

NORTHERN TERRITORY CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION INC

Member - National Farmers' Federation & Cattle Council of Australia



Media Release

21 March 2007

Cattlemen to converge on Katherine for 2007 industry conference

The NT Cattlemen's Association (NTCA) will stage its biggest ever annual conference on Friday 30 March – and the agenda is certain to provoke robust debate on the most pressing global and domestic issues facing Territory cattle producers today.

Federal Primary Industries Minister Peter McGauran will officially open the 23rd annual conference, which will see close to 350 cattle station owners, operators and industry players converge on the host town of Katherine from all over Australia.

This year's world-class keynote speakers include prominent international agricultural analyst Duane Lenz representing the US Cattle Association, and Indonesian feedlotter Yudi Noor who has amassed more than 20 years expertise in the Australian and South East Asian cattle sector.

The sell-out forum will also hear from expert Australian and international panelists on topics including South East Asia's future live export outlook, the world beef outlook, marketing programs and pastoral landcare issues. Meat and Livestock Australia, the Cattle Council of Australia, National Farmers Federation and local producers will present industry overviews.

Critical local issues up for debate include the continuing dangerous state of major Territory beef roads, potential impacts from the NT Government's local government reform package, and Central Australia's ongoing severe drought conditions.

"This is our best response ever to an annual conference and reflects the buoyant mood among our members in light of continuing robust market growth, healthier herds and stronger-than-ever investment demand for our excellent Territory pastoral land," outgoing NTCA president Roy Chisholm said.

"Despite a slight sector downturn nationally in 2006, live cattle exports out of Darwin were up by 10 per cent, generating \$180 million in export sales alone. The industry turn-over is heading towards \$400 million directly, bolstering the economy in regional areas."

During the conference, NT Primary Industry Minister Chris Natt will launch a range of pastoral industry initiatives including the NTCA's first complete Occupational Health and Safety manual. Guidelines in the innovative publication will create a safer working environment for station employees.

The NTCA's annual conference attracts top level corporate sponsorship and gives members and industry players the chance to question federal and Territory politicians and other key decision-makers face-to-face on policy issues affecting their livelihood.

The conference will culminate in the annual cattlemen's dinner, to be attended by 400 guests.

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'Advancing and protecting the interests of the cattle producers in the Northern Territory'