

# North Coast 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](http://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 and lodge a Land and Stock Return as it is a legal requirement under the Rural Lands Protection Act 1998. If we have not received a completed return by the due date, we automatically apply an animal health charge to next year's rates.

## 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](http://www.lhpa.org.au/landandstock)

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

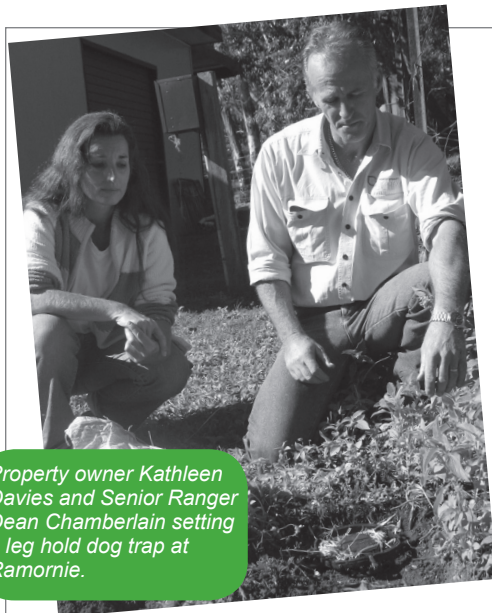
'The online form takes around five minutes to complete and asks the same questions as the paper-based



form,' said North Coast LHPA general manager Brian McInnes. '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](http://www.lhpa.org.au/landandstock).

**Remember, your completed 2011 Land and Stock Return must be received by 31 August.**



Property owner Kathleen Davies and Senior Ranger Dean Chamberlain setting a leg hold dog trap at Ramornie.

## Wild dogs – help us help you

Wild dogs inhabit over 90% of the North Coast LHPA area, with a typical home range of 25 km<sup>2</sup> (2500ha) to 50 km<sup>2</sup>.

In the semi rural areas of the North Coast where small landholdings are the norm, wild dogs are on average travelling over, hunting and breeding on up to 80 different properties.

Many of these properties may not have any livestock and so are not directly affected by wild dogs. Others will have livestock and domestic pets that are at risk of attack.

The North Coast LHPA can assist landholders with wild dog control programs by providing 1080 baits and the training required to use the baits. There are legal requirements that must be observed when 1080 baits are used which may restrict use in some areas. Rangers can assist landholders with trapping programs if problems persist after baiting programs have occurred.

**Page 2: Landholders coming together to coordinate wild dog programs in the North Coast region.**

Contact your local office today – or visit [www.lhpa.org.au](http://www.lhpa.org.au)

# Proactive landholders get wild dog results

North Coast LHPA rangers have been coordinating wild dog control programs with landholders in many areas of the North Coast LHPA district.

During 2010 rangers worked with landholders in The Pocket region, north of Mullumbimby, to organise group control programs which resulted in nine properties in two valleys of The Pocket carrying out baiting. This program was successful in reducing the wild dog population in the area. Coordinated group baiting is now being organised to maintain the population.

In the Hernani-Ebor region, rangers recently oversaw

group baiting on 15 properties over approximately 8700 hectares. This is a bi-annual group baiting program, with the second round of baiting to be undertaken later in 2011. Feedback from the first round of baiting indicated that bait take was high and there has been a reduction in wild dog activity.

The wild dog program in the Theresa Creek/Dyraaba area, west of Casino, involves several agencies, including LHPA, Forests NSW and Office of Environment and Heritage (formerly Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water). The program has been ongoing for three years and reports indicate that wild dog activity has been reduced during the course of the program. The next round of baiting will occur in September.

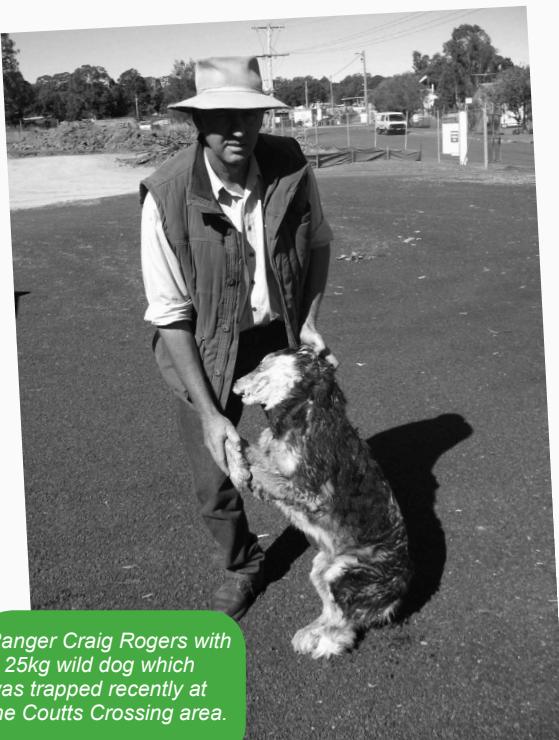
Remember, under the Rural Lands Protection Act 1998, it is your legal responsibility as a landholder or land manager to continually control declared pest species, which includes wild dogs, on your land. Getting together with other landholders in your district can give the best results.

