



# Plains Talk

A monthly newsletter brought to you by your local LHPA, DPI & CMA

*Plains Talk is currently being emailed monthly to over 800 landholders.*

*It is also available to view online at <http://www.lhpa.org.au/districts/centralwest>*

*If you aren't on the mailing list and would like to be, please email me! [jillian.kelly@lhpa.org.au](mailto:jillian.kelly@lhpa.org.au)*

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- Why Sheep Health Statements are essential
- Managing Pest Animals with the CMA & LHPA
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## LONG TERM PERSISTANT SERRADELLA FOCUS OF FIELD DAY

Management that ensures long term persistence and high productivity of pasture species serradella (and biserrula) will feature at a field day on Bob and Sue Freebairn's property near Coonabarabran on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September. Bob Freebairn is an agricultural consultant based at Coonabarabran.

While by no means the best serradella in Australia, the winter legumes are an essential part of both their native grass and subtropical grass pastures across a range of sandy loam and loam soil types. These will be inspection as well as discussions on management and establishment of both tropical and winter annuals.

One of the most common enquiries received is how to keep serradella and biserrula (as well as other legumes) stands as strong parts of the pasture on a long term basis without the need for periodic re-sowing. Hence the reason for the field day to discuss these aspects and see stands that are long term persistent.

Serradella and biserrula are autumn winter spring growing annual legumes very tolerant of acid soils as well as suited to a wide range of other soils including neutral loams. Feed quality is high, they are regarded as non-bloating, production can be as high as several tonnes per hectare (DM basis) and their ability to build soil nitrogen is considerable. Combined with summer growing grasses is an ideal combination.

A previous owner of their property many years ago added serradella across it to both a subtropical as well as native grass pastures. These stands have continued to thicken with production variable according to seasonal conditions and sometimes very high. The ability of legumes to fix around 40 kg/ha nitrogen per t/ha DM also helps ensure high quality through summer of the perennial grasses.

Critical aspects for long term serradella persistence include grazing management, soil fertility and variety choice. For example it is especially important to protect serradella and biserrula plants at time of flowering to ensure adequate seed set. This can be especially challenging in a dry spring when paddock feed may be scarce.

Also important is ensuring summer grasses and herbage is reasonably but not necessarily heavily eaten down by time of the autumn break. This can be an especially important aspect after a season with a wet summer that may have resulted in heavy summer grass growth.

Variety choice depends on district average rainfall with available varieties ranging from very early for drier areas to mid maturing for higher rainfall areas. All yellow serradella and biserrula varieties have good levels of hard seed which helps with long term persistence. Unlike sub clover early maturing serradella can continue flowering and growing while ever the season continues moist and mild.

The field day aims to cover issues relevant throughout the state and not specific to our local area. Commencement time is Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September 9.30am (morning tea) and finish around lunch time (provided). There is a charge (\$80 head) and numbers are limited to 35. It is essential to register for attendance via email [robert.freebairn@bigpond.com](mailto:robert.freebairn@bigpond.com) or phone 0428 752 149 – Directions will be provided. Written material covering various issues is included.

George Avendano, probably Australia's preeminent subtropical grass pasture farmer, will be a special guest speaker at the field day. Brett Littler (DPI beef cattle advisor) will also be available to discuss feeding issues. If you wish to attend please book quickly (if number are high a second day will be organised).





## Locust Alert

By Lisa Thomas, Senior Ranger, CWLHPA

Local farmers in the Balladoran, Gilgandra, Collie and lower Gulargambone areas need to be proactively monitoring crops and pastures for locust nymph activity. The warmer conditions (which are predicted to start this week) will result in early hatchings - this information is supported by the Australian Plague Locust Commissions (APLC) field data based on soil temperatures for these identified areas.

Early signs of locust impact can be identified by obvious eaten and bare patches in and around crops. Locust nymphs are very small, (three to five millimetres) when they hatch, and mostly dark straw coloured. They become active as the daytime temperatures increase and are most active around midday to 3pm on a sunny day. They have a huge appetite for fresh green shoots, which results in newly emerging crops being the primary target.

Effective treatment of juvenile locust in autumn by landholders is to be commended and definitely restricted their egg laying ability. From experience, we know there are residual populations which went untreated and these egg beds have not been identified. The potential locust nymph hatchings may have serious impacts on crops and pastures if left untreated.

