



A quarterly newsletter for beef producers of the Hunter Valley, Upper Manning and Central Coast areas of NSW.

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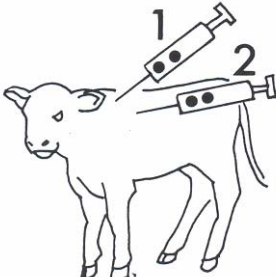
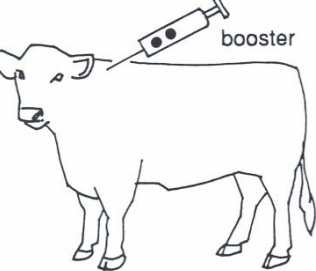
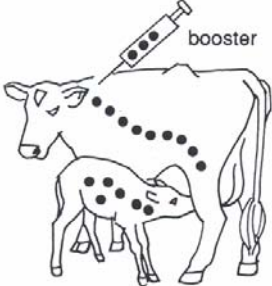
Vaccination Protects

Ian Blackwood, LO (Beef Products), Paterson

Sudden deaths are often caused by the Clostridial diseases:

- Pulpy kidney
- Tetanus
- Blackleg
- Black disease
- Malignant oedema

Protect your cattle from these diseases by regular vaccination.

<p>Two 7-in-1 or 5-in-1 vaccinations 4 to 6 weeks apart are essential for initial protection</p>	
<p>Regular 7-in-1 or 5-in-1 booster vaccinations maintain protection. eg. at weaning</p>	
<p>Calves receive early protection from the colostrum of properly vaccinated cows.</p>	

ATTENTION

- Always keep vaccines cool but do not freeze.
- Inject under the skin of the neck and not into the muscle.
- Keep equipment clean and change needles regularly (eg. after each raceful).
- Follow instructions on the label.

Use 7-in-1 or 5-in-1 vaccine as follows:

- Calves – one month before marking (10 weeks old); second vaccination at marking.
- Cows – Annual booster 7-in-1 before calving.
- Bulls and steers – Annual booster 7-in-1 for bulls/5-in-1 for steers
- Heifers – Booster 7-in-1 as yearling; booster 7-in-1 before calving.

For cattle that may not have been vaccinated, particularly purchased stock:

- Vaccinate as soon as possible (eg. off the truck); breeders 7-in-1 / steers and bulls 5-in-1.
- Second vaccination 4 to 6 weeks later
- Annual booster vaccinations

Pulpy kidney protection is short. Additional booster vaccinations are needed for cattle in high risk situations (eg. feed flush, feedlot). Use 5-in-1 at least 14 days before risky period.

Preventing the loss of one animal in 1000 each year will more than pay for a total herd vaccination program!

Cattle Transaction Levy

Ian Blackwood, LO (Beef Products), Paterson

From 1 January 2006 you will notice that the cattle transaction levy you pay (a deduction made on your sale invoice by your agent or abattoir) has increased to \$5.00/hd (up from \$3.50).

This levy amount will stay in place until 31 December 2010 and will be re-evaluated in 2010.

The levy increase provides funds to promote beef in our export markets by maintaining market share where Brazil (low cost producer) and the return of the USA/Canada threaten us.

If you feel you did not have your say in this decision then it's between you and Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA). There are 80,000 eligible voters, yet only 9,800 voters responded to the MLA undertaken vote.

Join MLA to become a member (there's no cost) and to vote in 2010. *MLA is your producer voice in the red meat industry.*

CD of Beef CRC Finding & Outcomes – Nutrition, Meat Science & Health

This CD contains a summary of the Beef CRC research work in the areas of Nutrition, Meat Science and Health. There are papers, slides and a video on carcase assessment.

The cost is \$10 (including postage). You can order the CD by contacting 6770 1800 or email helen.mclennan@dpi.nsw.gov.au

There is also a previous CD highlighting the Genetics Outcome from the Beef CRC. It is also \$10.

Q Fever

*Alan Glassop, District Veterinarian, Gloucester/Wingham
RLPB, Wingham*

Paralysis Tick and Calves

A recent registration has been noted for Y-Tex Python® Ear Tags which includes a claim for 42 days' protection against paralysis tick. The label recommends treatment of both cow and calf. These tags may prove useful for this purpose as the only other currently registered products are sprays.

*Lee Cook, Veterinarian
(Chemical Control), NSW DPI,
Orange*

All stockowners need to be aware of Q Fever. It is arguably the most common zoonotic disease in NSW (a zoonotic disease is one that is transmitted from animals to humans).

Q Fever is caused by a micro-organism called *Coxiella burnetii* which is commonly carried by cattle, sheep and goats. It is rare for animals to show any symptoms, but when transmitted to humans it can cause severe disease.

Hundreds of cases are diagnosed in humans in NSW each year, and dozens of cases occur in the Hunter, Manning & Central Coast. There has been publicity about this in the Hunter Valley in October.

