White Paper presents important initiatives for the cattle sector: NTCA

The NT Cattlemen’s Association has welcomed the release of the Australian Government’s North Australia White Paper, highlighting major bush roads funding and a $75 million Northern Agriculture cooperative research centre as important aspects for enhancing the pastoral sector.

The Prime Minister unveiled the White Paper with the Trade and Agriculture ministers in Canberra on 18 June. The blueprint includes key actions on land, water, infrastructure, trade and business investment. The major allocations in order of dollar value are:

- **$5 billion** in concessional loans for projects through the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility.
- **$600 million** for priority roads in northern Australia including the Outback Way and Great Northern, Tanami, Arnhem, Flinders, Barkly and Mann highways
- **$200 million** to build water infrastructure in the north, tied to developing secure water rights as part of a new National Water Infrastructure Development Fund
- **$110 million** a year for next four years, to support the Native Title system with the aspiration of finalising all native title claims within a decade
- **$100 million** to improve cattle supply chains through a northern Australia beef roads fund using CSIRO modelling and livestock transport and beef industry experts to identify investment and deregulation priorities
- **$75 million** for a new Cooperative Research Centre on Developing Northern Australia, located in the north, and initially focused on agriculture, food, and tropical health
- **$39.6 million** to upgrade airstrips and subsidise air services in remote Australia
- **$20.4 million** to better support native title holders to engage with potential investors.

NTCA CEO Tracey Hayes said members welcomed news of the extra $600 million for the northern roads network, on top of the already-announced $100 million specifically for beef roads bottlenecks, and now awaited the finer details on distribution. 

Continued Page 13

NTCA conference captivates

A record 600 delegates crammed the Darwin Convention Centre for the NTCA’s 31st Annual Conference in late March. Delegates converged from across Australia and the world to participate in another typically hard-hitting industry program of presentations from top-ranked guest speakers and panelists, all focussed on Australia’s northern development.

● Reports & Photos: Pages 5-9
Jo returns as NTCA Office Manager

The NTCA has welcomed back its former Office Manager Jo Shearn. Jo worked with the NTCA for two-and-a-half years during Luke Bowen’s time, before heading south to take a job as Office Manager with Agricultural Management Co in Brisbane for more than two years. She then moved to Melbourne to become Team Secretary and Personal Assistant at CBRE Agribusiness for 18 months. “I wanted to come back north because I missed the lifestyle and the people,” Jo said. “It was just by chance that this job became available,” Jo says. “Being able to work with Tracey Hayes influenced my decision to take up this job. It’s exciting to be working for a woman who is so accomplished in and knowledgeable about the industry”

FACES OF THE FUTURE

New starters for Future NTCA

The NT Cattlemen’s Association has selected three new starters for its Future NTCA program. They are: Joella Klein from Orange Creek, Amanda Baglot from Eva Downs and Jack Wilcox from Beetaloo.

CEO Tracey Hayes congratulated the three 2015-16 winners and said the NTCA looked forward to seeing them develop and “grow into leaders of our industry”. The association came up with the Future NTCA concept to foster leadership development among a new generation of beef producers. The program enlisted nine members in its inaugural year (2014) with applicants all under 35 and drawn from across the Territory.

“Succession planning is an issue faced by both industry and advocacy,” Tracey says. “The NTCA already has very strong leaders within its ranks and the program aims to pass their knowledge on to a younger generation.” During their 12 months, the winners undergo a personal development course, attend beef industry meetings, visit government departments, spend a day in Parliament with the Primary Industry Minister, learn government processes and are mentored by senior NTCA members.

Advertise in Cattlenews

- Full Page - $550.00
- 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

A former president, passionate northern cattle industry stalwart and bush veteran of more than 40 years, John Armstrong, became the NTCA’s newest life member in March. John came to the Territory in 1971 and married his first wife Carol two years later. The young couple raised three children - Louise, Melanie and John Junior - and became firmly established at Victoria River Downs where ‘Captain Armstrong’ was Chief Pilot for Helimuster. John and his family became more firmly entrenched in the Territory cattle industry in 1984 when they bought their own dream station, Gilnockie on the Sturt Plateau, and began producing premium cattle for the live export trade. PICTURED: John receives his award from fellow industry stalwart and life member Terry Underwood

Continued Page 13
NT cattle producers benefit from budget tax breaks and infrastructure assistance

The Federal Government has brought forward the start date for new farm tax breaks which are now effective immediately. The government announced in the May budget that farmers would be able to deduct the full cost of water facilities and fencing in the year that they were purchased, and depreciate the cost of fodder storage assets over three years.

