

Hume 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.

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 Hume LHPA General Manager Ray Willis. '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.

Keep an eye on mice populations into winter

Over the past few months rangers have been working with landholders across the Hume LHPA district to combat increasing mice numbers.

Seasonal conditions over summer and autumn were ideal for mice numbers to multiply.

The most common request from landholders is advice on mice control methods particularly in newly sown crops and around sheds and houses.

The only product currently available for use around sheds and houses is a prepared Bromadiolone bait (MOUSEOFF®). This is available from the LHPA and rural merchants.

Our rangers can mix liquid Bromadiolone with grain (supplied by the landholder) for the control of mice around crop perimeters. The crop perimeter is the nearest vegetative cover to the area sown to crop



including channel banks, fence lines, grassy verges and adjacent stubbles. Bromadiolone is recommended when monitoring indicates no evidence of increasing mouse numbers and there are no mice in the crop.

Zinc phosphide (MOUSEOFF® Zinc Phosphide Bait) is not available

through the LHPA but can be purchased from your rural suppliers. Zinc phosphide is recommended when monitoring indicates that mice numbers are increasing within a crop and there is potential for an economic level of damage occurring. There are two options for the distribution of zinc phosphide, ground or aerial. The landholder will need to weigh up which technique is the most cost effective for their individual situation.

If mice are in both the crop and the perimeter, landholders will need to treat both for effective control.

Rangers can also assist landholders with advice on early detection, 'bait card' techniques and design of bait stations for on-farm situations. If you are considering using poison for mice control consult with either your district agronomist or LHPA ranger for the most up to date information.

Partnership approach to TSRs

Due to the excellent spring and summer most TSRs in the Hume LHPA had an enormous amount of feed moving into winter. The authority has been concerned about the potential bushfire danger and in some incidences have offered to neighbours to graze on these TSRs to try and reduce the fuel load. The authority has also liaised with the Rural Fire Service to trial control burns on some TSRs.

Weeds have been a major concern on TSRs this year due to the summer

rainfall. Rangers have sprayed St John's wort and burrs.

The authority is currently negotiating with the Murray and Murrumbidgee CMAs for stewardship payments to help manage some of our TSRs. If successful this will involve a Property Vegetation Plan for the nominated TSRs. These TSR's would still be available for travelling stock while grazing would be negotiated to fit in with the Property Vegetation Plan. If successful this would be an enormous benefit to the LHPA.

Monitor locusts through winter

I would like to thank landholders and LHPA staff in the Albury area for their big effort in controlling locusts earlier this year. Reports were concentrated in the Albury area and most of the locusts moved south or west, with few major swarms reported.

The Australian Plague Locust Commission is forecasting isolated patches of locust hatching in our area for next spring so landholders are urged to remain vigilant over winter.

Ray Willis, General Manager

Chairman's message

I am often asked by ratepayers 'So what do I get for my rates?' The services you receive are at both a local and state level. There are some services that you may not be aware of as they may not directly affect you. Just because you might not have had a ranger or a vet on your property for a while does not mean that you have not had your 'money's worth'. In fact, this may mean that the work in your area has been a success and the programs are getting results.

At the farm gate you can contact your authority about any animal health or pest issue and I encourage you to do this. Our rangers and vets are there to answer questions, assess problems and provide advice and support on technical matters. Issues across the district vary significantly and although you may suffer a wild dog problem at your property, another ratepayer may suffer a locust problem that you have never experienced.

Our rangers and vets constantly monitor animal health matters at the farm, the saleyards and on TSRs and this helps protect local and export markets.

Our vets work on flock and herd health across the authority, and many of you would be amazed at the amount and variety of problems suffered by livestock throughout our changing seasons and conditions.

It is through this work that you can have confidence in our markets and know that the surveillance for assessing problems and identifying risks is paying off. For example we are presently in Protected Footrot status, despite the excellent seasonal footrot conditions. This is due to the diligence and determination of our landholders and the assistance, persistence, cooperation and hard work of our staff. However, this work is constant and we cannot afford to take our finger off the pulse. The ongoing research and survey work undertaken by our vets and rangers also provides the basis for information to the public on disease,

management practice and predicted trends. We will be providing this animal health information by way of an electronic newsletter to interested subscribers and you can read more about that in this issue.

The emergency work that has recently been carried out on the plague locust outbreak has entirely been managed on the ground by our LHPA rangers and from what I observed was a professional, strategically managed project.

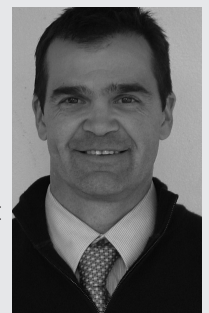
The pest management, of rabbits, foxes and wild dogs is an ongoing part of our work across the authority. If you need a ranger to visit your property to assist you with an issue, just contact the local office. This is our core work and we will always be working on it as unfortunately the full solution to pests has not yet been discovered!

So next time you wonder what you get for your rates think about biosecurity, emergency management, pest management and animal health. If you still have questions, call the office our General Manager or me personally. Your directors are also available for contact on all issues.

Deb Paton Blackwell, Chairman

Hume General Manager

Ray Willis (pictured) was recently appointed to the position as General Manager of Hume Livestock Health and Pest Authority. Ray comes with a background in natural resource management, and senior executive management, most recently with the Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority. Ray will be working with the board of directors and staff to ensure high quality services are provided to ratepayers and that the LHPA meets its legislative responsibilities. Ray is based in the Wagga office and can be contacted on 02 69230900.



Register to receive Hume LHPA's seasonal 'Livestock Health Infobytes' e-newsletter

Hume LHPA's livestock health team will soon be launching 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 will be available at each office.

See the enclosed flyer for more information.