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Volunteers load hay at the Kersbrook fodder depot last month.

Farm fodder response a credit to SA ag industry

BY JOHN MUNDY, FORRESTON
Livestock SA member and
fire response fodder coordinator



THE way farmers across the state banded together in January to help those affected by the Adelaide Hills' fires was nothing short of amazing.

In coordinating the fodder donation response, we have distributed 15 semi-trailer loads containing 4000 large round or square bales and 1000 small square bales, plus donated chaff and horse feed through fodder stores.

This was all sent out from a temporary depot set-up at Kersbrook oval with the help of numerous volunteers to coordinate donations and prioritise deliveries. People volunteered their time to deliver the hay by trailer and some transporters contributed their time and heavy vehicles while other farmers donated tractors to help load.

For the area of the fire, it was amazing more livestock were not killed or injured. Our biggest challenges have been getting hay into some inaccessible areas – either

because roads were too narrow for semi-trailers or they were still closed for long periods.

In the fire zone, there are about a dozen farmers who solely rely on livestock for their income and they have been well catered for with donated fodder. There have been numerous smaller farmers with 10-80 cattle or 20-300 sheep and while it's not their sole income, it's still a significant contributor to their property. They had all experienced total fodder losses and now many of them are better placed to face the summer and autumn ahead.

Livestock SA acknowledges the generosity of farmers in the Mid North, Yorke Peninsula and Mallee who have donated feed. They have come to the party very quickly and really saved the situation for a lot of producers. While there are so many who helped, credit goes to Michele Lally, Clare, and Kirsty Rehn, Kersbrook, for getting the ball rolling and to those who helped Livestock SA in administration by establishing a database and taking calls.

Any further hay or fodder donations will be individually matched up to livestock producers. Thanks to all for a job well done.

Panel call for WoolPoll 2015

Livestock SA is calling for expressions of interest from woolgrowers to be considered to represent South Australia on the 2015 WoolPoll Panel.

Each state farming organisation is being offered the chance to submit three nominations. Panel members must be available to meet four times between March and November at AWI's Sydney office and attend WoolPoll and other industry events to promote the importance of voting. Reimbursements include meeting sitting fees and all travel and related out-of-pocket expenses.

> **Nominations are due to Livestock SA by COB, Monday, February 23.**
Contact CEO Deane Crabb for more information.

National survey on activities to control wild dogs

Livestock Biosecurity Network (LBN) is surveying wild dog control groups about their activities, challenges and successes.

The information will be used to get a better understanding of what is occurring in wild dog management across Australia and how control groups can best be supported by the National Wild Dog Action Plan.

> **If you are involved in wild dog control, please contact Emma Rooke, erooke@lbn.org.au or 0488 400 878.** For more information about wild dogs, go to www.pestsmart.org.au.



Confused by NVD requirements?

WHAT: From January 1, 2015, the preferred version of the Livestock Production Assurance National Vendor Declaration is the 2013 edition.

WHY: Some processors and exporters will not accept stock without a 2013 edition LPA NVD. Without this version, it means your stock will not attract maximum competition from buyers, and potentially, not receive the best price.

WHO: This applies to all livestock consignments to saleyards, feedlots, and over-the-hooks sales for sheep, cattle and goats.

Check you have the correct NVD ...



Look at the top left-hand corner of your NVD for one of the following pre-printed edition numbers that indicates you have a 2013 edition:

- > Cattle – C0413
- > Sheep and lambs – S0413
- > EU cattle – E0413
- > Goats – G0413

Yes?

If you see one of these numbers, you have the latest version and do not need to do anything.

No?

If you do not see one of these numbers, you need to immediately order a new NVD booklet.

- > Order a hard-copy LPA NVD booklet online, or buy electronic NVDs, at <http://lpa.ausmeat.com.au> or www.mla.com.au/nvd
- > Call the LPA Helpdesk on 1800 683 111 to order a hard copy

You must continue to supply your Animal Health Statement with the 2013 edition. All NVDs must be legible and fully completed. You do not need to write Saudi or Russian eligible on the 2013 LPA NVD, only answer the questions.

From the president

With
GEOFF POWER



THE GOOD news story for livestock in the past month has been rain across the Upper North and Pastoral zones.

This will go a long way to setting up the northern sheep and cattle industries for a good run into 2015 as prices head on an upward trend.

However, as per usual, follow-up rains are needed and cashflow doesn't happen overnight. A strip of pastoral country did miss out, namely a line through Lambina, Mount Barry, Ackaringa, Nilpinna and Welbourne Hill – so our thoughts are with those pastoralists as they continue to plan for a drier season.

We are also mindful of those livestock producers who suffered losses in the Barossa and Sampson Flat fires. The donations of hay and fodder illustrates that South Australian farmers are one

when it comes to a crisis. Many thanks to all involved in organising fodder distributions on behalf of Livestock SA.

With two months under my belt as president, I'd like to congratulate Richard Halliday on his appointment as president of WoolProducers Australia and thank the board for having the faith in me to carry on the good work that Richard started. Congratulations also goes to board member Joe Keynes on his appointment as the SA representative on WoolProducers.

Since being elected president, we have had meetings of the organisation's Northern Region at Port Augusta and at Old Koomooloo, east of Burra, where the abandonment of the Pastoral Board was discussed. Northern Region chair Colin Greenfield, Bruce Nutt and I have met with Minister Ian Hunter and Member for Stuart Dan van Holst Pellekaan to discuss the board's future and outline our members' views. It was a constructive meeting with the Minister willing to act on pastoral lessees' concerns.

Limestone Coast Red Meat Cluster Project

What is it?

A number of stakeholders in the Limestone Coast red meat value chain are working together to promote collaboration in the industry, funded by PIRSA's Premium Food and Wine Innovation Cluster Program. The aim is to boost innovation, value-adding, profitability, skills, and creation of a vibrant industry in which future generations see benefit in participating.

What is it doing?

The project is working on activities that will deepen understanding of the regional red meat industry, build industry links and promote a culture of collaboration. Actions include:

1. Participate in a 'Mapping the Connections' process through AusIndustry. This involves interviews with firms across the value chain and identifying opportunities and impediments for growth.

2. Obtain detailed regional data and analysis to demonstrate the Limestone Coast region's role and strengths in the red meat industry.
3. Instigate individual discussions with processors.
4. Keep the wider industry informed of project activities and invite input.

While PIRSA's funding finishes in July, the plan is for the impacts of this project to extend well beyond this timeframe.

Want to know more?

Contact project facilitator Louise Stock, louise@focusfacilitation.com.au or 0407 711 576

- > **More information:** Guidelines for the scheme and an application form are available at www.livestocksa.org.au