However, the budget papers revealed that those tax breaks were not due to start till 2016-17, meaning farmers wouldn’t see the benefits until their 2017 tax returns.

Following concern from farmers, Agriculture Minister Barnaby Joyce took up the issue with Treasurer Joe Hockey. This resulted in a joint ministerial announcement that the changes would be brought forward and made available immediately.

“Australian farmers can now claim a tax deduction on all capital expenditure on water facilities, fodder storage assets and fencing incurred since the 2015 Budget was handed down at 7:30pm on 12 May,” the statement said. “Following broad consultation, stakeholders told us they wanted to get on with building fences, dams and fodder storage as soon as possible.

“Our decision to bring forward the start date of accelerated depreciation for all farmers, regardless of the size of their farm, allows them to prepare for drought and invest in the productivity of their farms immediately.”

Opposition Agriculture Spokesman Joel Fitzgibbon welcomed the decision to make the tax breaks available immediately, Beyond the water, fodder and fencing concessions, the government says farmers will also benefit from wider small business tax breaks in the budget, including immediate tax write-offs for business purchases of items each worth up to $20,000.

NT WILD DOG CRISIS

The NT Government has agreed to review its wild dog management procedures following lobbying by the NTCA. The Alice Springs Branch recently passed a motion calling on the NTCA Executive to ‘strongly address wild dog control issues with the NT Government, including complexity, timeliness and cross-tenure issues’.

The NTCA receives overwhelming Territory-wide member feedback about the impact of wild dogs. It says that despite the best efforts of government staff and other agencies, the wild dog problem continues to result in major economic loss and animal welfare issues, with the impact on the industry estimated to be as high as $70m per year. The NTCA has called for urgent government action to address the crisis and has suggested the following steps be taken:

1. Streamline all permits and approvals to 5 years, replacing the existing 1, 2 and 5-year intervals
2. Authorise individual properties to inject and distribute wet baits rather than the current requirement for baiting to be conducted through groups
3. Relocate the current government wet bait injection service from PWC to DPIF.

The NTCA currently has two positions on the Wild Dog Management Advisory Committee.

Members having problems with new NBN connections have been urged to contact the NTCA with details as soon as possible.

“We’ve received a number of reports from members that the NBN service has posed a range of serious challenges for families and business in remote areas,” CEO Tracey Hayes says.

Issues include reduced speed and data, new connections not being available, and some service providers sending letters quoting changes as a result of the NBN Co Fair Use Policy.

“We are in contact with the NBN and the Communications Minister’s office.”

To gauge the magnitude of existing problems, members are asked to advise of similar or additional problems and the name of their service providers.

Please contact:
Tracey Hayes - Phone: 08 8981 976 / Email: tracey.hayes@ntca.org.au

---

FOR SALE

CAVELCADE HAY

Approx. 300 tonnes.
Located at Middle Point
Contact Dave or Ruth Cormack
Phone: (08) 8988 2042
Mobile: 0411 515 358

---

Cattlenews - June 2015
Vale Dougal Brett: Northern Territory Cattle Industry Champion

Dougal Brett was a cornerstone of the Northern Territory’s cattle industry. It is with great sadness that the NTCA notes the passing of Dougal on the 14th of June. Dougal was a widely respected cattleman who shall be remembered as a stalwart of the industry.

His work to protect our industry during the live cattle ban was pivotal in overcoming one of our darkest hours. The father-of-three shall be remembered as a wonderful family man who was full of life, optimism, drive and ambition.

The loss of Dougal is incredibly saddening for our industry but is a greater tragedy for his family.

Dougal lived and worked on Waterloo Station with his wife Emily, his young children William, Sophie and Lachlan and his parents, Colin and Alison. The Brett’s made a huge commitment to get Waterloo up and running since moving onto the VRD station in 2004.

Dougal and his family had worked through tough challenges and had a great vision for the northern cattle industry’s future direction. Dougal became more widely known through the Brett Cattle Company’s lead role in a class action against the Federal Government’s 2011 Indonesian live export suspension.