Central West LHPA rangers are available for advice and property inspections where locusts are suspected to have hatched. Rangers can confirm species and treatment techniques, timing of treatment and provide equipment and chemical if this is required. In most cases, a boom spray or a boom jet is sufficient equipment to effectively treat locust nymphs.

Treatment in the early stages is the most effective strategy, as landholders only have to treat the locust 'band', they do not have to treat whole paddocks. The longer they leave treatment, the less crop they will harvest!!

Rangers are advising that landholders should start inspecting now, before the impacts become a financial loss. Keep inspecting and monitoring, report all locust nymph activity to your local LHPA office.

## Sheep Health Statements ESSENTIAL

Alan Taylor, District Vet, LHPA Molong

Recently our Molong Tablelands ranger Colin Somerset checked some lambs just south of Molong and found lice.

His neighbour had bought 300 lambs from Coonamble a few days before - 180 went through a kangaroo hole in the adjoining fence and had spread into three different mobs before being discovered.

These sheep had been purchased without a SHS, and so there is no recourse on the vendor.

The purchaser is not only now responsible for cleaning up the lice on his own property, but on his neighbour's property as well.

The lice will cause a problem on the property Colin inspected, as not only have they not had lice for 20 years, they run their mobs separately and shear them at different times during the year.

The take-away message to all our buyers is – **get a signed Sheep Health Statement with any sheep purchase** (even though it is not a mandatory document).

## Pest animal problem?

The Central West Catchment Management Authority and Central West Livestock Health and Pest Authority can help you manage problem pests in your area.

Landholders in the Lower Macquarie floodplain area between Gin Gin and Brewon (see map over) can now receive the following assistance as part of the Lower Macquarie Project:

- free 1080 pig bait (grain)
- free access to traps
- free fox baits (meat and 'Foxoff')
- free training for pest management
- guidance, planning and advice
- targeted aerial shooting.

### For more information please contact:

**Matt Lane - Central West CMA**

(02) 6881 3406 or 0458 180 981

[Matthew.lane@cma.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Matthew.lane@cma.nsw.gov.au)

**Lisa Thomas – Senior Ranger Central West LHPA**

(02) 6882 2133 or 0427 465 634

[Lisa.thomas@lhpa.org.au](mailto:Lisa.thomas@lhpa.org.au)

### About the Lower Macquarie Project

The Lower Macquarie Project focuses on land management issues in floodplain and wetland areas along the Macquarie River and adjacent areas downstream of Gin Gin Weir.

Incentives are currently available to help landholders to undertake or improve strategic/ rotational grazing to increase groundcover or to protect and rehabilitate wetland and creek areas.

Find out more at [www.cw.cma.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cw.cma.nsw.gov.au)



Lower Macquarie Project - Target Area



**Win an iPad Mini!!** - To assist us in future planning and to ensure the project can deliver the most beneficial services for property owners, we have put together a short survey (5 - 10 mins) to gather some information relating to the project. All completed surveys will be added to a draw with one successful entrant winning a new iPad Mini worth over \$360. The information gathered will be strictly confidential and will not be shared or published in any format. The prize will be drawn on the 30th of September, with the winners name being published in the following edition of Plains Talk. You can access the survey by following the link below and please feel free to forward the survey to anyone you feel may be interested in contributing their thoughts or ideas.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/32VR2WL>





## Accreditation

By Chris Callow from Chris Callow Cattle Services

### Getting Started:

Beef exported to the European Union (EU) must come from animals raised on properties accredited by the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) under the EU Cattle Accreditation Scheme (EUCAS). These properties are referred to as 'accredited farms,' or 'accredited feedlots' and the animals must be sold in 'accredited saleyards'.

EUCAS is a national animal production scheme that guarantees full traceability of all animals through the National Livestock Identification Scheme (NLIS), linking individual animal identification to a central database. Managers of accredited properties must register all movements of EUCAS cattle on the NLIS database.

EUCAS allows Australia to meet the European Union market requirements for beef through a segregated production system that allows the production of a separate stream of cattle that have never been treated with hormonal growth promotants (HGP).

