



UPLAND WETLAND FIELD TRIP

A field excursion to showcase upland wetlands will be held Tuesday 7th February at Bendemeer. The half-day event will commence at 8am, when SNELC and Namoi CMA will meet landholders for breakfast. Features local Botanists Nic Cobcroft and Dorothy Bell. The event will enable landholders to develop their understanding of upland wetlands and develop project applications for management actions on wetland areas. Bookings essential. SNELC 6772 9123.

MANAGING SCANNED EWES

NSW DPI will host this workshop at Glen Innes Research Centre. The hands on workshop is for sheep producers who pregnancy scan their ewes, or plan to scan. Workshop to be presented by Chris Shands. Themes of the workshop include scanning and ewe management, managing single and twin-bearing ewes; management targets and maternal behaviour. Morning tea + light lunch provided. Date is Friday 9th March. RSVP to Chris 67301900 or 0411 139702

BIO CARP CONTROL

Pest researchers say a biological control for carp is three years away. The CSIRO + the Invasive Animals CRC has produced favourable results from its biological control for carp program. The coy herpes virus is species specific + only attacks carp. The Invasive Animals CRC says it is seeking approval to

release the virus within the next few years.

'Daughterless' technology aims to control carp numbers by creating a fish population containing many more males than females. The project, which began in 2003, is a collaborative project between the Murray-Darling Basin Commission, CSIRO Marine Research + the Invasive Animals CRC.

BARBER'S POLE WORKSHOP

This event will be held 6th February 2012 (10am-1pm) at Stanthorpe. This diagnostic workshop is very suitable for owners / managers of smaller sheep and goat flocks + also relevant for larger operations for better control of drenching Barber's Pole worm. Topics explored include when to treat, how to correctly identify the small area in the lower inner eyelid and how to use technology to better address the issue of drench resistance. Presenter is Dr Ray Kaplan of North America. RSVP to Maxine Lyndal-Murphy 07 3255 4264.

GRAIN GAIN TRAINING

GrainGrowers will run Grain Gain training + development courses for producers and industry professionals. The program consists of three levels targeting on-farm skills, industry + technology, and markets. The courses are unique in combining components of leadership with the development of technical skills. The courses are facilitated by a

team of industry professionals, with extensive experience working in the grain + food industry. Emeritus Professor Gordon MacAulay is the course leader.

Registration is now open + places are limited. The cost of the course is \$50 for growers + \$150 for non-growers. 8.45am-5.00pm. Locations + dates are as follows:

- Tamworth - 16 February
- Moree - 17 February
- Toowoomba - 28 February

PROPERTY BUYING GUIDE

NSW DPI has recently published a factsheet titled "Precautions when buying rural land" which covers some of the issues to consider when purchasing a rural property. It also outlines information about rural land use + obligations. Issues such as plant + animal diseases; insect pest prevalence; weed + vertebrate pest notices + chemical residues may impact on the way the buyer can use the land. Also includes tips on where to access further information.

Download a copy at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/environment/landuseplanning/agriculture

\$8 MILLION WEED WARPATH

NSW Minister for Primary Industries, Katrina Hodgkinson has announced \$8 million in funding to bolster weed management across NSW. The funding will be directed to the Weeds Action Grants Program + broader research +





development initiatives to control noxious weeds, improve agricultural productivity + protect the environment. A total of 13 regional weed management projects have been funded.

By collaborating + targeting our efforts the program will focus on the likes of Serrated Tussock, Fireweed, Tropical Soda Apple + invasive aquatic weeds. In our area, Northern Inland Weeds Advisory Committee's Weed Action Program 2010-2015 has received \$1,047,515.

4WD VEHICLE WORKSHOP

Four wheel drive users can go to the next step by undertaking a NSW DPI course in February. The course will outline how to operate + maintain a 4WD, safety + off road conditions. To be held 15-16 February at UNE, Armidale. Also includes how to safely carry out vehicle recovery operations. Includes a mix of indoor + outdoor instruction. Cost \$480.

Registration / payment closes 8 Feb. Contact Julie Chapman 67631285 or Cassie Gardiner 67631276.

SUSTAINING COMMUNITIES CONFERENCE

The 2012 Sustaining Rural Communities Conference will be held at Narrabri Crossing Theatre 18-20 April 2012. The event's theme will be *Local Solutions to National Problems*. To stay up to date with conference features or register interest in the conference, visit

the website, www.sustainingruralcommunities.org.au or contact Kate Schwager, 6799 2477 kate.schwager@cottoncrc.org.au

LIVESTOCK WORKSHOPS

NSW DPI will host a *Livestock Productivity and Profitability from Pastures* workshop in our region during February. This includes:

Glen Innes	1st Feb
Inverell	29th Feb
Armidale	date TBA

These are the first of a 2-day series to help landholders with practical ways of improving productivity and profitability. Includes presentations from DPI staff on livestock benchmarks; pasture management + nutrition; principles for cattle growth and supplementary feeding options. Free. Book in with Jason Siddell 67301941.

WORM EGG WORKSHOP

Gwymac will host a worm egg counting workshop in Bundarra Wednesday 29th February. This is part of the Healthy Farms, Healthy Gwydir program, with funding provided from Caring for our Country. Training will be presented by David Worsley of RuralBiz Training and will include provision of microscopes for the workshop. Participants will learn more about identification, doing their own egg counts, when to drench and adopting more effective drench strategy. \$20pp. RSVP to Gwymac

67211241.

NSW FARMERS INFO NIGHTS

NSW Farmers Association will host two information evenings for landholders in the Garah and Delungra areas. The events will include presentations from NBSW DPI Agronomist Rebecca Byrne; Rural Financial Counsellors Kim Deans and Julie Roy. Also hear more about flood assistance and information for the cropping industry. RSVP essential. Free. Garah Hall 15th Feb, 6pm, BYO drinks.

Delungra Bowling Club, 16th Feb, 6pm.

RSVP to Jenny Croft 0429446417.

INVASIVE ANIMALS CRC ROADSHOW

The PestSmart roadshow will be held across Australia over the next few months. It is a free event open to landholders and those working with landholders. Includes information on the latest research on pest animals, including currently used techniques and the latest innovation. Pest Animals CRC now invites you to register your attendance. Roadshow events will be held as follows:

Armidale 20th March at Armidale Ex Services Club
Toowoomba 16th March at Highfields Cultural Centre.

More information at www.feral.org.au/pestsmart.roadshow or call Suzy Balogh 0418 417 943.