Dougal, Emily and their children played a prominent media role as the human faces of an industry suffering severe hardship because of the ban. When things were at their bleakest for our industry after the trade suspension, Dougal, Emily and the family were prepared to step up and take our case to the world. Dougal was farewelled at a packed memorial service in Kununurra. Dougal’s memory shall live on in our hearts, may he rest in peace.
Indonesian advances applauded

The Indonesian cattle industry attracted special praise from outgoing NTCA President David Warriner after another boom year for the live export trade. Indonesia imported 730,000 head of Australian cattle in 2014. A further 182,000 went to Vietnam, and new market opportunities opened in Cambodia and Thailand.

“Indonesia is still our biggest and best market with established infrastructure and good uptake of ESCAS,” David Warriner told the 2015 Annual Conference. “Indonesia is to be congratulated on how it has addressed the changes we have imposed on those supply chains in such a positive manner. The proof is in the pudding - if you want to make it work it can. Other markets could certainly take a leaf from this book.”

Outgoing NTCA President David Warriner has used a no-holds-barred final conference report to urge the beef and agricultural sectors to forget about relying on ‘gas-addicted’ governments and get on with the job of ‘Unlocking the North’.

“It is critical to us, our industry, our Northern Territory and the nation that we succeed this time,” he said. “The demand and market is there. It is up to us to be in the frame and to make it happen. We cannot rely on governments, the mining industry, or others to be of any great assistance.

“The demand prospects for agricultural products and beef have never been brighter. With the Asian middle class projected to go to 3.2 billion people by 2030, demand for our exported agricultural food products and beef has never been brighter and will be on a rising trajectory for many years to come. And as AACo’s Donald McGauchie was quoted as saying at the opening of the Livingston Beef plant, the region’s food consumption will double by the middle of this century, which is why AACo has invested in this infrastructure.”

The outgoing president congratulated AACo for responding to this opportunity which, he said, will deliver outcomes for the Territory for years to come. “We just need to attract more infrastructure initiatives like this and, as an industry, ensure a regulatory environment that is competitive with other jurisdictions,” he said.

Mr. Warriner said endeavours to develop the north had failed in the past but he was positive the growing Asian demand for food made it more achievable now than before. He said Australia also needed it more now.

Mr. Warriner lambasted the current political environment which, he said, rendered governments materially useless in providing funding without some sort of political reform.

“The current political situation is a bloody disgrace, a blight, and an embarrassment. The fact that opposition parties, irrespective of political ilk, are now willing to compromise the national and/or state interests for their own agenda to get into power just bewilders me,” he said. “They make knowingly impossible promises and if they get into power, intentionally break them. I believe this should be illegal.

“Right now all we can realistically expect governments to do while we are in so much debt is create legal and regulatory environments that promote productivity - this being productivity from soil, plants, livestock, people, infrastructure, logistics, markets and other fundamentals. And then we will get somewhere.

“That said, we need bi-partisan support from both major parties to develop the north. Both parties have subscribed to it in the past and they need to keep on the page together and make it happen. Everybody knows the balance of electorates favoring the south. Neither party has the numbers in cabinets or party rooms - but it is your job, Mr Ministers, as our reps to get those numbers. You have to sell this great story successfully.”

He added that while our high costs and low productivity meant Australia’s primary and secondary industries were not globally competitive, progress still required legislative and regulatory change and this could only come from governments.
Across the Territory it is a time of optimism within the cattle industry. Growing markets, government cooperation and a positive start to the season, all promise to contribute to continued long term growth.

For 31 years it has been the charter of the Northern Territory Cattlemen’s Association (NTCA) to protect the rights and promote the interests of its members. As we celebrate the positive production environment at our 31st Annual Conference and AGM we will also consider how we plan for the future. We will hear predictions that the demand for protein will continue to increase around the globe - but that scientists hope to feed the world from a laboratory. How can NT Producers remain competitive as technology changes the entire basis of the industry? How do we build on our proven resilience, tenacity and grit to remain relevant and prosperous for many years to come? The 2015 conference, held in Darwin and proudly hosted by the Katherine Branch of the NTCA, aims to bring together industry with our partners to work towards unlocking the north and achieving our full potential.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS
Michael revisited his 25 years of experience in IT field to explore opportunities for the NT cattle industry, including implications of cultured test tube (meat).

MR DAVID WATSON
Senior Investment Specialist with Austrade.

Title: Seizing the opportunity
Experienced food specialist and legal special cross border mergers. applies understanding of investment drivers for a global company to the Australian agricbusiness secotr. Explored how NT producers can do things differently to seize opportunities.