For more information on the wild dog programs currently run by the North Coast LHPA or other agencies, or to discuss forming a new group, contact your local LHPA office.

## 1080/Pindone course reminder

The Vertebrate Pest Induction Training courses specifically for the use of 1080 and Pindone products are available by contacting your local LHPA ranger. The course costs \$44 and successful participants receive a 5 year accreditation.

Courses are currently being run on a monthly basis or sooner if numbers warrant.



Ranger Craig Rogers with a 25kg wild dog which was trapped recently at the Coutts Crossing area.

## What should I do if I notice wild dog activity?

Here are some simple steps to help us help you if you come into contact with wild dogs:

- Contact your neighbours and find out where other sighting or attacks have occurred.
- Contact one of the North Coast LHPA rangers to discuss the problem.
- Form a proactive wild dog group with neighbours that can:
  - formulate a proactive baiting program, with the help of one of our rangers
  - react quickly to reports of wild dog attacks
  - monitor control programs
  - monitor the wild dog population.

*'Remember, it is your legal responsibility as a landholder or land manager to continually control wild dogs on your land. Getting together with other landholders in your district can give the best results.'*

Contact details for North Coast LHPA offices appear on page 4.

# Exposing the myths about worms

The North Coast of NSW provides an ideal subtropical climate for the survival and multiplication of worms. Internal parasites, including flukes and worms, are in financial terms, the most significant livestock health issue for our local farmers.

The cost of these parasites is from lost production, stock losses and the cost of chemical treatments and preventative drenching.

In cattle some of the significant worms include: the brown stomach worm (*Ostertagia*), Intestinal worm (*Cooperia*), barber's pole worm (*Haemonchus*) and black scour worm (*Trichostrongylus*).

In sheep, goats and alpaca the barber's pole worm is the major problem but other worms can also cause disease. Worms in livestock can cause signs of disease such as weight loss, scour, constipation, anaemia and death.

Staff of the North Coast LHPA are regularly involved in busting some of the "myths" about worms and livestock.

**Myth one: My animals are living a healthy life like those in the wild - I don't need to drench them.**

When sheep or young cattle are first purchased and grazed, farmers in the short term may experience



limited worm problems. Over time the number of worms in animals increases. In nature internal parasites typically exist in balance with their animal host. However, in our region many factors tip the balance towards the parasites causing harm to livestock. Besides a favourable climate; this includes restricted grazing areas, high

stocking rates, enterprise type and set stocking.

**Myth two: I don't have a problem with worms because I drench all my animals once a year.**

To be most effective drench use should be tailored to the type and age of the animal and done at a season of the year which is known to be effective. For example, in cattle the main target group for worm drenches should be weaned stock less than 20 months of age. Timing of drenches is critical. For example in sheep and goats beginning to drench in late spring and summer is essential to prevent later problems.

**Myth three: Cost and convenience are the main determinants of what drench to buy.**

Some of the older cheaper drenches on the market are no longer effective for some parasites especially in sheep and goats. Some of the newer pour-on drenches may be very convenient but they may not target the main parasite problems on your farm as well as some other products. To determine what is the best drench to buy producers should ideally consider: active ingredients that work best against parasites that are likely to be the main problem on their farm, a method of administration that is known to work well for those parasites and that they are happy to do, the withholding period of the active ingredients and past drench use on the farm.

**Myth four: A different "brand" of drench will be different to my last drench**

There are so many drenches on the market and producers often wish to change what they are doing for cost or other reasons. They often do not realise that they have simply changed to a very similar drench with a different name. It can be very confusing to understand all the different types. A variety of "colours" are typically used to describe the types of drenches available against worms.

**Myth five: Frequent use of "worm" drenches to protect**

**stock against external parasites such as ticks and flies has no problems.**

Parasite control programs can be complicated by the fact that



a number of marketed worm drenches also have claims against the short term control of ticks and flies. When producers rely on the frequent use of these products against ticks and flies it is likely that they will develop drench resistance in worms. Producers should ideally look at developing an effective and integrated control program for all the parasites they need to control.

