**Record high for NT live exports**

LIVE cattle exports hit record highs in 2014 for both number of Northern Territory cattle shipped overseas and total numbers shipped out of the Port of Darwin. The latest NT Primary Industry Department figures show:

- 324,477 head of Territory cattle shipped in 2014, with 243,978 going to Indonesia.
- 493,958 head shipped out of Port Darwin – 282,022 of which went to Indonesia. (The extra cattle were from northern and western Queensland).
- 134,342 more cattle in total shipped than in 2013, and 15,693 more Territory cattle than in 2013.
- 41,391 head of Territory cattle were also shipped to Vietnam, with a total of 64,461 head shipped there from the Port of Darwin, compared to 32,806 head of Territory cattle and 35,396 in total the year before.
- Cattle were also shipped to Brunei, the Philippines, and Malaysia.

**2015 conference gearing up as another stand-out national industry event**

The NT Cattlemen’s Association is putting the final touches in place for the much-anticipated highlight of its 2015 calendar, the 31st Industry Conference. The day-long conference at the Darwin Convention Centre, and the gala dinner, under a giant marquee at the Darwin Turf Club, will be staged on 27 March. The NTCA’s AGM will take place the day before, along with the popular Ladies’ Luncheon at Parliament House, sponsor’s networking sessions and other events.

“Over recent years the scale and success of this event has continued to grow, making it a foremost agribusiness conference at a national level,” NTCA president David Warriner says. “It is an event we are enormously proud of and its success is testament to the grass roots strength of our organisation throughout the the Territory and across the regions represented by our four branches.”

The 2015 conference events have attracted unprecedented early bookings. A month before registrations closed, the NTCA had already received more than 500 registrations from members, life members, VIPs, sponsors and associated delegates for both the annual conference and the dinner. “The registrations have been overwhelming and further reinforces how supportive industry, government and associated stakeholders are of our organisation and this event,” David Warriner says.

“The sheer volume of early interest forced the NTCA to move the conference from Katherine to Darwin where larger capacity facilities were available. “This was a difficult decision in view of the considerable work that had already gone into having Katherine host the event, but we had to consider a range of factors impacting the whole of the NTCA and its membership.”
Northern Territory producers are now able to access the Australian Government’s Drought Concessional Loans Scheme.

Eligible producers in drought affected areas can submit their applications for the 2014-15 program between 10 December 2014 and 30 June 2015. Loans are for eligible Farm Businesses for the purposes of restructuring existing Eligible Debt (including a Farm Finance Concessional Loan), providing new debt for Operating Expenses or Drought Recovery and Preparedness Activities, or a combination of these. Approved loans will be for a maximum loan term of five years and loan amounts will be up to 50 per cent of total Eligible Debt to a maximum of $1 million. A variable concessional interest rate initially set at 4 per cent will be applied to approved loans with interest only payments due for the loan term.

The Drought Concessional Loans Scheme in the Northern Territory will be delivered by QRAA in Brisbane with all application forms available from DPIF. QRAA is a specialist administrator of government financial assistance programs to the rural sector.

DPIF Industry Programs Officer, David Collinson (Phone: 89364089) is available to provide advice and support re: scheme guidelines.

Further information including scheme guidelines and application forms can be accessed through the DPIF website: www.nt.gov.au/primary industry or Email: industry.programs@nt.gov.au

USEFUL WEBSITES


MetEye - for seven-day weather forecasts for all Australian locations: http://www.bom.gov.au/australia/meteye/

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Alice new NTCA office manager

There’s been a staff change in the NTCA Darwin headquarters with Office Manager Tracey Page departing to pursue other interests and Alice Gibb replacing her in that busy role. Alice, 28, was originally from New Zealand but moved to Australia 10 years ago. “I lived in Sydney for several years and worked there as both an executive assistant and office manager in many different industries ranging from car sales, steel and pharmaceuticals to organic baby food,” Alice says. “I then decided I needed to get out of the city and joined the NT Police as an Auxiliary and was stationed in Katherine for two years. It was there that I met my partner who is based in Darwin with the Air Force - so I made the move again and after working with NT Government for 12 months, jumped at the chance to come and work for NTCA.

Hearing date for live export class action a step closer

The cattle industry’s class action against the Australian Government and former Agriculture Minister, Joe Ludwig, in relation to the decision to temporarily stop live cattle shipments in 2011 is progressing closer towards a hearing date.

The action is being lead by Northern Territory Cattlemen’s Association member, The Brett Cattle Company, which owns and operates Waterloo Station in the VRD.