LUKE CHANDLER
General Manager, Agribusiness and Food Service Advisory for Australia & NZ - Rabobank

Title: Attracting capital to the north:
Luke’s presentation looked at attracting capital to the top end in light of the current large focus on the potential of the north, and converting into action. more specifically how Territory cattle producers can capture some of this capital

JOEL FITZGIBBON
Shadow Federal Minister for Agriculture and Rural Affairs.

Title: Developing the North: Is it Bi-partisan?
Mr Fitzgibbon stressed the need for bi-partisan cooperation across federal, state and territory governments as producers seize opportunities for development and adapt as the industry changes. He also spoke of his team’s vision, lessons learnt and commitment to developing the north.

ANDREW SIMPSON
International Business Manager - Southern Asia - MLA

Title: Consumer Trends and vision for MLA
Northern producers supplying more markets than ever before in ever changing and increasingly competitive marketplace. explored what customers want from their food and how the NT producers can respond to these demands.

FUTURE NTCA TEAM - WITH DENNIS HOIBERG

Title: Building resilience coping and thriving through change.
The Future NTCA group presented a segment on its ‘Find Your Balance with Barry’ project that’s been raising mental health awareness around the NT (PICTURED below: 2014 Future NTCA participant Sam Chisholm addresses the conference)

The Indonesian Government issued import permits for an extra 28,000 head of slaughter cattle in April to ensure sufficient heavy cattle would be available for the critical post-Ramadan period in mid July.

Addressing the move in his South East Asian Beef Market update to the conference, Dr Ross Ainsworth said exporters had been extremely active during April with just over 60,000 feeder cattle delivered to Java and Sumatra. “Many will be ready for slaughter for the festival period so when these numbers are combined with the new slaughter cattle allocations acute shortages during the peak demand period in the middle of July should be avoided,” he said.

Dr Ainsworth added: “Many Indonesian feedlots have plenty of cattle despite slow first quarter imports, so when 60,000-plus new feeders are delivered in a single month the pressure is on for some operators to unload fat cattle to make space for the newcomers. With an estimated 80,000+ feeders scheduled in May this pressure to unload existing cattle is only likely to increase. Whenever fat cattle are forced onto the market by factors other than customer demand there is likely to be downward pressure on prices.

These forces are reflected in the current Jakarta price which has eased to Rp.36,000 to Rp.36,500 per kg live, or using Rp.10,000 to AUD$3.60 to $3.65 per kg live weight.

“Supermarket prices for secondary cuts are fluctuating wildly at the moment as the government policy of nil secondary cut imports begins to bite. Some supermarkets are able to source product from local abattoirs while others might have access to some older stock from the cold stores. These sources must still be insufficient for all retailers as prices have shot up by up by 35% for secondary cuts in some Jakarta supermarkets including the one that we survey for our monthly price indication.”

Dr Ainsworth predicted that producers would soon be seeing $4 kg or more liveweight for their beef. He said a rise in prices was logical because the world’s current beef supply could not keep up with burgeoning consumer demands for quality meat.

New NT cattle industry representatives appointed

The NTCA has appointed it new representatives for national industry bodies. Chris Nott (Alcoota Station, Central Australia) replaces Tom Stockwell as delegate to the Cattle Council of Australia (CCA) delegate while Rohan Sullivan (Cave Creek Station, Mataranka) becomes delegate to the National Farmers Federation (NFF).
31st NTCA Annual Conference
Darwin 2015
Dutch cardio-vascular physiology pioneer Professor Mark Post normally engineers blood vessels and muscle for coronary artery bypass grafting but has adapted his groundbreaking lab work to grow a hamburger from stem cells in a test tube.

Prof Post revealed the science behind his research to fascinated conference goers and posed the question – 'Are people going to eat meat from a test tube?' He told delegates the expected responses to lab manufactured meat would probably be ‘eek and yuk’ – yet the world’s consumers were already eating food from unknown sources. 

"For example, we don’t know exactly what sausages are made from,” he said. “People eat a deep fried sausage in the Netherlands, and think it’s organ meat but in fact it’s made up completely from junk from the slaughter houses and mixed with spices. “People are already perfectly willing to eat things without knowing what’s in them because they’re safe. The lesson for the whole food industry is to build consumer trust. Professor Post said he was being as transparent as possible about his technology. He recently conducted a survey of 15,000 people comprising a cross-section of the population. A ‘surprising’ 63% were positive about such technology and 52% said they would eat such a product. He said the technology behind the hamburger development was very simple, could be done at home and give people full control of the food they eat which they don’t have at the moment. Prof Post addressed the potential to use test tube technology to coerce fat cells into making healthy Omega 3 fatty tissue that would lower cholesterol. He saw the prospect of a laboratory-created product being ready to market in another five to 10 years. “It will not change the entire industry overnight but eventually, if we are to feed the growing global population, there will be a place for this type of technology.

