



LHPA farm chat – October 2011

What do you get for your LHPA rates?

The current review of the Livestock Health and Pest Authorities has highlighted that there are many landholders who are not fully aware of or do not use the unique services we offer. These people may well benefit from contacting our professional staff to deal with a variety of issues such as livestock health, pest animal and insect management, travelling stock reserves, stock identification and movement and emergency assistance.

We are very proud of the premium livestock health services that we at the Central West LHPA continually deliver to the area. You can call your nearest office at any time and speak to one of our five veterinarians to get advice on anything relating to your herd or flock's health, such as nutrition, reproductive management or parasite control. We can also come out and see you on-farm for a chat or a firsthand look at the problem.

In times of drought, fire or flood we are the front line agency working with the NSW Department of Primary Industries to help with requests such as livestock evaluation or destruction, locating stock or shifting people and plant to remote sites, providing travelling stock reserves as havens, or networking to help people connect to other agencies for support.

Our rangers provide a wide range of services relating to pest animal control including advice on using trapping methods, fumigation or baiting to the use of remote cameras to detect pests that lurk in the night. They also coordinate the frontline response to manage locust plagues.

Our dedicated rangers also carry out a regulatory role at saleyards to ensure compliance of the NLIS system and disease surveillance. These regulatory tasks are very often not appreciated but without LHPA rangers and district veterinarians the biosecurity of every farm is at risk. We do not want to wait for diseases to cripple Australian agriculture, we aim to prevent them by being on the front foot and anticipating what could happen in the field. Being prepared and knowing what to do in the event of a disease outbreak will greatly assist all our livelihoods.

Our team also strives to gather the most current and relevant information for our landholders. At present, we are running a Brucellosis program which involves checking commercial sheep flocks for Brucellosis and gathering data about management and nutrition that might predispose to the disease. Another project we are currently working on with pharmaceutical companies involves trialling drenches to work out which ones work best in the central west.

Over the past three years we have organised and delivered hundreds of opportunities for landholders to attend information days on topics such as fox baiting, pest animal destruction demonstrations, brucellosis testing of rams, locust information forums, drought review meetings, family gatherings in times of hardship, first hand flood assistance, mouse information and bait meetings, detection of footrot field days plus many other gatherings or forums.

The sharing of knowledge never stops and we all can learn from each other no matter what the situation, the pest or the problem. The Central West LHPA has a focused professional team of staff who are willing to assist with organising a forum, meeting or group work shop in your area. Please contact your local office if you would like to take advantage of our services.