

Patron: The Hon David K. Malcolm AC QC.
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Vice Chairperson: Alan Parker email: dot.parker@bigpond.com
WAHC: 29 Ashurst Drive, Lesmurdie, WA 6076



WAHC Annual General Meeting - Brookleigh Equestrian Estate, Wednesday 11th August - 7pm The Conference Room in the Barn

GUEST SPEAKERS: **Kelvin Fredericks** - Southern Stars Saddlery, discussing the Point Two Air Jacket, which inflates in the event of a fall; **Jenny Manuel** - SRG Corp. on equestrian insurance; and **Naomi Murray**, with an update on microchipping for horses.

LEVY OPTIONS- See letter on page 2

Any levy option must be equitable across the horse industry (so that the majority of the horse industry contributes and the payment of the levy does not disadvantage any group). A levy on a 'prescribed product', where many units are sold each year means that the total levy per unit will be very small. Remember the payment period can be over 10 years. How much? This is information that we need to work out for every levy option depending upon the repayment amount.

Some of the 'prescribed products' proposed by the recent horse industry meetings have included horse wormers, hard feed and a transit import levy but there are a number of

others that are also being evaluated. You get to select the preferred option. We will provide the information you might need for your selection in forthcoming updates and on the website.

WHERE TO GET INFORMATION?

The website http://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/aahc/horse-owners-and-the-eadra/horse-owners-and-the-eadra_home.cfm (or go to www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au and click on the Horse Industry and EADRA box) was set up to provide independent, factual advice on EADRA, possible levies and the submission plus answers to questions

you might have about this process. If your question is not there already, send it to Horse.EADRA@industry.nsw.gov.au and it will be answered directly back to you plus the question and answer will be put on the website.

WHO TO CONTACT? Your input is valuable! What if you don't agree? We need to know that too, especially why.

Email to: Horse.EADRA@industry.nsw.gov.au - attention Dr Diane Ryan

Fax to: (02) 46406300

Mail to: Dr Diane Ryan, Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute, PMB 4008, Narellan NSW.

HORSE MEAT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

The Council has been contacted by a number of people about their concern over the decision by Agriculture Minister Terry Redman to approve 'temporary' final approval to sell horse meat for human consumption to selected butchers.

Horse meat has been on the menu in a number of countries, including France for many years, and a French Restaurant plans to serve horse meat dishes on Bastille Day July 14th - France's National Day.

Horse meat was scheduled to be served with Truffles at the Mundaring Truffle Festival.

The Council will be contacting the Minister regarding this matter, pointing out that 'the eating of horses is not culturally acceptable or necessary in Australia' and that Australia is not short of accepted animals that provide meat. The Council will be asking the Minister to reconsider his decision, and urges everyone who is opposed to the slaughtering of horses for human consumption, to also write to the Minister.

Address: Mr Terry Redman MLA, The Minister for Agriculture & Food, Level 11, Dumas House, 2 Havelock Street, West Perth 6005.

THE ONGOING STABLE FLY ISSUE

The stable fly has become an increasing economic threat to the beef cattle and horse industries. In addition, sheep, goats, emus, kangaroos and dogs have been severely affected, to the point of having to be put down, due to stable fly attack.

The WAHC has supported, and is continuing to assist, Stable Fly Action Groups (SFAG) over the last 10 years, in their quest to ban the use of raw poultry manure in horticulture.

Stable flies can potentially transmit a number of diseases to livestock and to a lesser extent humans, as well as being the intermediate hosts of several species of nematode worms, which affect cattle and horses. At a recent forum held in Gingin, which was attended by the Premier of WA, the Hon Colin Barnett, the SFAG put the question, "Will the Premier guarantee that the September 2011 total ban on the use of raw poultry manure in horticulture, will be implemented on time, as promised by the current Minister for Agriculture on 21st April 2009"?

The Premier responded very favourably,



stating unequivocally that the 2011 total ban would take place on time, acknowledging that there are difficulties regarding which government department will be responsible for its implementation, and also for the upgrading of the Regulations. If these difficulties cannot be resolved, he stated that a new Act of Parliament will need to be written in to solve the problem.

For more information contact SFAG secretary Jo Ottaway - 96553924

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UPDATE ON THE EMERGENCY ANIMAL DISEASE AGREEMENT (EADRA) and THE LEVY

The recent Primary Industries Ministerial Council (PIMC) stated that by December 1st 2010, the horse industry needs to have a commitment to be a signatory to EADRA and a preferred levy option that would be required to pay the industry's financial requirement, of another serious disease outbreak occurs.