---

**Bush ladies glam up for luncheon**

Parliament House was a popular fine dining venue for the 140 guests at this year’s NTCA Ladies’ Luncheon - and all agreed it was most enjoyable and up to the usual high standards. The happy guests dined on a sumptuous feast and took heed from this year’s special guest speaker, leading national corporate training and personal development consultant, Lizzie Wagner, who’s worked in her field for 27 years and runs the Lizzie Wagner Group. Ladies’ Day organisers Julie Richter, Jade Andrews and Renee Rippon received flowers in thanks for their effort.

**CAPTURING A WINNER**

This delightful image captured by Marie Muldoon took out the Overall Winner and People’s Choice awards at this year’s Ausfuel Photo Competition conducted as part of the 2015 NTCA Conference.

---

**Feed the man meat … whipped up in a test-tube!**

Parliament House was a popular fine dining venue for the 140 guests at this year’s NTCA Ladies’ Luncheon - and all agreed it was most enjoyable and up to the usual high standards. The happy guests dined on a sumptuous feast and took heed from this year’s special guest speaker, leading national corporate training and personal development consultant, Lizzie Wagner, who’s worked in her field for 27 years and runs the Lizzie Wagner Group. Ladies’ Day organisers Julie Richter, Jade Andrews and Renee Rippon received flowers in thanks for their effort.

**CAPTURING A WINNER**

This delightful image captured by Marie Muldoon took out the Overall Winner and People’s Choice awards at this year’s Ausfuel Photo Competition conducted as part of the 2015 NTCA Conference.
Gouron Creek Senepol

Gouron Creek Senepol was established in 2004 by Trevor and Sharon Price. Our Mission is to provide quality performance recorded Senepol genetics for stud and commercial cattle operations both domestically and internationally, through the sale of Bulls, Semen and Embryos. Gouron Creek Senepol makes extensive use of Artificial Breeding technologies in order to increase selection intensity and reduce generational interval in the herd, allowing NTCA members to purchase tomorrow’s Senepol genetics today.

Senepol – Grey Brahman F1s offer NTCA members more:
- Calves from increased fertility in the retained F1 Females;
- Weight at weaning and as yearlings;
- Markets with options for Live export or Domestic;
- Carcass quality with favourable MSA grading; all while maintaining Heat tolerance and tropical adaptation.

Gouron Creek Senepol is able to supply bulls, semen or even custom bred bulls to order using ET programs. Should any NTCA members require Senepol genetics please contact Trevor Price on 0429 83 2228 or via our website at www.gouroncreeksenepol.com.au to discuss your specific requirements.

Slick, Cool, Calm Cattle
Senepol study to boost profits

The NT Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries (DPIF) has recently undertaken a study to compare the performance of F1 Senepol x Brahman steers (F1 Senepol) and Brahman steers in an Indonesian feedlot. DPIF collaborated with Elders Indonesia who agreed to buy the Brahman and F1 Senepol steers and allow the DPIF team to study their performance in its feedlot at Lampung province. The steers used were Brahman and F1 Senepol steers that had been grazing together in a cell grazing trial at Douglas Daly Research Farm (DDRF) since weaning in 2013.

Initial results of the trial are extremely positive, with F1 Senepol steers performing better than Brahmans. The Senepol:

- put on more weight in the feedlot (+21 kg)
- had higher average ADG in the feedlot (+0.17 kg/day)
- were heavier at slaughter (+25 kg)
- had higher average HSCW (+11 kg)
- though heavier, had the same average P8 fat depth
- had higher boning room yield (+ 2.44 %)

The research team says these results should inspire confidence in both the client and producer. The F1 Senepol also provides a more tender meat, presenting the option to target the restaurant market as well as the wet market.

New pastoral education tools

- **Don’t Rattle the Cattle** - This NTCA animal welfare training DVD is a valuable learning aid for young people starting or seeking employment in the cattle industry. It provides a light-hearted approach to stockmanship, working alongside cattle and horses in a partnership that benefits all parties. To obtain a copy, email: northern.pastoral@ntca.org.au (members free, non-members $10 plus postage).

