of poison grain needed and the activity of these feral pigs.

Remote cameras can be purchased cheaply, are easy to use and we recommend landholders consider their use.

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Watch pasture quality to avoid ill thrift

Many animals, especially young stock, are in poorer than expected condition coming into winter, despite a good mass of pasture. Pasture quality is an important contributor to this.

Pasture quality varies with stage of maturity, component species and underlying soil fertility. Ideally, it should be grazed when it is at the immediately pre-flowering stage. When it is young, green and rapidly growing it is deficient in sources of energy. When it has seeded it is low in protein, vitamins, minerals and readily available energy. At these stages it does not provide a balanced diet for the animal and young stock will not maintain or gain weight without appropriate supplementary feeding.

For more information contact your local Central West LHPA district vet.

Fight stepped up against mice

Over the past couple of months rangers have been busy working with landholders across the Central West LHPA district to combat increasing mice numbers. This has included the treatment of approximately 15 tonnes of (landholder supplied) grain with bromadiolone for use as (crop) perimeter bait.

Rangers first started receiving reports of increasing mouse populations in November last year. Nyngan, Trangie and Warren were hotspots for mice activity just prior to sowing 2011 winter cereal crops. At this time there were reports of seed being sown and 'robbed' from the ground.

Rangers at all our offices are able to provide accurate and individual on-farm advice for managing mice. We do not provide broadacre bait but can give information on early detection, provide (crop) perimeter bait materials, advise and instruct on 'bait card' techniques and assist with designing of bait stations for on-farm situations.

During the baiting period, rodents can consume multiple lethal doses. This means the rodents are consuming more bait than is required, and there is also an increased risk of the bait poison accumulating in the poisoned rodent. To minimise the risks of secondary poisoning, and excessive use of bait, pulse baiting is recommended. By refilling the bait stations in 'pulses' of weekly intervals, the rodents that took the first feed should have been killed prior to the replenishment of the bait. Rodents will generally consume a lethal dose of bait in a single feed; however, like all anticoagulant poisons, the rodents can live for several days after this initial feed.

The myth of cold, wet weather having an impact on mice populations isn't always right. Breeding will generally stop or decrease over the winter period however a high population going into winter guarantees a high population to start breeding in spring. So keep up the monitoring and control activities where they are required.