

Mid Coast landholder newsletter

3 simple steps

There are three simple steps to online lodgement:

- 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.

Why have I been sent a land and stock return?

The information you provide in your Land and Stock Return helps us build a statewide picture about agricultural usage and livestock numbers. Along with the stock ID and traceability systems we manage, this information is invaluable in the event of an emergency disease outbreak.

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 also a legal requirement that you lodge a return under the Rural Lands Protection Act 1998.

Remember, your completed 2011 Land and Stock Return is due by 31 August 2011. Lodge online or post your return back to us.

Online land and stock returns now even easier

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

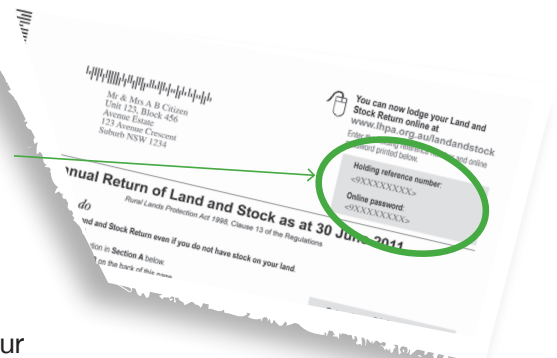
Last year thousands of landholders in NSW chose to take advantage of the online lodgment facility when they received their annual Land and Stock returns in the mail.

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 Mid Coast LHPA interim general manager Garry West. '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.

LHPA helps cement wild dog association funding

Total-based Mid Coast LHPA ranger Luke Booth was a key player in recent discussions on wild dog control funding between the Paterson, Allyn and Williams Wild Dog Control Association (WDA) and Hunter Water Corporation.

Luke acted on behalf of the WDA for the discussions, which resulted in an annual \$5000 funding commitment from the corporation.

The money will be used to support

landholders who are actively involved in wild dog control and also to allow trapping schools to be run.

Throughout 2010 the LHPA trained a number of WDA members. Those trained went away with an increased knowledge not just of trapping but also of wild dog behavior and tracking skills.

Following the success of the last

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

Consider dung beetles when using chemicals

Dung beetles feed on the dung of vertebrate animals, and as such play an important role in livestock enterprises. There are two main types of dung beetles – the tunnellers and the rollers. Both have an end result of breaking up dung pats. By breaking up and burying dung pats, dung beetles:

- improve the aeration of soil and water infiltration,
- recycle nutrients,
- reduce nutrient runoff into waterways, and
- assist in controlling parasites that breed in dung such as buffalo fly.

Unfortunately, a number of the chemicals that we use to treat internal parasites (gastrointestinal worms, liver fluke) and external parasites (ticks, buffalo fly, lice) of livestock have a negative impact on dung beetle populations. Among the products available for parasite control, some have more of an impact on dung beetles than others. The effect on dung beetle populations may also be affected by the route of administration, with pour-on and injectable products

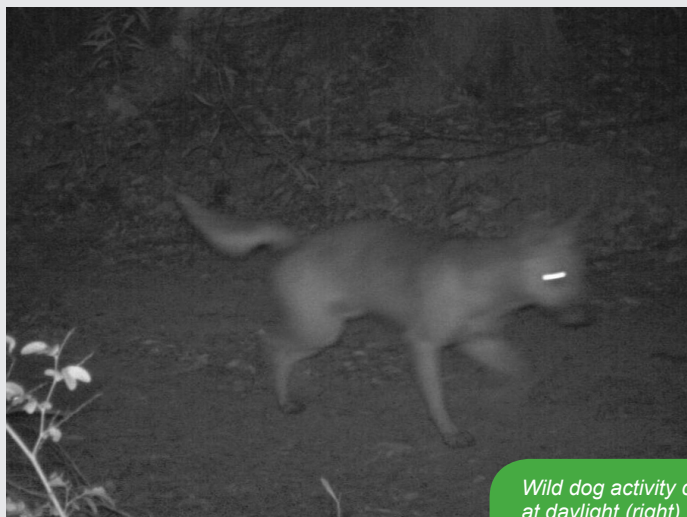
delivering more chemical to treated animals than ear tags, for example. The effect on dung beetles can range from death of adult beetles, eggs or larvae to a reduction in breeding capacity.