- **Weaner Education Video** - This vital DPIF learning device demonstrates best practice to help pastoralists improve cattle management and teach their staff about how weaners should be managed on their properties. To view the video, go to YouTube or order a USB stick copy from KRS - Phone: (08) 89739739.
The Northern Territory cattle industry continues to go from strength to strength, with record live exports through the Port of Darwin in 2014. The 494,000 head shipped out far exceeded the previous record of 365,000. This has been possible through the hard work of both industry and government following the devastating live export ban in 2011. It’s vital that we keep this momentum going and grow an industry that is currently worth around $230 million annually to the Territory’s economy.

While recent reports of animal cruelty in Vietnam are disturbing, it’s important these matters are investigated thoroughly and individual perpetrators punished, rather than an entire industry. Our government will never support the shutdown of trade. Animal cruelty is a human issue, not an animal issue. The way to deal with this is to come down harshly on the offenders. It’s important to remember these matters were reported by industry through the Exporter Supply Chain Assurance System, which clearly shows our policies and procedures are working.

Recently, I led a delegation to the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam where we visited key livestock markets that have significant export potential for the Territory. This was an important mission to increase trade and build on our international relations. The delegation met with government officials and industry representatives; I’m pleased to report each meeting was extremely productive and positive. We spent five days promoting the Territory as a global supplier of choice and I believe the benefits of these meetings will be ongoing.

Closer to home, I recently attended the 6th Northern Australia Beef Industry Roundtable in Yeppoon. More than 80 beef industry delegates from around the nation came together to look at branding and engagement with overseas markets including China. Discussions at the roundtable were extremely productive and will inform the work plan of the Committee of Northern Australia Agriculture Ministers. We are united in our goal to expand the northern cattle industry to ensure it is sustainable long into the future.

Vaccine Trial

DPIF is investigating the effectiveness of cattle vaccinations, with the aim of decreasing mortality rates in calves and weaners. The 12-month trial will look specifically at the 5-1 vaccination which provides protection against five common clostridial diseases. DPIF will undertake the trial across the Barkly and Katherine regions. Around 12 properties will be involved in the trial, where half the animals will be vaccinated and compared against the remaining 50 per cent of animals which were not.

DPIF will ensure conditions are exactly the same for vaccinated and unvaccinated cattle so the results are as accurate as possible. The 5-1 vaccine is extremely important in protecting against Tetanus, Pulpy Kidney, Gas Gangrene, Blackleg and Black’s disease.

Pastoralists who would like to be involved in the trial should contact DPIF at www.dpif.nt.gov.au

The Top End’s Top Blocks.

When the dry sets in, make sure you’re prepared with the Top End’s Top Blocks. Rumevite 30% + P and LNT Uramol Blocks are specifically formulated for the harsh conditions of northern Australia.

Urea supplementation may aid in:
- Reduced mortality rates
- Increased liveweight gains
- Increased breeder conception rates
- Increased weaning rates

Benefits:
- Hard formulation to ensure safety
- Reduced labour
- Contains sulphur to maximise utilisation of dry feed

The hardest blocks going for Australia’s toughest conditions.

For further information contact:
Angela Elliott, Northern Nutrition Manager on 0477 373 178

Rumevite 30% Urea
86% Crude Protein
3.6% Phosphorus
1.4% Sulphur

FEEDSAFE ACCREDITED
WITH PROFITECHS

30% Urea
86% Crude Protein
3.6% Phosphorus
1.4% Sulphur

RIDLEY

For further information contact:
Angela Elliott, Northern Nutrition Manager on 0477 373 178

Cattlenews - June 2015
John Armstrong honoured

Cont from front page
CEO Tracey Hayes said the NTCA has worked closely with the federal, state and territory governments in providing feedback on the White Paper as it progressed, and will continue to do this to ensure that the exciting plans for northern Australia remained on track for the benefit of the whole of Australia.

Speaking on national television, Tracey Hayes said while a total $700 million in roads funding was a significant commitment, it was still just the beginning of what will be needed if northern Australia is to be developed properly.

“We’re starting from a low base when you consider that about 80 per cent of the 20,000 arterial roads in the Territory alone, are currently unsealed. We urgently need all weather road access. Cattlemen and farmers can no longer be restricted to selling their produce once or twice a year when rivers aren’t running and bog holes aren’t stopping the trucks getting through.”

She said there are enormous potential markets to the north or us so this is about having the enabling policy in place to allow business and industry to get in and grow out the region’s economy. “I think it is up to us as an industry to keep working hard with governments to ensure the White Paper actions become bi-partisan policy that will benefit all Australians into the future.”