A spokesman for Minter Ellison, the law firm running the claim, advises that all parties were in court in the final weeks of February, making arrangements for how evidence will be presented to the Judge and also what other information the Government is required to provide the applicants.

“This is an important stage in the proceedings because, after years of negotiations, the Government is now being required to hand over this material – something that has been resisted since the ban was placed on the industry,” the spokesman says.

“Once that evidence is before the court it is likely the class of claimants will need to be finalised so that mediation or a hearing can commence.”

Representatives from Minter Ellison will be in Darwin for the NTCA Industry Conference to speak with anyone interested in the claim. If you would like to reserve some time with the representatives, please call (02) 6225 3240.

Advertise in Cattlenews

- Half page - $330.00
- One-third page - $275.00
- One-quarter page - $220.00
- One-eighth page - $120.00

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

KERRY SHARP (Editor) - Phone: (08) 8981 4999
Mobile: 0419 845 714 - Email: sharp@octa4.net.au

Cattlenews - February 2015
AACo’s Livingstone Beef officially open

AACo’s new $91 million north Australian meat processing plant, Livingstone Beef, was officially opened by Prime Minister Tony Abbott on 22 February.

In a statement to coincide with the opening, AACo said processing at the facility, 50 km south of Darwin, was on track and daily throughput continued to increase. It added that only internal AACo cattle had been processed so far, but external cattle supply space would soon become available.

Steven Pocock has recently transferred within AACo, moving from Brunette Downs Station to the Top End facility, to head-up the coordination and purchase of Livingstone’s cattle requirements. Ginny Blair will provide business and logistics support.

The company said pricing and supply opportunities would be communicated soon to coincide with first round mustering.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION or to add your details to a contact list, call or email Steven and Ginny on:

Phone: 1800 228853 / Email: cattle@aaco.com.au.

NTCA commends AACo’s ‘outstanding achievement’

Speaking as Master of Ceremonies at the opening event, NT Cattlemen’s Association CEO Tracey Hayes acknowledged the foresight and investment that had brought the new meatworks to fruition. She said AACo’s outstanding achievement was a sign of faith in the north.

“The concept was seeded in the darkest hours of the Indonesian live export crisis in 2011,” she said. “Today and into the future this facility will bring increased market diversity and opportunity for the northern cattle industry, which is an exciting, innovative, growing and resilient industry that’s integral to much of the fabric of northern Australia.”

She said the facility provided an exciting new outlet for regional producers and would add competitive tension to the marketplace in north Australian, where producers have relied heavily on the live cattle export sector. “It’s a significant investment by AACo in the northern beef industry and an indication of an enormous commitment that hopefully the northern beef industry will benefit from.”

Rents waived for cattle stations doing it tough

The NT Government has waived the lease rents for 22 pastoral stations for 12 months as part of its assistance to lessees still suffering the effects of drought.

The NTCA has welcomed the decision which will collectively save affected station owners $238,000.

“Pastoralists aren’t interested in handouts but this is a small way in which we can make life a bit easier as they struggle with tough seasonal conditions that are out of their control,” Land Resource Management Minister Willem Westra van Holthe said.

“These are people who have dedicated their lives to the land and the NT Government wants to ensure that families who want to stay and work on the land can do so.

“While the central region of the Territory has received some rain of late, it isn’t enough to make a difference to these pastoralists.”

The Minister said all pastoral lease rent waivers were subject to a scientific assessment of the seasonal conditions and how those conditions had a direct impact on earning capacity.

“These conditions have prevailed across central Australia for a couple of seasons now and some of the pastoralists are doing it pretty hard,” he said. “The recent rains have transformed the centre and there’s been some good growth, but it’s still very early days.”

Nine pastoral lease rent waivers were allocated to the southern Alice Springs region, two in the northern Alice Springs area, five in the Plenty, and three in both the Tennant Creek and Barkly regions.
Researcher Professor Mark Post is taking science to far-reaching levels and creating a tissue culture beef substitute in his US laboratory. He’s certain to spark immense interest from cattle producers during his presentation as keynote speaker 2015 NTCA industry conference. His abstract is below:

‘The coming 35 years it is anticipated that meat demand will rise with 70% due to the global population growth and increase in wealth of India and China. To ensure food security and to diminish the environmental and animal welfare burden of current livestock beef production in some production regions, we envision an alternative by culturing meat from bovine muscle specific stem cells. In August 2013 we presented the proof of concept by producing, cooking and eating a hamburger from cultured beef. It was clear that the product was not perfect and further research was necessary to improve the product and provide conditions for scaling up production.