There has been much comment about the Agreement called EADRA and the levy options. Some of the messages presented on the Internet and in the media have caused confusion about what is required to achieve the deadline set by PIMC

Dr Diane Ryan – Regional Veterinary Officer, Industry and Investment NSW, will be assisting the National horse industry with the writing of the submission to Government, regarding the industry's commitment to EADRA and the proposed Levy. Dr Ryan will be assisted by Animal Health Australia, the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and representatives from the horse industry.

What is the EADRA?

The Agreement is simply that – a legally binding agreement between the Commonwealth, State, Territory governments and animal industries detailing what will happen if a serious disease occurs (an 'Emergency Animal Disease' or EAD) that could affect one or more animal industries, could harm people or else could seriously affect Australia's ability to trade overseas.

The EADRA covers 21 diseases that can cause serious illness or death in horses (and in some cases also other animals) or have an enormous impact on horse businesses. Some may be introduced by an infected horse, some by other animals, others by insects/things or people that can carry the disease agent.

If a disease outbreak occurs, those animal industries that are signatories to the EADRA are assured of a comprehensive and coordinated response to control or eradicate the disease as soon as the outbreak is detected, plus a say by the industry on how the response is carried out. There is no lag time determining who will pay for the expertise, people and resources needed for the response because the Commonwealth Government underwrites the industry's share of the costs of the response. The industry percentage share of the costs is known in advance (costs are shared between the Commonwealth and State Governments and the affected industry [or industries], based on a formula pre-determined in the EADRA). The actual dollar value to be paid is determined once the disease response has concluded.

The levy is zero-based, that is, no money is collected until a disease emergency actually occurs. The industry share of the costs is repaid, usually by a levy, over a period of up to 10 years.

What if the Horse Industry Doesn't Sign?

In that case, there will be no guarantee that a rapid national response to an emergency disease that affects horses would be mounted. When equine influenza (EI) was first detected in the general horse population in 2007, the Agreement was activated on the understanding that the horse industry was about to sign the EADRA. A submission had been presented just prior to the outbreak for the horse industry to be included. As a result, the national response to the outbreak was up and running within a few hours of the first positive horse result.

The Government has now stated that 'never again' would it underwrite a response unless an animal industry is a signatory to the Agreement. This means if EI happened now, the outcome may be completely different, with the end result being having to live with EI and its on-going respiratory problems and constraints on horse trade and competitions, and possibly bearing the added costs of vaccinations of questionable efficacy.

Website - Just for the Horse Industry

If you want to know more about how important this submission is to the horse industry, please visit the Horse and EADRA section on the Animal Health Australia website:
www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/

HORSES VOTE TOO!



THE INAUGURAL 2010 WA STATE TRAILS CONFERENCE

The WAHC was invited to attend the Inaugural 2010 WA State Trails Conference, held by the Department of Sport and Recreation. 115 people attended, representing 20 groups.

Trails are becoming big business in WA. The Town of Vincent is establishing a 'wetlands trail', with an estimated cost of \$1.8 million.

There are six trails in WA that have International significance. There are 700 Trails in WA, which include Indigenous Heritage 'Dreaming Trails' mountain biking, walking etc. Apart from land trails, there are also 'trails' for canoists and snorkling !

It is estimated that there are 68 gazetted tracks and trails officially for horses in WA

In America, it has been found that in states where developers have made provision for trails within the subdivision, property values increase. Some states allocate 1% of all rates for the development and maintenance of trails. Horses are welcomed to use trails, throughout America. There was a picture of someone riding a horse along a trail, that had boot coverings over its hoofs. When I asked why, the presenter said the person was conscious of the spread of disease. Never mind about tyres and people's joggers etc.

Don't forget to log on to the Council's page, forum etc on Trail Talk – to discuss, trail rides, events, equipment etc. Go to www.trailtalk.com.au



COLTS OR FILLIES ?

Interesting results done by the International Society for Behavioural Ecology, have been released about a study they did on horses in New Zealand. The society tested the Trivers-Willard hypothesis that mothers in better condition, produce relatively more sons than those in poorer condition, who were more likely to produce more females.

The Society examined birth sex ratios in relation to the mares body condition at conception in horses.

Horses meet the assumption of the Trivers-Willard hypothesis, better than many species on which it has been tested.



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HORSES VOTE TOO!