**Myth six: Drench use alone is all I need to prevent worm problems**

Drenches alone will not be enough to prevent parasite problems especially in the long term. Pasture management techniques should always be used to reduce reliance on drenches. Maintaining good nutrition to livestock will always help them fight off worm burdens. It is also possible to select stock more genetically resistant to worms. Monitoring of stock by collecting samples for worm egg count tests or checking signs of health are also important tools.

**Advice from a veterinarian will help producers with the decisions regarding worms. A fuller version of this article is available on the North Coast page of the LHPA website, <http://www.lhpa.org.au/districts/northcoast>.**

## North Coast surveillance services

The North Coast LHPA currently provides support for a range of surveillance activities, some of which include:

- District veterinarian time and a laboratory test subsidy to establish a diagnosis in significant disease events. Contact your local district veterinarian if you are seeing disease signs in your livestock and they will let you know what can be done to help. An investigation is well supported for signs such as sudden death, lameness, yellow skin colour, red urine, unusual behaviour or body posture, abortion "storm", drooling, scours, weight loss and undiagnosed ticks.
- Free laboratory testing for Ovine Brucellosis for those farmers not wishing their sheep to be in the NSW accreditation program at this stage. If you own sheep get any of your rams tested in this program.
- Free Enzootic Bovine Leucosis (EBL) testing of beef animals that dairy farmers wish to bring into their herds.
- No charge to take samples for liver fluke or copper/selenium testing. Some laboratory fees will apply.
- Fully funded CAE (Big-knee) testing for dairy goats that have not already been tested and are not wishing to be tested for interstate movement or accreditation.

## Contact us

### Lismore

79 Conway Street (PO Box 16) Lismore NSW 2480  
Ph 02 6621 2317  
Fax 02 6621 2928

### Casino

147 Barker Street (PO Box 158) Casino NSW 2470  
Ph 02 6662 3166  
Fax 02 6662 6012

### Grafton

54 Victoria Street (PO Box 21) Grafton NSW 2460  
Ph 02 6642 3699  
Fax 02 6643 9045

### Email enquiries

admin.north.coast@lhpa.org.au

## Help with understanding NLIS (sheep and goats)

- All sheep and managed goats must be identified with an approved NLIS (sheep) ear tag before leaving their property en route to any destination.
- When sheep or goats are moved to a property with a different PIC, a mob based movement needs to be recorded on the NLIS database.
- All transported sheep and goats, including feral or unmanaged goats, must be accompanied by accurate and fully completed documentation.

For more information contact your local LHPA office at [www.lhpa.org.au](http://www.lhpa.org.au) or Meat and Livestock Australia [www.mla.com.au/NLISsheepAndGoats](http://www.mla.com.au/NLISsheepAndGoats) or National Livestock Identification System [www.nlis.com.au](http://www.nlis.com.au) or NSW Department of Primary Industries [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au).

## Vaccination is cheap insurance

Recent heavy mortalities in a local Casino dairy herd from botulism has highlighted the need to vaccinate for this disease. Botulism is a food poisoning caused by the multiplication of the botulism bacteria in decaying animal tissues under conditions of low oxygen. Typically these conditions are found in silage or in stagnant water. All that is needed is for an animal like a snake or rabbit to be hit by the mower and end up in the silage. Dead animals in stagnant surface water and bone chewing in more extensive areas have also been responsible for outbreaks. In this outbreak silage is suspected as being the source.

Generally botulism is an uncommon disease in the Casino area, however when outbreaks do

occur mortalities can be very high. Prevention of botulism is by vaccination and is recommended in any herd where silage feeding is practiced or there is a history of botulism.

On the subject of vaccination, I cannot overemphasise the need to have young cattle adequately protected by 5-in-1 vaccination. Blackleg is not an uncommon disease on the north coast, particularly in situations where young actively growing cattle are on supplementary feed or improved pastures. Don't wait until you have deaths before deciding to vaccinate. Ensure that calves are vaccinated at weaning and again 4 to 6 weeks later.

I had only commenced working with the LHPA for a few days before

being involved in an infertility investigation. Vibriosis, also called Campylobacteriosis, is a venereal disease of cattle. Cows are infected by a carrier bull, who shows no signs. Infected cows will have early loss of the developing foetus, resulting in delayed and repeated returns to service. The introduction or straying of an infected animal into a breeding herd can result in a significantly reduced calving rate. Vaccinating bulls breaks the life cycle. Bulls should be fully vaccinated prior to joining. Prevention is the best solution; don't wait until you have a problem with empty cows in the herd.

**- Phil Kemsley, North Coast district vet, Casino.**