



Victorian
Farmers
Federation

Livestock

the Stock Standard

Newsletter of the Victorian Farmers Federation Livestock Group

July 2017

Farm Safety Week

All farm businesses need to maintain a safe workplace so that we can protect our families and employees.

Almost 30 per cent of workplace deaths in Victoria occur on farms, despite three per cent of workers being employed in the agriculture industry.

Quad bikes are a dangerous piece of farm equipment. In fact, quad bike rollovers are the leading cause of farm deaths in Australia. This year alone 32 people have lost their lives on-farm, with quad bike accidents totalling nearly a third of deaths (9), followed by tractors (4) and mobile farm machinery/plants (4).

Have you completed an on farm safety check?

Worksafe.vic.gov.au has produced a 15 minute on farm safety check list.

- ▶ Children on farms are high risk. Show your children what a safe farm looks like
- ▶ Farmsafe Australia recommends that only children over 16 should ride quad bikes
- ▶ Store empty chemical containers in a secure location, triple rinse and deposit at a drumMUSTER collection point free of charge
- ▶ Protect hearing with ear plugs, insulate cabins and limit time exposed to noise by rotating working tasks and locations
- ▶ Fire safety – are you ready? Be alert all year
- ▶ Be emergency prepared. Ensure you have a well-stocked first aid kit in farm sheds, on machinery and in vehicles. If you work alone, make a plan on how you will seek help in an emergency.

Quad Bike Rebate through VFF

The Victorian Farmers Federation is administering a \$6 million Quad Bike Safety Rebate Scheme on behalf of the Victorian Government and WorkSafe Victoria. The aim

is to provide safety solutions to help reduce quad bike deaths. WorkSafe now accepts operator protection devices (OPDs) fitted to a quad bike as part of the solution to controlling the risk to operators in the event of a rollover.

The rebate is available to farmers who:

- ▶ Live and operate a business in Victoria
- ▶ Have no more than 19 full-time employees
- ▶ Own a quad bike for work purposes
- ▶ Have farming as their main source of income.

Farmers who are owner-operators with no employees are eligible to apply.

You can apply online, by email or post.

Online: www.bequadsafe.com.au

Email: bequadsafe@vff.org.au

Phone: VFF on 1300 945 030 for an application form

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#befarmsafe

Take the 15 minute farm safety check

www.worksafe.vic.gov

Gannawarra Council votes to dump rates burden on farmers

FARMERS in Gannawarra Shire are reeling after their local Council last night voted to raise farm differential rates by nearly 15 per cent over the next four years.

Gannawarra Shire Council has agreed to abandon a plan to scrap its farm differential rating strategy but dryland farm rates will rise from 78.9 per cent to 81.62 per cent after July 1, before reaching 90 per cent by 2021.

VFF Vice President and Gannawarra resident Brett Hosking said the vote showed a reckless disregard for a key regional industry.

“The Council’s decision is seriously short-sighted and lacks any strategy as far as ratepayers have been told,” Mr Hosking said.

“Farmers are going to have to find an extra \$2,500 somewhere to top up Council

coffers each year, which puts the farm sector at a clear disadvantage when we are one of Gannawarra Shire’s key employers.

“The agriculture industry directly employs 25 per cent of residents in Gannawarra Shire. Shifting extra costs onto the Shire’s biggest employer will not create new jobs to grow our community.

“This plan isn’t logical and will have widespread economic impacts not just to the farm sector, but to the whole local economy.”

The vote was held the day after Ararat Rural City Council deferred a decision on forcing a move to a uniform rating strategy, which would see farmers slugged with a 45 per cent rate hike.

VFF President David Jochinke said the farmer group was in the process of writing to all rural and regional councils explaining the importance of maintaining differential rating strategies.

“The VFF is working with farmers in Gannawarra and Ararat to ensure they don’t

suffer because of poor budget decisions being made by their councils,” he said.

Ararat Commission of Inquiry commences

The Commission of Inquiry into the Rural City of Ararat has begun with the appointment of three Commissioners.

Acting Minister for Local Government Lily D’Ambrosio has today announced the three Commissioners that will consider the Ararat Rural City Council’s rating strategy and administrative capacity – Frances O’Brien QC, John Tanner AM and Mark Davies, Frances O’Brien QC will chair the Commission.

The Commissioners will report on the consultative process carried out in the development of the budget and rating strategy, and on the administrative capacity of the City, by August 1.

The Commission will consult with ratepayers in relation to the budget and rating strategy as part of this process.

Do you know what’s in your paddock?

Logs and weeds aside, the forgotten odds and sods in paddocks can cause you grief. Old paint cans, ash piles, oil filters, linoleum and batteries are just a few examples which are major causes of lead poisoning.

Cattle are inquisitive by nature, particularly younger cattle, which is why it is important to be aware of what is in the paddock. For example, time and weathering can cause battery cases to become worn, making it easy for nosy livestock to disturb and access the lead within. The salty taste of the lead can result in them returning to the source to lick or chew, increasing their intake of lead.

Once the lead has entered the system it settles in the animal’s stomach, where acids turn the lead into poisonous salts. Even the smallest amount of lead can kill cattle.