Some recommendations to reduce the risk of chemical usage to dung beetle populations include:

- considering less toxic chemicals,
- avoiding regular use during periods when dung beetles are most active (October to March),
- ensuring that chemicals are used only when necessary,
- consider alternate chemical application methods, such as ear tags, and
- always use recommended dose rates and follow label directions.

Useful dung beetle information is available from your local LHPA office or from the website www.dungbeetle.com.au.

Mid Coast invests in remote camera technology



*Wild dog activity captured at night (left) and at daylight (right) using the remote cameras. Later footage revealed dogs from this location in a trap.
Photos courtesy of Greg Cooke.*

The Mid Coast Livestock Health and Pest Authority has invested in remote surveillance cameras for use in the region.

These cameras are used in remote locations to help with wild dog and feral pig control and monitoring. They are set up on trails, which allow staff to gain knowledge in numbers and movement of these

types of pests. The information gathered provides an additional tool to help landholders to control and monitor pest animals on their land.

For more information about remote camera technology and how it can help with monitoring and management of wild dogs and feral pigs contact your local ranger.

**To contact a ranger or vet phone one of our local offices
Wingham 6553 4233 Kempsey 6562 7822 Singleton 6572 2944 Scone 6545 1311 Tocal 4939 8967**

New 8-in-1 providing even greater protection

Coopers have recently released a new 8-in-1 clostridial vaccine – Tasvax 8-in-1®. Like the 5-in-1 vaccines many will be familiar with, this new vaccine provides protection against the clostridial diseases which can be common causes of death in cattle and sheep.

In addition to the diseases covered by the 5-in-1 vaccines, the 8-in-1 also protects against diseases caused by *Clostridium perfringens* type B and C (lamb dysentery, haemorrhagic enterotoxaemia)

and *Clostridium haemolyticum* (bacillary haemoglobinuria).

Further, the product claims a longer period of protection against pulpy kidney (enterotoxaemia), suggesting that annual boosters will provide 12 months of protection compared to the much shorter 12 weeks protection offered by 5-in-1 vaccines.

This 8-in-1 vaccine may therefore be useful in situations where there is a heightened risk of pulpy kidney, such as is seen with high

quality pasture or when high energy rations are fed.

The 8-in-1 retails for approximately twice the cost of a 5-in-1 vaccine.

DISCLAIMER

The discussion of an animal health product within this newsletter should not be taken as a specific endorsement for such a product. Mention of these products or their uses is for information purposes and to draw attention to their existence in the marketplace.

Check testing options for bovine Johne's disease

A new alternative test for bovine Johne's disease (BJD) has recently been approved for check-testing of dairy herds. The new test is called the Herd Environmental Culture (HEC) test, which is a faecal (manure) test, rather than a blood test. It involves sampling a mixed manure sample from the herd, rather than collecting manure from individual animals. The manure sample is collected from the concrete dairy yard following milking, after the manure has been scraped together and mixed. The sample must be collected by an approved veterinarian or stock inspector.

Some important things to remember are:

- The HEC test is slightly more sensitive than the ELISA check test, meaning that it is more likely to detect BJD in the herd if it is present. Both tests become more sensitive as the prevalence of BJD increases.
- For those desiring a quick result from the BJD check test, the HEC may not be suitable as it will take a minimum of 10 weeks to produce a result. However, a false positive ELISA blood test will take even longer to finalize, and will occur (on average) once in every 200 disease-free cows tested.
- A positive HEC test does not identify the individual cow (or cows) that contributed the infected manure, whereas a positive ELISA test and subsequent faecal/tissue culture test does identify the infected individual(s). However, a positive result to either check test would result in 'Infected' status for the herd, after which the first step towards disease eradication would be a whole herd blood test to establish the herd prevalence. Consequently, a positive result to either check test places the herd (and its owner) at pretty much the same stage in an eradication/control program.