### How to Become Accredited:

***Before applying for EU it is important to determine if EU accreditation will suit/ match your production & management system.***

Before AQIS can grant accreditation, the manager/ owner must:

- Remove any HGP treated cattle or cattle not permitted to be on an accredited property (see EU Cattle Accreditation Scheme: section 2.2 for cattle permitted to be on an accredited farm);
- Remove any HGPs from the property;
- Identify all cattle on the property with an NLIS device; and
- Reconcile your account on the NLIS database.
- Ensure all stock are Lifetime Traceable
- Non EU breeders that have been purchased can be run on the property, so long as they are bred by the Vendor. The progeny can be eligible for EU markets but the cows will never be eligible to be sold as EU.

The owner /farm manager can obtain an application form for accreditation from AQIS by contacting the **EUCAS Helpline: 1800 305 544 Open: 8am-4pm Monday to Friday Fax: 02 6272 5442 Email: eucas@daff.gov.au Post: EUCAS, GPO Box 858, Canberra 2601 Web: [www.daff.gov.au/biosecurity/eucas](http://www.daff.gov.au/biosecurity/eucas)**

If the application is approved, AQIS will accredit the farm. The fact that the property is EUCAS accredited will be identified on the NLIS database. AQIS grants accreditation initially for 12 months unless the manager relinquishes it in writing or AQIS revokes it. AQIS will send the owner/manager a certificate of accreditation and a letter confirming accreditation.

The owner /farm manager who signed the accreditation application is legally responsible for ensuring compliance with all conditions of the property accreditation. This responsibility only ceases when the manager notifies AQIS in writing that they have relinquished that responsibility. If the owner/ farm manager changes and the owner/new manager wants to continue EUCAS accreditation, they must re-apply immediately for accreditation using the application form from the AQIS website at <http://www.daff.gov.au/aqis/elmer-3/eucas>.

**For further details go to the Web: [www.daff.gov.au/biosecurity/eucas](http://www.daff.gov.au/biosecurity/eucas).** Look for the *EU Cattle Accreditation Scheme Information for Farms booklet* - this guide is the Bible of EU accreditation & is updated regularly.

From Our Experience:

- Adaption to EU is much simpler if you are currently only running a self-replacing breeding operation & not trading cattle. Alternatively if you want to trade cattle, you need to make a conscious decision to only trade EU cattle.
- You need to be familiar with the NLIS database & transferring of cattle to and from your PIC.
- Currently the EU market is a window of opportunity for Australia as an expanding market.
- Current price premiums vary from 5- 15 c/kg live weight (\$20- \$60/Head).

Pro's of EU Accreditation:

- There is *No Cost* to becoming accredited.
- This is a system that actually offers financial gains to your production system.
- The additional work requirements are minimal especially if you keep good records & understand the NLIS database.
- Cross breeders & pure breeders that are not breeding Angus cattle should evaluate the financial gains to their production system & consider if EU will work in your operation.

Con's of EU Accreditation:

- Restrictions on use of HGP's & trading of non EU cattle.
- Restrictions on movement of your cattle to agistment in times of drought.
- Restricted to only being able to purchase, agist or background EU accredited cattle on your property.
- Must have Good Record keeping ability & know how to utilise the NLIS database. This is essential!

*If you require any practical advice on EU accreditation please give us a call Chris Callow 0429497166*

## Lame Lambs

*Jillian Kelly, District Veterinarian Nyngan & Coonamble*

With lambing finished for most sheep producers in the Central West, we are receiving many calls about lameness in either lambs at foot or weaners.

There are many causes of lameness in lambs. Infectious arthritis caused by Chlamydia or Erysipelas are seen frequently, but lately issues such as paddocks heavily infested with catheads and even low calcium levels in young, growing stock have presented as cases of lameness. So it is always best to contact your District Veterinarian to get a diagnosis before spending money on prevention or treatment.

Determining the cause of the lameness involves taking a full history, examining the lambs and taking samples including blood and samples of the joints.

At the moment, District Veterinarians at the CWLHPA are particularly interested in Chlamydial arthritis and are busy collecting samples and working with a research team in Queensland. The aim is to determine the impact of Chlamydial arthritis on our local area and learn more about this disease.

For any lame lambs, or any other animal health issue, please contact your local DV.



### **Central West CMA Round 11 Incentives are now open**

Our incentive program offers landholders and the wider community mechanisms to improve our natural resources and encourage sustainable production.

Incentives now available include: fish River rehabilitation projects, farm planning assistance, grazing management assistance in the Lower Macquarie regions, targeted aquatic biodiversity works.