For cultured beef to be successful, four requirements need to be met. Production has to be efficient and sustainable (no serum); the eventual product has to be meat and not a substitute and the consumer needs to accept it. Technical aspects and current state of technology with an estimated path to market introduction will be discussed.

In addition to this process technology, we have started to investigate consumer acceptance in traditional market research. We also study what meat means to people, why it has proven so difficult to become vegetarian. Will the meaning of meat change if there are suitable alternatives? Can meat be presented and consumed in hitherto unknown shapes and formats?

The In Vitro Meat Cookbook with imaginary recipes provides a glimpse into a possible future. Cultured beef is a multifaceted subject that will provide insight into many fascinating biological and psychological questions. At the same time, we urgently need to find solutions for the upcoming surge in meat consumption.
2015 conference to challenge thinking on the industry’s way ahead

In keeping with the tradition of past successful NTCA industry conferences, the 2015 event will again feature top-class national and international guest speakers, this time focussing on the theme, ‘Unlocking the North.’ CEO Tracey Hayes says the expert speakers and panelists have been selected with the view to exposing delegates’ thoughts to a range of opportunities to combine ‘dollars, people, markets and trade potential’ to attract investment in the north.

“We’ve got soil, sunshine, water and human capacity which all equate to opportunities,” she says. “So it’s a matter of how we then marry those qualities with investment and partnering with investors, with trade and with markets.

“The challenge is to attract money into our industry and match it up with our current business structure, but also seek out ways to expand into other areas, partnering with investors and tapping into new export or domestic market opportunities that will advance northern development. “We need to focus on how we develop our business and trade and how we attract capital to do that - in other words, what are the key drivers to leverage capital to develop northern Australia.

The first challenging session of the 31st NTCA Industry Conference will challenge people’s thinking on issues - like the highly-contentious concept, to be put by keynote speaker Professor Mark Post, that a tissue-cultured meat product could one day replace real farmed beef. The next session will return to safer ground, focussing on the industry fundamentals of partnerships, trade, dollars and people. New MLA head, Richard Norton will present an overview of current domestic and overseas markets and trends, and his organisation’s vision for the future.

South-east Asian industry specialist Ross Ainsworth will also address offshore markets but tackle the issue from his perspective of living and working in Asia. He will talk about Asian consumer trends, markets, cattle movements throughout the region, what the sector will look like in the future, and what Australia needs to do to supply those markets.

Another important session will highlight the industry’s human resource. “Presentations will focus on the fact that we’re very good at positioning our businesses and models to meet challenges and opportunities but not so good at recognising our personal needs,” Tracey Hayes says.

“The Future NTCA group will present a segment on its ‘Find Your Balance with Barry’ project that’s been raising mental health awareness around the NT (See story at right).

This year’s panel session will focus on the highly-topical northern development theme. It will be chaired by former NFF chief Matt Linegar and include the Office of Northern Australia head Luke Bowen, a federal Parliamentry representative and other panelists yet to be confirmed. “This thought-provoking session will debate the question of what developing the north looks like, how it will be paid for and whether it’s sustainable beyond the election cycle, or whether it should be a policy of the people and not governments.” The annual gala dinner will close the conference program for 2015.

The Future NTCA group has raised the status of an ordinary $80 bike from K-Mart to promote awareness of the major rural issue of mental health and the online resources available for bush people trying to manage anxiety and depression.

The group will present a conference session on its innovative ‘Find Your Balance with Barry’ project, which evolved from a professional development course that required members to build a bike and use it to promote their chosen theme.

The group decided that mental health in rural communities needed attention. Hence, Barry the Bike’ embarked on a road trip (in a car) around the Territory to raise awareness among rural landholders, their family members and friends, about recognising the signs of mental health and where to go for help to deal with it.

Among other things, the project directs people to www.mindspot.org.au, the website of The MindSpot Clinic, a free telephone and online service for Australian adults troubled by symptoms of anxiety or depression.

The Future NTCA group’s presentation will include a special guest speaker to talk about how people can position themselves to better manage mental health issues in between the demands of daily life and running a business in rural communities.

‘Barry the Bike’ doing his bit for rural mental health awareness
Taking a look around the paddock is about to take on a whole different meaning for Northern Territory pastoralists, thanks to new satellite mapping technology.