Symptoms of lead poisoning include:

- ▶ loss of appetite
- ▶ depression
- ▶ staggering
- ▶ incoordination or blindness
- ▶ change in behaviour
- ▶ convulsions
- ▶ death.

Lead poisoning also impacts human safety as well as market access for both beef and dairy producers. Animals that have survived lead poisoning, and have lead remaining in their system, will be placed under restrictions and quarantined for up to 12 months to avoid lead tainted products entering the food chain.

In order to prevent the loss of stock and trade due to lead poisoning, think ahead and double check an area before introducing stock. If you find something that is a potential risk and cannot remove it, securely fence the area, isolating the risk from livestock.

The key things to remember are:

- ▶ contact your local vet as soon as you suspect lead poisoning
- ▶ prevention is the most effective method when treating lead poisoning!



Image: Young cattle are inquisitive around batteries putting them most at risk.

Source: WA Department of Agriculture and food.

Livestock Health and Biosecurity Events

Stock up: a practical guide to biosecurity

Where: Werrimull

When: Tuesday 25 July, 2017

Time: 9.30am - 12noon

Register here:

<http://www.vff.org.au/LHBV/events/LHBV/Events>

Stock up: a practical guide to biosecurity

Where: Willaura

When: Tuesday 22 August, 2017

Time: 9.30am - 12noon

*more details coming soon



KEY DATES FOR PRODUCERS

eID in Victoria

1 January 2017

All sheep and goats* born in Victoria require an electronic NLIS tag before leaving their property of birth

31 December 2017

Electronically tagged sheep and goats must be scanned in **abattoirs**, with this information uploaded to the NLIS database

31 March 2018

Electronically tagged sheep and goats must be scanned in **saleyards** and for **property to property** movements, with this information uploaded to the NLIS database

1 January 2019

Sheep and goats introduced from **interstate**, born after January 1 2017 must be electronically tagged before leaving a Victorian property

1 January 2022

All sheep and goats, regardless of age, must be electronically tagged before leaving a Victorian property

* select goat breeds are exempt



lhbv.org.au

JBAS

A QUICK GUIDE TO THE JOHNE'S BEEF ASSURANCE SCORE FOR VICTORIAN PRODUCERS

8 High assurance

- Vet certified biosecurity plan
- 2 successive negative sample tests 2 years apart
- Ongoing triennial check tests



7 Assurance

- Vet certified biosecurity plan
- One negative sample test a minimum of 5 years after last case
- Ongoing triennial check tests



6 Managed disease risk

- Biosecurity plan
- No clinical case of Johne's disease for the past 5 years



< 4

- Herd status unknown, suspect or infected
- Score depends on last confirmed case



lhbv.org.au

eID in Sheep & Goats in Victoria

REMINDER

From 1 January 2017, all sheep and goats born in Victoria will require an electronic identification tag, linked to the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS), before being dispatched to a saleyard, abattoir or another property.

From 31 March 2018, Property to property (P2P) movement recording will be required where electronically tagged sheep or goats born after 1 January 2017 move directly between properties.

To buy tags visit:

www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/nlis or request a paper application form by calling the NLIS helpline on 1800 678 779 during business hours.

Kangaroo Pet Food Trial

- ▶ The Victorian Farmers Federation supports the commercialisation of kangaroo pet food.
- ▶ The Victorian Government has made provisions for a trial to harvest wild kangaroos to be used in pet food. This trial concludes in March 2018.
- ▶ We need the support of our members to gather evidence of kangaroo damage/destruction on farmland and the natural environment.
- ▶ We will use this evidence as part of our submission to the Victorian Government for the commercialisation of the kangaroo pet food trade.

- ▶ The VFF supports the balance of native flora and fauna in the natural environment and across farm productivity.

Please send your images with location and date and any additional information to:

livestock@vff.org.au

Further information about the Kangaroo Pet Food Trial can be found here:

<https://www.wildlife.vic.gov.au/our-wildlife/kangaroos/kangaroo-pet-food-trial>

The trial operates in:

- ▶ Ararat
- ▶ Benalla
- ▶ Horsham
- ▶ Mansfield
- ▶ Mitchel
- ▶ Murrindindi
- ▶ Northern Grampians
- ▶ Pyrenees
- ▶ Southern Grampians
- ▶ Strathbogie
- ▶ Wangaratta
- ▶ Yarriambiack
- ▶ Greater Bendigo
- ▶ Glenelg
- ▶ West Wimmera
- ▶ Loddon

Omeo and Bairnsdale Farmer Forums



VFF Events

July 18: Farmers' Forum - Ballarat

July 19: Farmers' Forum - Terang

July 20: Safety on Farm Open Day - Dalyston

July 26: Safety on Farm Open Day - Pound Creek

August 2: Farmers' Forum - Yarra Valley

To RSVP or for more information contact VFF Member Services on **1300 882 833** or members@vff.org.au

Nominations now open for young talent to lead youth ag network

Guidelines and nomination forms are available on the VFF website and must be returned, along with your current CV, via email to yaps@vff.org.au.

Nominations close on Friday July 28, with the first meeting for successful candidates to be held in the first week of September.

Disclaimer: This publication is provided in good faith and as a guide only. It may be of assistance to you, but the VFF Livestock Group does not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or consequence that may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.

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