NTCA welcomes White Paper release

From Page 2
Fellow NTCA life member Terry Underwood presented grandfather-of-six, John Armstrong, with his citation and reflected on the Armstrong family’s broad-ranging industry commitment in the 1970s. “This was an era when we were all working incredibly hard to support our growing families and develop our properties,” Terri said. “Moreover, significant challenges, including BTEC, Land Rights and Landcare issues, continued to confront our industry and livelihood - but the busiest of bush families somehow managed to make commitments beyond their farm gate to participate with unabated enthusiasm in educational and community events.” Over the past 20 years, John has been a member of the Katherine Pastoral Industry Advisory Committee (KPIAC) and the committee’s first rep on the North Australia Beef Research Council; the Bush Fires Council, Pastoral Land Board and Select Committee of MLA Directors.

John’s also been the NTCA’s Katherine Branch Chairman (1993-96), CCA representative (1996-99), then President (2003-06). John currently sits on an advisory committee working for equity in the land rental system, and on a CASA committee focused on new regulations as well as checks and training of the mustering industry.

Terry highlighted John’s late wife Carol’s enormous role on the station.

“Throughout John’s decades of representation of NT producers locally and interstate, it was up to Mum and the kids at home to not just check livestock and watering points but fix any broken down bore, diagnose a faulty lighting plant and generally cope with the widespread challenges of living a long way from town services when communications were still restrictive.”

John married Helen in 2003 and besides continuing to run Gilnockie’s cattle business, operate 13 choppers making up the fleet of their station-based Air Work and Charter Helicopter Company.

Terry said the former President also recalled his signature achievement whilst in CCA was the hard won outcome of the weighted cattle levy vote. John has often quoted the words of Ken Warriner: “I want you to remember the most important people in this association is the membership, each and every member.”

2015 BUDGET BONANZA

Take Advantage Of The New Tax Breaks & Write-offs

Pioneer Water Tanks understands how important water is to you and your livelihood. For over 27 years we have been designing, manufacturing and building 100% Australian Made steel water tanks.

Don’t take any chances with your water storage. To protect your valuable asset and access it where and when you need it, demand Pioneer Water Tanks.

Call Rene on 0437 250 784 for all your water storage requirements

Pioneer Water Tank

Built stronger to last longer.
Trainees breaking in colts and working weaners

The Territory’s Pastoral ‘Real Jobs’ initiative continues to notch up success stories in providing skills training future young Indigenous cattle workers and getting them jobs on stations.

The program, launched about eight years ago and now managed by Tara Fulwood, is coordinated by the NTCA and funded by the Indigenous Land Corporation. Tara Fulwood has recently helped put 16 eager new recruits through an intensive two-week training schedule at the NTCA stockyards on the outskirts of Alice Springs.

The trainees learnt about horsemanship, motorbike riding, welding, fencing and how to educate weaners to make them more cooperative in yards.

Tara said the popular colt training saw the recruits climbing on the young horses’ backs after some gentle handling to break the animals in.

At the end of the training, the 16 participants were placed in employment on properties the length and breadth of the Territory. “These young guys are eager to get out and work and we follow their progress once they go to the stations,” she said. “We have a travelling mentor available to go out and see how they are going in their new jobs.”

The new cattle workers will receive further training soon so they continue to upgrade their skills.

The ‘Real Jobs’ program coordinators enlist most of the recruits by visiting communities to talk to potential station workers and spread word about the employment opportunities that can flow from training.

PICTURED ABOVE:
Trainees Brenton Gregory and Billy Clarke breaking in colts

In Memory of Tony Moran

Tony Moran was a gentle man, a stock inspector too, And with the straightest face could he properly bulldust you. He would play at looking cold & hard, that blank and distant stare But the eyes would give that twinkle & the smile begin to share.

That look that lured the fillies, equine or human kind. It was a strength of character, perhaps with weakness lined. But the heart was good, and empathy for people of the land Was at the very centre of the Tony Moran brand.

He reckoned that he’d get assigned to work with all the stations, Run by people who were different or, indiff’rent to legislation. “Deserved” I thought, but didn’t say, and remembered that the folk Put In charge of running Tony, were also oft to play the joker.

He stockied on the Plenty, out east of Alice Springs, On the Barkly, Lake Nash Station, with the BTEC in full swing From there to Boorooloola where scrub and characters were thick To the Courthouse, Daly Waters, Tony’d finally won a trick.