While it might sound like something out of a sci-fi film, a new project known as the NRM Spatial Hub aims to help rangelands cattle producers monitor the health and value of their property using remote sensing technology.

The Hub is an Australian Rangeland NRM Alliance that will give pastoralists around Australia and the Northern Territory the tools and technology to map their properties and monitor the ground cover, land condition and value of their paddocks.

The project is one of many highlighted at the annual Territory Natural Resource Management Conference in Darwin late last year. NRM Spatial Hub specialist Michael Digby said so far eight pastoralists, including one corporate, five family and two Indigenous groups, are interested in the project in the Territory.

The properties are in Central Australia, Sturt Plateau, Roper River, Arnhem Land and the Barkly region.

Time series remote sensing technology will be used to monitor where land becomes degraded through overstocking and areas that have good pasture. Pastoralists will also be able to access satellite data on their land from as far back as 1987 to look for seasonal changes and historic land use.

The satellite images will help pastoralists become better informed about the capacity of their land and help improve management and productivity. The information will be kept secure and will only be accessible by the owner of the property.

“This system will help pastoralists with their planning processes to create new paddocks based on land type as well as look at water planning and the profile of the landscape for suitable water infrastructure,” Michael said.

Darwin-based survey technician Donal Sullivan (Pictured front right with 2014 Future NTCA participants) took part in the RIRDC-sponsored Future Leaders Program in the Territory in November and came away with valuable lessons learnt.

Donal, who hails from Mataranka’s Cave Creek Station, is involved in the Future NTCA initiative launched at the association’s 2014 annual conference.

The two-day RIRDC forum included tours of Darwin’s primary industry ventures involved in cattle, horticulture, agriculture and farmed barramundi production.

“We visited cattle export yards, the Darwin Port Authority and also met a Brazilian farmer, Rodolfo Vaz de Carvalho, who spoke about the challenges they face at home and the parallels he could draw between Brazil and Australian agriculture,” Donal said in a recent RIRDC Future Leaders newsletter report.

“There was a really broad range of people and industries and it was great to get a bit of perspective, as so often we have just all cattle themes.

“One quote from the conference that stuck out to me was that we’re not beef or grain producers, we’re food producers and we’re all in the food industry.”

Communication and personal development specialist Catherine Marriott also worked with the participants, with covering communication, people-related working skills and leadership.

“People tend to forget that in agriculture you’re not just dealing with animals for example; you do have to deal with people, including some with really varied viewpoints, so the skills she passed on were really great,” Donal said in the RIRDC report.

“The satellite images will help pastoralists with their planning processes to create new paddocks based on land type as well as look at water planning and the profile of the landscape for suitable water infrastructure,” Michael said.
Members urged to have say on Bushfires Act review

NTCA members have been urged to have their say on future bushfire management in the Northern Territory. Respondents have until 27 March 2015 to submit feedback on a recommendations paper released as part of the Northern Territory Government’s current review of the Bushfires Act. The paper also includes expert advice on trends in contemporary bushfire management legislation around Australia. The recommendations resulted from consideration of feedback to a discussion paper released for public comment between February and May last year. It generated submissions from a broad cross section of stakeholders including the pastoral industry.

“This is an opportunity for people to have input into how bushfires are managed in the Territory in the future,” CEO Tracey Hayes says. “Anyone with issues or queries about this review should contact their local NTCA branch chair person.”

The Bushfires Act review is assessing the effectiveness of the existing legislation in light of significant changes since its inception in 1980. The aim is to improve bushfire management across the Territory. The document, Recommendations Paper - Review of Bushfires Act, is available to view or download at the Department of Land Resource Management website: http://www.lrm.nt.gov.au/bushfires/review-of-the-bushfires-act

SUBMISSIONS should be addressed to: Review of the Bushfires Act, Bushfires NT, PO Box 37346, Winnellie NT 0821 - or emailed to: bushfires.actreview@nt.gov.au

Biosecurity Fees

Fees for NT Government Animal Biosecurity Services came into effect on 1st January 2015. Fees now apply for tick inspections and treatments, interstate health certificates for livestock movement, export certifications and investigations re: breaches of the Livestock Act. Details are:

- Cattle tick inspection and supervised treatment - $44.40 set visit fee + $1.11 per head
- Supplying health certificates for interstate livestock - $32.19 per certificate
- Supplying Property of Origin health declaration - $32.19 per declaration
- Weekend horse tick inspection and treatment - $144.30 set visit fee + $1.11 per head
- Investigation to follow up breaches of the livestock - $66.60 per hour.