Visit our website to find out more. [Catchment Management Authority - Central West CMA Incentives](#)

### **New tool to support farmer direct marketing**

If you are a farmer that has great products to sell to the public or if you are someone that wants to buy locally grown, sustainable farm produce look no further - <http://www.findafarmer.com.au/>

Jump on the find a farmer website, register your farm or have a look at what's available

We're getting more registrations constantly, so keep having a look and encourage those people you know to register their products. Compatible with home computers, tablets & smart phones

### **Local Land Services: keep up-to-date**

In 2014 the CMAs will merge with the agricultural extension arm of the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) and Livestock, Health and Pest Authorities (LHPA) to form Local Land Services.

Find all the latest developments here: <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/locallandservices>

### **Want to join your local Landcare group but don't know who it is?**

Just give your friendly neighbourhood Regional Landcare Facilitator a call and find out!

Danielle Littlewood P: 6840 7805 M: 0418 280 616 E: [danielle.littlewood@cma.nsw.gov.au](mailto:danielle.littlewood@cma.nsw.gov.au)

...or you can check out the webpage: <http://cw.cma.nsw.gov.au/PeopleAndCommunities/linkingtolandcare.html>

### **Landcare Social Media help**

Landcare has launched a social media manual to help groups get the most out of Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

Information on how to engage followers, create content, and interact with other social media users. To download kit visit: [www.landcareonline.com.au/wp-](http://www.landcareonline.com.au/wp-)

### **Dubbo Field Naturalists Working Bee 7 September**

Starting at 9am at Wattle Grove. For more information visit <http://www.dubbofieldnats.org.au/calendar.htm>

### **Habitat Action Grants Closes 27 September**

Angling clubs, individuals, community groups, local councils and organisations interested in rehabilitating fish habitats in freshwater and saltwater areas throughout NSW can apply for grants. Habitat rehabilitation projects which may be funded include: removal or modification of barriers to fish passage, rehabilitation of riparian lands (river banks, wetlands, mangrove forests, salt marsh), re-snagging waterways with timber structure, removal of exotic vegetation from waterways, bank stabilisation works and reinstatement of natural flow regimes.

For more information visit: [www.fish.habitat@dpi.nsw.gov.au](http://www.fish.habitat@dpi.nsw.gov.au)

# PASTURE UPDATE

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 12

You're invited to this year's Central West pasture update. The day will be an opportunity to have a first hand look at how local producers are integrating perennial pastures and dual purpose forage species into their feedbase and an expo of the latest pasture research at Trangie Agricultural Research Centre.

## DISCUSSION TOPICS

- **Tropical Perennial Pastures**
  - Benefits to your production system
  - Successful establishment and management
  - Grazing management to maintain quality
  - Supplementing livestock on tropical pastures
- **Legumes for Tropical Pastures**
  - Benefit: Increasing feedbase production
  - Establishment and maintenance of legumes and other compatible forage.
- **Dual Purpose Crops**
  - Management
  - Livestock production from crops
  - Grazing management
  - Avoiding livestock health issues
- **Perennial Wheat**
  - How would it fit into farm systems?

## BUS TOUR WILL VISIT

- Dean and Amanda Adams's property **Glenhaven Park** – Grazing Canola
- Peter and Fiona Howe's property **Dunniel** – Sown Tropical Pastures
- **Trangie Agricultural Research Centre** – Latest Pasture Research

## GUEST SPEAKERS

**NSW DPI:** Lester McCormick, Suzanne Boschma, Cathy Waters, Matt Newell and Trudie Atkinson  
**Central West CMA:** Brett Littler and Neroli Brennan



**TIME** 8:15 am to 3:30 pm  
**WHERE** Trangie- Bus leaves from Caltex Service Station  
 ▪ Other towns and locations via expression of interest  
**COST** \$15 members or \$25 non-members  
 ▪ Includes Morning Tea and Lunch  
 ▪ Credit card when registering or cash/cheque on day  
**INFO** Trudie Atkinson 0427 102 431  
**RSVP** By Monday September 9 to: **Janelle**  
 02 6369 0011 or 0408 612 235 or  
 email: [secretary@grasslandnsw.com.au](mailto:secretary@grasslandnsw.com.au)



Catchment Management  
 Authority  
 Central West



Department of  
 Primary Industries



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