Infection can occur from contact with carrier animals eg. being splashed with urine, being splashed with calving fluids, inhaling contaminated dust in stockyards, during slaughtering and butchering procedures, or drinking unpasturised milk.

People with regular close contact with animals are those most at risk.

After an incubation period of usually 1 – 2 weeks, a range of symptoms can develop, ranging from a vague almost inapparent mild lethargy, to severe muscle pains, headaches, fever and night sweats.

In some cases this can progress to severe complications such as pneumonia, hepatitis, heart valve disease or chronic fatigue syndrome.

A very effective human vaccine is available and anyone in regular contact with farm animals should consider protecting themselves.

A Q fever vaccination program was undertaken by the Mid North Coast Division of General practice in 1995, focussing on workers at cattle saleyards. Table 1 indicates the number of farmers and graziers tested (self identified) and the results of antibody screening for previous infection. In the same study, 85% of veterinarians tested (n=7) showed evidence of previous Q fever infection (Fragar 2002).

Table 1 Farmers showing previous evidence of Q fever infection, by age, Mid Nth Coast, NSW 1995

Age Group	Farmers			Graziers		
	Cases tested	Cases with previous infection	% infected	Cases tested	Cases with previous infection	% infected
10-14	1	0	0	2	0	0
15-19	6	1	17	7	0	0
20-24	9	1	17	7	2	29
25-29	7	2	29	7	1	14
30-34	16	8	50	16	3	19
35-39	21	1	5	17	2	12

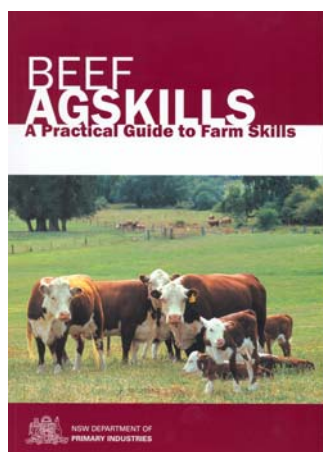
Make your Farm Work Safe

Ian Blackwood, LO (Beef Cattle), NSW DPI, Paterson

How safe is your beef farm for you, your children and any staff you may employ on any basis?

A number of reports by Farm Health & Safety (Aust. Govt. Initiative) and undertaken by the Australian Centre for Agricultural Health & Safety based at Moree highlights some major issues for beef cattle producers:

- The beef cattle industry (along with all agriculture) should treat injury prevention as a HIGH priority
- What can you do at home to reduce farm injury risks?
- Motor vehicle, machinery, accidental falls and injuries associated with cattle handling are all major injury causes. How safe is your tractor handling, workshop, A.T.V. handling and cattle handling equipment?
- Workers' Compensation claims in 2002 listed 1820 claims for the grain, sheep and beef cattle industries, with 23.3 claims per 1000 businesses.
- The beef cattle industry needs to establish safe animal handling systems together with safe systems involving plant and equipment.



Beef Agskills... A Practical Guide to Farm Skills

NSW DPI has just released this new colour 74p book which shows you how to do those practical beef cattle management skills.

The book sells for \$30 (including postage) and is available from 1800 025520, ask for the Publications Officer to discuss payment options and ordering.

Table 2 Workers' Compensation claims – cattle & horses, by body part, in the grains/sheep/beef cattle industries, Australia 1994/95 – 1999/00

Body part injured	Cows/steers/cattle/bulls	Horses/donkeys/mules
Head	50	70
Neck	11	18
Trunk	155	235
Upper limbs	300	315
Lower limbs	363	312
Multiple locations	26	37
Systemic locations	17	#
Non-physical locations	0	0
Unspecified locations	#	0
Total	927	989

Source: NOS/1 database, NOHSC website January 2004
#Less than 5 cases

Making your farm 'Kidsafe' is also important, especially if you have young visitors.

Unfortunately, the days of visitors (including family) riding horses, motorbikes, A.T.Vs and 'helping out' on the farm look to be something of the past.

Putting a Work Safe Assessment in place could help preserve these lifestyle values that have been part of life.

Talk to your insurer. *Above all, take safety seriously!*

Armidale Feeder Steer School/ 7-9 February 2006

This is a 3 day, live-in school conducted at UNE, Armidale and organised by NSW DPI/Angus Society of Australia for the Cooperative Research Centre for Beef Genetic Technologies (Beef CRC).

It is a very popular school amongst beef producers throughout Australia. There are practical and applied lecture sessions aimed at maximising your opportunities in the feeder steer supply chain.

The 'early-bird' price (open until 9 January, 2006) is \$800/person (accommodation 7 & Feb).

To book a place contact : **UNE Conference Company**
Phone 02) 6773 2154; Fax 02) 6773 3766
Email: confco@une.edu.au

Do not leave it too late to apply – a lot of people missed out in 2004!