NOTE: Weekend surcharges apply

To book a call-out, please contact your local Livestock Biosecurity Officer:

DARWIN: Ian Doddrell
Phone 08 89992030

KATHERINE: Josh Haigh
Phone: 08 8973 9754

TENNANT CK: Tom Haines
Phone: 08 8962 4458

ALICE SPRINGS: Greg Crawford
Phone: 08 8951 8125

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$75 a bottle for NTCA Beef Week 2015

Cattlenews - February 2015
Minister for Primary Industry and Fisheries, Willem Westra van Holthe

The Northern Territory cattle industry had a bumper year in 2014, with live cattle sales and export numbers through the Port of Darwin setting a new record, surpassing the previous high of 364,944 head in 2008.

This success is a result of the incredibly hard work by the cattle industry, in conjunction with this Government, to restore and grow the markets for Territory beef. The Government, in conjunction with industry associations, has worked hard to re-build the live cattle trade with Indonesia, and establish new long term markets for Territory cattle and buffalo in other South East Asian countries such as Vietnam.

The trade relationship between the Northern Territory and Indonesia in particular has grown stronger, which is an indication of the solid foundation that has existed between these two Governments dating back to the 1980s. Indonesia recently installed a new Government, and it is recognised that there will be a settling in period while the new Ministers get across their portfolios.

In early February I had the honour of meeting with the Indonesian Consul General to the Northern Territory, and we agreed on many ongoing areas of co-operation regarding trade between our governments. While the quota for sale to Indonesia in the first quarter of this year is lower than expected, sale prices for live export cattle are currently high. This means that 2015 is shaping up to be another good year for Top End cattle producers.

And it’s great to hear that so far this season, many Central Australian pastoralists have enjoyed good rain, which will certainly help with cattle production in the southern parts of the Territory.

I recognise that our role as a Government is vital in ensuring that the northern cattle industry continues to thrive, and it is my intention as the Deputy Chief Minister to work hard to bring certainty to the Territory cattle industry and to our trading partners.

There is a unique opportunity for the Northern Territory to capitalise on the rapidly increasing demand for quality food in the Asia Pacific region.

New trade relationships with Vietnam and Cambodia have seen our markets for live cattle increase, and the Northern Territory Government-led trade missions that helped secure these new trading partners will continue.

Regular visits to our trading partners deliver the assurance and respect required to ensure long-term and successful partnerships.

Currently the Northern Territory is the largest supplier of live cattle and buffalo to South East Asia, and the Government is determined to see this continue.

I look forward to catching up with you at the 31st NTCA Industry Conference and AGM in March.

Regards

Willem Westra van Holthe

Pastoral work for NT prisoners?

The NTCA now has a seat on the Correctional Industries Advisory Council (CIAC) whose functions were discussed at recent branch meetings.

NT Correctional Services is interested in engaging with the pastoral sector to provide training and jobs for low-risk prisoners through the ‘Sentenced to a Job Program’. Territory cattle station operators have been invited to submit expressions of interest in participating in proposed prisoner or prison-based programs within their regions.

“Correctional Services is also keen to boost its industrial enterprises in both Darwin and Alice Springs prisons,” NTCA executive officer Tom Ryan says. “They are already providing services such as making and repairing portable panels and are looking for guidance from the pastoral sector on what opportunities there might be out there to expand their work within this sector.”

Dave Miller, who has been involved in every major water project in the Territory since the 1960s, recently retired from his NT Government job and was honoured at a special presentation in Alice Springs. Drilling and bore-testing manager Dave covered hundreds of thousands of kilometres and worked and lived in some of the Territory’s most remote locations after joining the Commonwealth Department of Territories at 16 as a junior driller in Alice Springs. He transferred to the NTPS on 1 July 1978 and at the time of his retirement, was working with the Department of Land Resource Management.

Dave worked continuously in the NT Government’s water drilling section except for a period of active service (1967-1969). He won the Chief Minister’s Public Sector Medal in 2014 for outstanding leadership. Throughout his career he was often recognised for his abilities in the management of staff and drilling operations, going above and beyond the call of duty and making his job a way of life.

50-year drilling & bore-testing veteran retires

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Regards

Willem Westra van Holthe
NT CATTLE TICK PROGRAM:
What can move where?

The Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries provides the following advice in relation to its NT Tick Program, put in place to minimise the spread of cattle tick

THE ISSUE
Meat and Livestock Australia reported in 2006 that cattle tick was most expensive endemic cattle disease in Australia, costing the industry $146 million. The NT Tick Program is in place to minimise the spread of tick as much as possible. To achieve controls, the program has split the Territory into four ‘cattle tick areas’, namely:
1. Parkhurst Infected Zone (where ticks have been found resistant to Bayticol, Barricade 'S', Blockade-S and Tixafly)
2. Infected Zone
3. Control Zone (where the presence of ticks may change seasonally)
4. Free Zone

The Control Zone is located between the Infected and Free Zones. Properties within the Control Zone may have an Approved Property Management Plan which outlines specific management measures based on the property's cattle tick status.

CATTLE MOVEMENTS
● Cattle moving from one region into another need to meet specific requirements for cattle tick. Any cattle moving from the Parkhurst Zone into other zones must be inspected clean by an authorised officer and have a supervised treatment in an approved Amitraz plunge dip.
● A clean inspection and supervised treatment is also required for cattle moving from the Infected Zone into the Control Zone and Free Zone.
● Cattle from the Parkhurst or Infected zones must be moved within 24 hours following the inspection and treatment (There are more specific requirements for properties under quarantine or with an Approved Cattle Tick Management Program in place)
● There are no DPIF cattle tick requirements for cattle moving (1) north from the Free Zone to any other zone, (2) north into the Parkhurst Infected Zone (including for export*), or (3) within a zone.

* Cattle for live export may have importing country requirements such as 'Free of Tick' prior to landing, which is monitored by the Federal Agriculture Department, Live Animal Exports section. Cattle moving from properties in the Control Zone are property-specific as per the Approved Property Plan.

FOR FULL DETAILS of the NT Cattle Tick Program, go to the DPIF site via: www.nt.gov.au

CATTLE TICK MOVEMENT TABLE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Livestock Going From:</th>
<th>PARKHURST ZONE</th>
<th>INFECTED ZONE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INFECTED ZONE</td>
<td>Clean inspection then Supervised Amitraz Dip in up-to-strength dip</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONTROL ZONE</td>
<td>Clean inspection then Supervised Amitraz Dip in up-to-strength dip</td>
<td>Clean inspection then Supervised Bayticol (or Amitraz) Dip in up-to-strength dip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FREE ZONE AND INTERSTATE</td>
<td>Clean inspection then Supervised Amitraz Dip in up-to-strength dip</td>
<td>Clean inspection then Supervised Bayticol (or Amitraz) Dip in up-to-strength dip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QLD TICK ZONE</td>
<td>Clean inspection then Supervised Amitraz Dip in up-to-strength dip</td>
<td>Clean inspection then Supervised Bayticol (or Amitraz) Dip in up-to-strength dip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WA TICK ZONE</td>
<td>Clean inspection then Supervised Amitraz Dip in up-to-strength dip</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIVE EXPORT</td>
<td>Nil DPIF Dept of Agriculture ensure Importing country requirements apply prior to loading</td>
<td>Nil DPIF Dept of Agriculture ensure Importing country requirements apply prior to loading</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DPIF is keen to hear from Katherine and Barkly region stations interested in being involved in monitoring the impacts of wild dogs. The study’s two main aims are to estimate regional and property level rates for fatal and non-fatal attacks on young cattle, and attempt to estimate the strength of the association between reproductive failure rates and observed prevalence estimates for wild dog damage.

The proposed project is primarily based on establishing a system to routinely capture frequency data for wild dog damage in calves and weaners within Territory breeding herds. Therefore, all properties willing to participate in the study are welcomed and encouraged to contact the department.

FOR FULL DETAILS of the NT Cattle Tick Program, go to the DPIF site via: www.nt.gov.au

Summary of project method:
• Collaborators provide the number of calves and weaners processed and a tally of those observed with wild dog bite damage following each muster using a simple paddock tally template (or one similar)
• Participating properties that monitor the individual performance of cattle will be identified throughout the project and contacted to discuss accessing individual animal data records to estimate calf loss.
• Collaborators will be requested to complete an annual survey to provide property information such as overall branding rates for the year and other property level factors potentially of interest.

Project participation must involve:
• Keenness to commit to the study and collect and provide the required data
• Commitment from project group to collaborators:
  • Commitment to summarise annually and report back to the collaborator on data collected.
  • Where individual animal performance monitoring occurs and dog bites are monitored, analyse and report back to collaborators estimates of foetal/calf loss.

