



NEW ENGLAND NORTH WEST LANDCARE

REGIONAL UPDATE

Issue 74, 18th January 2013

REGIONAL LANDCARE AWARDS NOW OPEN

Nominations are being called for the 2013 Regional Landcare Awards across the New England North West region. Innovative farmers, dedicated individuals and hardworking community organisations are just some of those being encouraged to enter the Awards.

The Regional Landcare & Catchment Management Awards aim to recognise the contributions of a diversity of individuals and organisations toward the improvement and maintenance of our natural resources. Awards are currently on offer in both the Northern Rivers and Border Rivers-Gwydir regions in a number of categories.

Regional Landcare Facilitator, Jennie Coldham says "This is an opportunity to recognise people and organisations for their hard work and commitment to sustainable agriculture and the enhancement of our natural resources."

The finalists and winners of the Awards for the New England North West will be announced at a dinner as part of the annual Landcare Adventure on 20th March.

Held every two years, the Regional Landcare Awards recognise the achievements of the dedicated people who have committed their own time to care for our environment and contribute to sustainable production.

Categories include: Individual

Landcarer Award, Innovative Community Group Award, Junior Landcare Award, Innovative Young Landcare Leader Award, Landcare Indigenous Innovation Award, Innovation in Sustainable Farm Practices Award, Local & Regional Agency Landcare Partnership Award, Primary Producer Award & Urban Landcare Award.

Winners of most of the categories from the Regional Landcare Awards will be nominated for the New South Wales State Landcare Awards which will be presented in September at the NSW Landcare Conference in Newcastle.

Nominations for the Landcare Awards are now open, closing on Friday 15th February 2013 and individuals or groups can nominate themselves or others for the awards.

FODDER DONATION REGISTER FOR BUSHFIRE AREAS

The NSW Government and NSW Farmers have teamed up to establish a fodder donation register to assist farmers by recent bushfires.

"Already we have seen the dedication of volunteers on the fire ground and now farmers across the State are throwing their support behind those affected," NSW Minister for Primary Industries Katrina Hodgkinson said.

"We have already had calls of support from country NSW offering hay and grain to those

left with little or nothing on their properties following the fires.

"At this point authorities estimate some 10,000 stock, mostly sheep, have perished or have had to be put down.

"In the worst cases properties have been left without a blade of grass to feed livestock – this register is one way of helping farming families recover from this devastating event.

Affected producers in Natural Disaster Declared areas may be eligible for transport freight subsidies of up to 50 per cent on the carriage of livestock and fodder up to a maximum of \$15,000 per annum.

The central fodder donation register is located on the DPI website (www.dpi.nsw.gov.au). To register fodder donations contact **1800 814 647**.

Pledges will be uploaded and made public and also disseminated into the affected Local Government Areas.

NSW fire updates are available at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

FARM PLANNING WORKSHOPS

Farming families are urged to get involved in Farm Planning Workshops to think about how they'll manage their properties in the years ahead, in the face of a variable climate and changing economic and social pressures.

The Border Rivers-Gwydir Catchment Management Authority (CMA) is holding free Farm Planning Information Sessions across the region aimed at maximising profits and



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long term sustainability.

"We can help landholders think about changes they can make to their business operations to make them more profitable, or look at ways to make the business more compatible with the needs of their family and general lifestyle," explained CMA Farm Planning Officer, Bruce Gardiner.

"The aim of the workshops is to make farming more profitable and take some of the stress out of running the business. Farm Planning is about better management strategies, using natural resources in a sustainable way, maximising the use of limited financial reserves and getting the best from the people working on your farm."

"In the middle of a drought or a flood, it's difficult to plan. Now is the time to develop and implement strategies to minimise the impact of the next crisis. Farm Planning can help you work out a long term strategy for your business to survive and thrive. It can help you to build a resilient farm business", said CMA Farm Planning Officer, Scott Graham. The Farm planning course is valued at over \$3,000, but is being offered to farmers free of charge, with the CMA providing satellite images, study manuals, a template for a strategic farm plan, catering and course administration support.

Information sessions will be held at:

Inverell: 3pm Tues 22nd Jan at the Inverell Research Centre

Armidale: 5pm Mon 28th Jan at the Wicklow Hotel Armidale

Tenterfield: 3pm Tues Jan 29th at the Granite Borders Landcare Office

Glen Innes/Deepwater: 3pm Wed 30th Jan at the Glen Innes Ex Services Club

If you are interested in attending an Information Session please contact Scott Graham at the Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA on 02 6728 8049, or Bruce Gardiner on 02 6773 5279.

NSW FARMERS CALLS FOR BOUNTY ON PEST ANIMALS

NSW Farmers called the NSW Government to immediately introduce a bounty on wild dogs and foxes to help control the growing pest problem across the state.

NSW Farmers' President Fiona Simson said NSW landholders are reporting one of the worst pest animal seasons they've experienced with wild dogs in particular.

She said pest animals are costing Australian agriculture, urban areas and our natural environment approximately \$1 billion each year.

The Victorian Government doubled its bounty on wild dogs pelts this week from \$50 to \$100 as a part of its four-year bounty programme for foxes and wild dogs.

Ms Simson said a consistent and coordinated approach to pest animal management is needed as foxes, wild dogs and pest animals do not recognise property or state boundaries.

"We want a consistent approach to pest animals

control on public and private land, as well as across state borders," she said.

"A bounty programme needs to be complemented with improved surveillance and reporting, better planning and coordination and a more strategic approach to pest animal control state wide.

"We have been encouraged by the NSW Government's commitment to delivering a more coordinated and collaborative approach to pest animal management in our state.

"But the pest animal problem is so big that we need an arsenal of weapons to fight it and a bounty is one of those weapons."

\$5,000 SCHOLARSHIP FOR 1ST YEAR AGRICULTURE STUDENTS

The Horizon scholarship is an initiative of the Rural Industries R&D Corporation in partnership with industry sponsors and not only offers students financial support but also work placements, mentoring and professional development opportunities.

To be eligible students must be entering their first year of university and studying a degree related to agriculture such as agriculture science, rural science, vet science or agribusiness.

Applications close 1 February 2013. Visit the website for more details ww.rirdc.gov.au/horizon or by contacting RIRDC ON 02 6271 4132.