We will have brochures at the Paterson office and you can download the brochure from www.beef.crc.org.au



NLIS PROPERTY TO PROPERTY WORKSHOPS

If you want to book in for one of our NLIS Property to Property Workshops then follow the link at www.agric.nsw.gov.au/reader/nlis/nlisevents.htm

Property to Property Workshops teach you how to transfer cattle between two different P.I.C.'s and talk to the database. There'll be workshops run beginning late February 2006.

Poultry litter good value provided it is used safely

Neil Griffiths, Agronomist, Paterson

With fertiliser prices increasing the cost advantage of poultry litter is becoming a more attractive alternative for farmers and graziers. The advantage of poultry litter always depends on its price relative to other fertilisers.

It doesn't matter if you are using poultry litter as a fertiliser on crops or pastures for the first time or if you have used it before, there are a few basic rules you should follow. There are also some rules which have been recommended for many years but are now mandatory.

Some general advice:

- GET A SOIL TEST before spreading – only use poultry litter if you need phosphorus.
- Keep poultry litter away from watercourses when storing or spreading
- Consider wind direction and neighbours before spreading (no dust on neighbours please).

Legal requirements:

- Cattle must NOT have access to or eat poultry litter. This means they must be fenced away from any stockpiles or temporary heaps.
- Cattle must NOT be allowed to graze pastures for at least three weeks after spreading poultry litter.

Breach of these rules could attract a fine of up to \$7,000 under the Stock Diseases Act; you have been warned!

Why the change?

Both these recommendations have been made for many years so there should be no change for farmers who have been following best practice.

The change in legal status has been necessary as part of Australia's actions to prevent the possible spread of exotic animal diseases such as BSE.

The concern is that BSE could be spread in meat meal which is sometimes feed to poultry. If the poultry feed spilled it would be mixed in the litter when a shed is cleaned out. If a cow was then to eat litter containing spilled feed which in turn contained meat meal it would be possible to complete the disease cycle.

Therefore, DO THE RIGHT THING!

For further information see Agnote "[Best Practice Guidelines for using Poultry Litter on Pastures](#)" available from www.dpi.nsw.gov.au or from your local NSW DPI office.

Planning Reforms

Glenda Briggs, Environmental Officer, NSW DPI, Paterson

In 2004 the state government embarked on a major reform process to streamline the State's land use planning controls and provide more clarity and certainty for everyone. This includes recent exhibition of a draft Standard Local Environmental Plan template and the launch of the first Regional Strategy in the state, covering the Lower Hunter.

Standard LEP Template

Local environmental plans set out how land can be used within various zones and related planning controls. Unfortunately in the past 25 years, the State's zoning system has developed into a confusing web that often included conflicting provisions.

The state government's objective is for every local council to have a new LEP within the next 5 years. These LEPs will result from comprehensive assessment of local land use issues and tailoring the standard template to local needs.

The standard template introduces a set of common zones, terminology and basic requirements. It also provided a chance to recognise that not all rural areas should be viewed as lands awaiting conversion to other uses. The determination of relevant minimum lot sizes or what zone occurs where will remain the responsibility of individual councils. More information on the standard template and planning reforms is available from the

www.planning.nsw.gov.au/planning_reforms.



New Native Vegetation Act takes effect from 1 Dec 2005

The act results in major changes to previous clearing legislation. Contact the Hunter Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority or www.nativevegetation.nsw.gov.au for fact sheets and information, including exempt clearing exemptions and how to gain approval if required.

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Lower Hunter Regional Strategy

The Lower Hunter Regional Strategy aims to ensure the region develops in a strong and sustainable way over the next 25 years. When finalised the strategy will guide local planning in the five local government areas of Newcastle, Lake Macquarie, Port Stephens, Maitland and Cessnock. It will also inform decisions on infrastructure requirements.

Key features of the Lower Hunter Regional Strategy for rural landholders include:

Identifying preferred locations to provide for a projected population growth of 125,000 people (medium growth scenario). This represents 25% more people in 25 yrs.

Promoting a greater choice of housing and jobs, focused on 5 major regional areas.

Identifying a Maitland - Branxton corridor as providing for future urban growth.

Allowing further rural residential development.

Proposals to protect Biodiversity and significant natural habitats.

Recognising the importance of high quality agricultural land, and natural resources such as water aquifers and extractive materials.

The exhibited strategy recognises alluvial lands and the vineyards areas, but makes no comment about the role of sustainable grazing enterprises or lands. It does however recommend that current minimum lot sizes for rural areas remains the same, or increases.

The draft strategy is on exhibition till 20 January 2006 and comments are being sought from all community groups and individuals. It's important that the government also hears from rural landowners and from graziers committed to their industry, so have your say! Information on the strategy is available from the Hunter Regional Office of the Department of Planning or www.planning.nsw.gov.au/regional/hunter.asp

Would you like more Beef Information!

There is a lot of out there so to save yourself time here is a list of websites that you may want to select some "favourites" from. To see and download the [Useful Cattle Websites](#) list click here.