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  • Where individual animal performance monitoring occurs and dog bites are monitored, analyse and report back to collaborators estimates of foetal/calf loss.
New NT wild dog advisory committee

The NTCA will be well represented on the new Northern Territory Wild Dog Advisory Committee set up by the government to address what has become a major issue for the pastoral industry. The move has been welcomed by the NTCA which has four representatives, one from each region, on the committee.

“This new committee has been set up as a result of mounting pressure from the NTCA and our members,” CEO Tracey Hayes says. “The magnitude of the wild dog problem and its cost to industry in the Territory is enormous.

“This committee will have a regional focus and representation so it presents a good opportunity for our members to raise issues and help come up with a process to address this issue.”

WANTED: Photos of station livestock killed or injured through wild dog attacks. Please email to the NTCA at: office.darwin@ntca.org.au

NT pastoral industry pay rates - effective from 1 July 2014

Increases to pay rates and allowances for farming and livestock hands, in line with the Pastoral Industry Award 2010 came into affect on 1 July 2014. The following rates apply for ADULTS.

The award applies to employees engaged in the performance of all work, whether permanent or casual, in or in connection with or incidental to the industries or industrial pursuits of the Australian and Northern Territory Cattle Industry of breeding, raising or fattening of livestock and other associated activities.

JUNIOR EMPLOYEES should now be paid the following percentages of relevant adult rate: Under 16 years - 50%, 16 years - 60%, 17 years - 70%, 18 years - 80%, 19 years - 90% and 20 years - 100%.

FOR FULL DETAILS of pay and overtime rates and allowances, refer to the NTCA Wages and Conditions Guide at: www.ntca.org.au

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wage Group</th>
<th>*Weekly award rate</th>
<th>Hourly rate</th>
<th>Casual rate 25% loading</th>
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<tr>
<td>FLH1</td>
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<td>FLH8</td>
<td>801.80</td>
<td>21.10</td>
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</table>

* FLH1 = Farm and Livestock Hand Level 1 etc

St Philip’s College in Alice Springs celebrates 50 years as a boarding facility with a major three-day reunion of students from 13-15 March. The college has provide a ‘home away from home’ for hundreds of outback children from cattle stations, isolated Aboriginal communities and mining towns. St Philip’s is Australia’s most remote multi-cultural day and boarding school. A unique aspect is that boarding is offered to students who may choose to attend other town schools. St Philip’s was originally established as a residential college in 1965 by the late Rev Dr Fred McKay OA who was successor to John Flynn. All past and current boarders, families, staff and college friends are invited to the reunion.

● FOR FULL DETAILS email: franca.frederiksen@stphilips.nt.edu.au

NTCA wants more Future Leaders

Bouyed by the success of its ‘future leaders’ initiative launched in March 2014, the NTCA will boost the ranks this year. “We’re keen to see the program continue to grow so we’re providing the opportunity for four successful candidates to join the program for the 2015-16 year,” CEO Tracey Hayes says.

“The program was initiated to optimise the potential of our industry’s youth, capturing new ideas, networks and enthusiasm. It is widely supported by our industry leaders and designed to enhance and build the reputation and image of the NTCA as an effective and recognised organisation.”

Nine inaugural NT participants were announced during last year’s 30th NTCA industry conference and have since been active in special capacity-building and industry-related projects.

The NTCA aims to select a candidate each from its four branch areas covering Central Australia, the Barkly, Katherine and the Top End. Candidates must be 35 years or under, currently involved in or closely connected to the cattle industry, and be passionate about taking a leadership role within the industry. The successful candidates will be announced at the NTCA conference on 27 March.

REMEMBER: Applications for Future NTCA selection close on Monday 16 March. The application form is available at: www.ntca.org.au

50 years for St Philip’s

St Philip’s College in Alice Springs celebrates 50 years as a boarding facility with a major three-day reunion of students from 13-15 March. The college has a ‘home away from home’ for hundreds of outback children from cattle stations, isolated Aboriginal communities and mining towns. St Philip’s is Australia’s most remote multi-cultural day and boarding school. A unique aspect is that boarding is offered to students who may choose to attend other town schools. St Philip’s was originally established as a residential college in 1965 by the late Rev Dr Fred McKay OA who was successor to John Flynn. All past and current boarders, families, staff and college friends are invited to the reunion.