For more information on bovine Johne's disease testing contact your local LHPA district veterinarian or private veterinarian.



Mid Coast district vet Ian Poe collecting a faecal sample to undertake HEC testing.

LHPA helps cement funding

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jointly coordinated aerial baiting program, the LHPA and WDA are working together to undertake another aerial program in June.

The Paterson, Allyn and Williams WDA has been operational for over 30 years, paying out more than 680 bounties for dogs shot or trapped by property owners.

The WDA works closely with the

Mid Coast LHPA to assist in the application of landholders in aerial baiting of wild dogs. It also runs wild dog trapping schools and collate specific information on dogs shot, trapped and sighted.

It has a defined role in wild dog control in the areas of the Paterson, Allyn and Williams catchments, which has been written into the LHPA's Wild Dog Management Plan.

Q fever awareness

Q fever is a disease of humans caused by the bacteria *Coxiella burnetii* and can be spread from infected animals to people. The bacteria can survive many months in the environment due to its resistance to drying, heat and many disinfectants.

In people symptoms can vary and be vague and flu-like in nature. Some people develop chronic Q fever and post Q fever fatigue syndrome, while others who may be exposed develop immunity without developing any clinical signs.

Disease caused by the organism is rare in livestock; however, it can cause abortion in sheep and goats.

Many animal species can carry the organism including cattle, sheep, and goats as well as native animals, dogs, cats and rodents. The bacteria may be shed in their urine, faeces, milk and foetal fluids. The disease is spread to humans through inhalation of contaminated droplets or dust.

A vaccine is available for people to help prevent the disease. Producers who are concerned should consider discussing with their doctor.

Flood mud scours warning in north

Following recent wet weather conditions and leading into winter, Mid Coast Livestock Health and Pest Authority vets are warning farmers to keep an eye out for flood mud scours.

Yersiniosis, also known as flood mud scours, is a condition seen during wet winters on the Mid North Coast.

Early treatment with appropriate antibiotics is important to prevent

deaths from occurring in affected animals.

Vets from the neighbouring North Coast LHPA have investigated and confirmed a number of cases of Yersiniosis around the Kyogle, Ruthven and Grafton areas.

For more information contact the district vet with your local office of the Mid Coast LHPA.

Read the label to keep markets safe

Most producers are faced with using veterinary chemicals at some time. To protect our valuable export markets it is critical that label directions are followed with respect to the withholding periods.

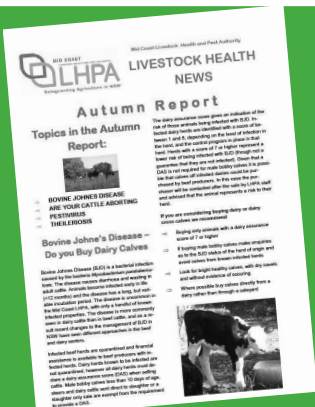
The withholding period (WHP) is the minimum period which must elapse between last administration or application of a veterinary chemical product, including treated feed, and the slaughter, collection, harvesting or use of the animal commodity for human consumption. WHPs are mandatory for domestic slaughter and are on the label of every registered product.

Many people are familiar with the term Withholding Period, as it is generally featured on the label for each veterinary chemical.

An Export Slaughter Interval is the time which should elapse between administration of a veterinary chemical to animals and their slaughter for export. Export Slaughter Intervals (ESIs) are sometimes not included on product labels, with the result that the concept is unfamiliar to some chemical users.

Up to date information on export slaughter intervals can be found at the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) website www.apvma.gov.au or contact one of our district vets.

Remember: always follow the directions on the label.



Register to receive Mid Coast LHPA's seasonal livestock health newsletter

The livestock health team at the Mid Coast LHPA produce a seasonal livestock health newsletter.

To join the email list and receive a copy please contact your local office and ask to be added to the list. If you do not have email access, hard copies are available at each office. You can also download a copy from the LHPA website at www.lhpa.org.au/districts/midcoast.