



OCTOBER | 2015

In short...

New NRM video

Primary Producers SA and the Northern and Yorke Natural Resource Management Board launched a new video at the Yorke Peninsula Field Days promoting the practical ways agriculture and NRM work together. It tells the story of soil conservation and how improved on-farm management has reduced erosion and boosted soil health. Last year, PPSA partnered with the NRM Council and NRM Boards of South Australia, Primary Industries and Regions SA and the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources to produce *Agriculture and NRM: Working Together Action Plan 2014-17*.

> **More information:** View the new video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DsdpMCjCVSo>

Beef strategic plan

The Cattle Council of Australia is seeking feedback on the future direction, growth and issues in the grassfed beef sector to inform a strategic plan for the industry. This is part of a wider livestock industry focus on strategies for growth. The *Meat Industry Strategic Plan* (MISP 2020), co-ordinated by the Red Meat Advisory Council, was launched last month. CattleCouncil is coordinating development of the *Beef Industry Strategic Plan*, or BISP 2020. It has released a series of discussion papers on the CCA website and producers and industry stakeholders are invited to provide input. Three papers are available on consumer and community support, market growth and diversification, and supply chain integrity and efficiency.

> **More information:** Discussion papers are available under 'About Us' at www.cattlecouncil.com.au

From the president

With
GEOFF POWER



IT was great to catch-up with producers at the Yorke Peninsula Field Days. Livestock SA signed up 50 new members, outlined priority issues we are working on and discussed producers' concerns.

In September, Livestock SA pushed for a subsidy on the Q Fever vaccine and its application. Q Fever is one of the most debilitating diseases affecting farmers and workers in agricultural industries. We believe that because there are a lot of younger people coming back into the industry and they have not been vaccinated, we should be proactive and fix it before it becomes a problem.

Many producers across the state continue to look for rain, which has been made worse by the fast finish to the season and temperatures in the 30s in early October.

On access to drought concessional loans, Minister for Agriculture Leon Bignell says he is "at one" with Federal Minister for Agriculture Barnaby Joyce and wants to get the loans out to producers as soon as possible. However, Livestock SA is continuing to impress the urgency of these loans on politicians and bureaucrats. We need them to urgently tidy up all the paperwork to get the assistance out to where it is most desperately needed.

While many producers are grappling with dry conditions, we are still encouraging involvement with Livestock SA's initiative to plan for the industry's future growth and potential, called the SA Sheep Industry Blueprint. Consultation meetings have been held around the state but producers who are interested can still have their say on the process. Visit the website or call the office for information. While it is dry,



CEO Deane Crabb with the Livestock SA 'issues board' at the YP Field Days. Producers could vote on what they believed were the top issues for the industry. Supporting the live export trade and the high cost of stock water were the top two for the event.

market opportunities are opening up all the time and we need to continue planning for when times improve.

Finally, I'd like to remind wool producers to participate in the WoolPoll 2015 vote. It only happens every three years and it is our opportunity to let Australian Wool Innovation know our views on the future of our industry, the rate of the levy and how the money should be used. If you have missed the information about WoolPoll, visit www.woolpoll.com.au or call 1800 990 365.

> Have your say on the SA Sheep Industry Blueprint to manager

Stephen Lee, 0421 570 630, email stephen.lee@adelaide.edu.au or visit <http://www.livestocksa.org.au/pages/blueprint.php>



Northern Region meets on pastoral issues

BY

COLIN GREENFIELD
NORTHERN REGION CHAIRMAN



The Northern Region of Livestock SA held a meeting at Port Augusta on Friday, September 25. The main issues discussed were:

- > **The Pastoral Board.** Discussion centred on the board's wish to survey pastoralists about improvements to its operations. The meeting supported this but urged the board to act on feedback as soon as possible. Concerns were raised about the minimal communication from the board to pastoralists since the meeting and public forum in Wilpena. Lease assessments and kangaroo management were also discussed.
- > **Yorkeys Crossing.** Port Augusta City Council's Brenton Daw presented the facts surrounding the area used by livestock carriers to 'cross-load' cattle near the start of the Yorkeys Crossing road. It is currently undertaken on privately owned land so other local options were discussed, including construction of a purpose-built cross-loading ramp, which would be much safer for drivers. The option of letting triples through Port Augusta towards Dublin was raised.
- > **Livestock Biosecurity Network.** Emma Rooke updated pastoralists on programs and organisations that can help with disease surveillance and management.
- > **Pastoral Award update.** MERS' Chas Cini gave an update on the latest award including salary and wage packages and termination procedures. He urged pastoralists to ensure agreements and packages are written down and signed by all parties.

In short...

Vet interview call

The University of Adelaide School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences is seeking expressions of interest from industry and the community to help with the new interviews process for admission into its vet program. The new interview process was adopted last year for the first time with the aim of ensuring that students are selected who have the attributes that are needed for the profession. Interviews will be conducted at the Roseworthy Campus from December 7-16 this year and from January 4-8 in 2016. Training will be provided before the interview. While positions are voluntary, parking and food will be provided during the interviews.

> **More information:**

Sue Jenkin, admissions officer, School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences, 08 8313 7660 and animalvetsci@adelaide.edu.au

NRM award winners

The work of volunteers who work with natural resource management and agriculture was recognised last month at the State Landcare Conference in Waikerie. In the SA Landcare Awards, Nomad Farms' Tom Bradman, in the Adelaide Mount Lofty Ranges NRM area, won the Australian Government Innovation in Sustainable Farm Practices. In the Premier's NRM Awards, the Service to NRM Award was won by Georgie Keynes and the Keynes Family, in the AMLR NRM area.

Rabbit-free goal

The Foundation for a Rabbit-Free Australia is encouraging livestock producers to become members. The foundation promotes and supports continuing rabbit research and development, encourages rabbit control adoption, and increases government, industry and public awareness of rabbit damage.

The foundation's AGM will be held on Thursday, November 19 at 2pm at the Santos Conservation Centre at Adelaide Zoo. General membership fees are \$50 and all other donations are tax deductible.

> **More information:**

www.rabbitfreeaustralia.org.au

Young farmer finalist

South Australian pastoralist David Bell was a finalist in the Kondinin Group and ABC Rural *Young Farmer of the Year Award* – the only SA finalist in all nine categories. David took over his family cattle station, Dulkaninna, 80 kilometres from Marree in 2009, aged 27. With wife Jess, he runs the enterprise in its entirety, involving day to day operations, buying and selling, market research, staff and contractor management and all negotiations, financial decisions and record keeping. David is passionate about the cattle industry and his interests vary over a wide range of subjects including live trade versus abattoir; new tools; markets and genetics.

New Nuffield scholarship investigates variable rate technology for livestock



Livestock SA board member Jack England, Kingston, (pictured) won a Nuffield Scholarship last month, supported by Australian Wool Innovation.

He will investigate the benefits and costs of using variable rate technology (VRT) for fertiliser and trace element prescription in livestock systems.

Jack manages his family's 3200 hectare mixed sheep, beef and cropping property, which supports 8000 head of Merino ewes for wool and prime lamb production, 450 head of Murray Grey and Angus cows, and 200 to 400 hectares of barley and pasture.

With a background in agronomy, he brings a scientific focus to the livestock, pasture and financial management of the farm business and sees potential for innovative technologies, such as zoning paddocks for VRT fertiliser application, to be used more widely in livestock systems.

"Being able to actively measure yearly grazing days, minus supplementary feed costs, at a paddock or zone scale allows you to economically assess various trials, the need for fertiliser at maintenance or higher levels using meaningful data, such as stock weight gains, wool growth, quality and quantity, and carrying capacity," he said.

"Many grain growers are adopting variable input rates, why not let livestock systems begin the process based on objective decision-making? I am interested in seeing what technology is available in our sector to achieve and monitor capital inputs versus outputs."

He aims to travel through parts of Canada, New Zealand, England and the United States.