● FOR FULL DETAILS email: franca.frederiksen@stphilips.nt.edu.au
Producers in the Australian states where Bovine Johne’s Disease (BJD) is unregulated have been managing the risk of disease introduction and spread on their properties for many years. BJD is notifiable in all states and territories. The greatest risk to your herd comes with the introduction of new livestock. Cattle are susceptible to both the sheep and cattle strains of BJD as well as the bison strain. Infected animals can pass the bacteria in their faeces before showing the typical clinical signs of BJD such as diarrhoea and wasting. Typically, young and suckling animals in close proximity to infected shedding cattle are more at risk of being infected, but the bacteria can survive in soil, water and faeces for up to a year, and therefore presents a risk to all stock in the herd. Limited information is presently available on the survival of bacteria in the extensive pastoral environment.

Prevention of BJD through good on-farm biosecurity is the best option. The Livestock Biosecurity Network (LBN) has planning tools available to assist you with best practice around managing the risk of BJD introduction. Below are some tips for better biosecurity when purchasing and introducing new livestock.

1. Ensure you request a Cattle Health Statement (CHS) from your vendor when purchasing new livestock. The CHS is NOT the same as an NVD/Waybill. The form is a risk management declaration that provides you with information on the prior health history and herd health status of the animals you are purchasing or introducing (including agistment). In some states, these declarations are now compulsory. The form can be downloaded free from http://farmbiosecurity.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Nation-al-Cattle-Health-Statement.pdf.

2. If you are purchasing new livestock make sure they are sourced from herds tested free of BJD or from a recognised BJD free or protected area.

3. Interstate cattle moving into the NT require health certification and/or tests and treatments to prevent the introduction of diseases such as BJD and parasites. The original waybill/health certificate must accompany the cattle while in transit to the property of destination.

4. Quarantine new livestock coming onto your property in a yard or holding paddock with good quality feed. After an initial introduction period where animals can empty out and drop any weed seeds they may be carrying in coat or faeces, new livestock should be kept away from other members for the herd for 2-4 weeks.

5. Vaccination for BJD is currently under field trials in NSW, Victoria and Tasmania. It is not currently registered for use in the Northern Territory. A predictive cost of $20 per vaccination is considered to be prohibitive by many producers.

A farm biosecurity plan is a good way to identify and manage the risks associated with the introduction of new livestock.

Information supplied by Sarah-Jane Wilson - LBN Regional Mgr Northern Australia

FOR MORE INFORMATION, visit: www.lbn.org.au or www.farmbiosecurity.com.au

References


The NT wet season so far

A dry start to the wet season

The northern wet season began much drier than usual for most Territorians. Tennant Creek Airport went 230 days without any rainfall (from 9 April to 26 November). Darwin Airport did not receive any rainfall in September, which is only the second time this has happened since records began in 1941.

Similarly, September and October combined rainfall ranked as the second driest on record at many sites throughout the Northern Territory (see image). November and the first half of December was also drier than average for the Northern Territory. For example, from 1 October to 15 December Victoria River Downs measured only 47.3 mm; the driest start to the wet season since 2006.

A drenching for Central Australia

Toward the end of the December, a trough pushed northward across most of the Territory, reaching the base of the Top End. It brought over 100 mm of rainfall to some locations including Kidman Springs, Victoria River Downs and Tennant Creek. Nutwood Downs got soaked, with a new daily rainfall record of 116.0 mm on 25 December and a monthly total of 443.2 mm. The heavy rainfall continued into the New Year.

As the weather system moved away it was replaced with a tropical monsoon from the north. The monsoon onset occurred over Darwin on 31 December. The slow-moving monsoon trough moved south over the base of the Top End and stayed active for over two weeks. Tropical moisture surged inland over the Kimberley bringing another heavy rainfall event to central Australia from 7 to 11 January. Alice Springs airports recorded 186.0 mm in five days, which is the wettest such period since the end of January 2001. Other notable five-day rainfalls totals for this period include: Trephina Gorge - 239.8 mm; Alice Springs Desert Park 234.8 mm and Arltunga - 218.4 mm (a new January record).

Outlook for the rest of the wet

Seasonal climate outlook models suggest that there is an equal chance of above or below average rainfall across most of the Northern Territory for the first three months of the year.

This does not necessarily mean average conditions are expected, rather that extreme wet or dry conditions are unlikely for the season as a whole. Large scale climate drivers, like El Niño, have little influence on rainfall patterns across northern Australia after the onset of the monsoon.

Likewise, in central Australia, the influence of El Niño usually weakens in January.

FROM: Joel Lisonbee, Snr Climate Liaison Officer NT - Ph: +61 8 89203813, Em: J.Lisonbee@bom.gov.au

CLIMATE WATCH

With the NT Climate Services Centre

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Cattlenews - November 2013