He had room for all his horses and the house was on the tar Good people on most the stations - fifty metres to the bar. Pubs & tourists right there on tap – but BTEC busy – ‘there’s the rub Making time and an impression he rode the mare right in the pub.

As a stockie of the old school he was straight and he was fair, Did the time on ground, in choppers, & of shooting did his share. Long days in needling cattle, tagging ears and banging tails. Checking fences & reactors, “watch out- scrub bull!” climb the rails.

His gear was neat and tidy, well maintained and in its place, There was pride in his appearance at the draft, or by the race. Well respected by the stations and the chopper pilots too The old captain speaks in grateful tones of jobs done by the two.

He “flew beneath the radar” recalled the Barkly DVO Of course he’d have played some tricks coz all of ’em had a go, I caught Freddy driving old Slot’s trucks when the testing job was slow But Tony just did the job and the rest I didn’t know.

He didn’t know for instance that in the BTEC catcher, Fred & Tony managed scrubbers not worried by the scratches, More accurately described as scalping, by the nurses at the Loo “Failing panels” said the paperwork the bosses got to view. Dr. Death the Katherine DVO, called him “The Diplomat” “Got on well with station people, never complaining where he sat”. His station people were close to him –they knew that Tony tried, While families wept at funerals, he too was caught damp-eyed.

But with the end of BTEC, the stockies’ work was in decline So Tony thought it must be time to chase a different line. If Old Jack & Bruno Hogan could pull the research strings, He was sure that he could handle the crew at Kidman Springs. There were horses, cows & pastures - it all seemed that much greener.

A bonus for the drafter was the new “Don Cherry Horse Arena” Young staff and district visitors all keen to learn the trade Talk fondly of the manager and the impression that he made. So, … the drafting is all over and the cattle quiet in camp, Tony’s rolled his final smoke & swag & finally doused the lamp. And he’s joined the other bushmen resting on the Kath’rines banks Spinning yarns, recalling stories, he’ll be welcomed in their ranks.

He could ride and fight and laugh and love but also shed a tear. Was he maudlin, mad or just mumblin’ as he talked into his beer. Ahh -Yes mate, Fox & Stumpy remember that time too, And like all our other Stockies past Mate, we ’ll sure remember you.

Written by Tom Stockwell

Website revamp

The official NTCA website is headed for a major shake-up!

We’re in the process of giving our now-outdated website an exciting and modern new look that’s befitting such an important, leading-edge industry organisation as the NTCA.

KEEP WATCHING @ www.ntca.org.au

Cattlenews - June 2015
El Niño returns

The Bureau of Meteorology recently declared an El Niño, an event that occurs when some of the warmest waters in the world – northeast of Papua New Guinea – shift east towards South America. When they do, clouds and rain also shift east away from Australia. While this happens irregularly, it averages around every 3-5 years; our last El Niño event was in 2009-10.

El Niño is often associated with below-average rainfall across eastern Australia during the second half of the year and warmer-than-normal daytime temperatures over the southern half of the country. But, no El Niño is the same. The impacts from event-to-event can be quite different. For example, Australia has seen both widespread drought (e.g. 2006-07) and modest impacts (e.g. 1997–98). Furthermore, different parts of Australia experience the impacts of El Niño in different ways.

What does El Niño mean for the Northern Territory?

The largest effect of El Niño is often below-average rainfall in Australia during the winter and spring months (June through November). Northern Australia is seasonally dry in the winter months, so the effect of El Niño on the tropics is not typically seen until the wet season begins in October.

In a classical El Niño pattern, the Top End experiences below-average rainfall in October, November and December. With less rainfall around, the first 50 mm of rainfall in the season, which is crucial for grass growth after the dry season, will accumulate by a later date than normal.

Another effect of El Niño is that the drenching rains of the northern Australian monsoon are usually delayed until early January. After the monsoon begins there is usually little influence on rainfall for the rest of the wet season.

El Niño also reduces the number of tropical cyclones Australia-wide, with fewer coastal crossings. For the waters around the Territory’s north coast there tend to be an eastward shift in tropical cyclone activity toward the Gulf of Carpentaria.

For the rest of the Territory, and central Australia in general, El Niño can mean average to below-average rainfall, but not extremely dry. The two maps below show rainfall patterns from 12 moderate to strong El Niño events for June - December and also just for the ‘build-up’ months (Oct-Dec).

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