

# MID NORTH COAST MURRAY GREY BREED PROMOTION GROUP SPRING NEWSLETTER

The Next General Meeting will be held on  
the 15<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at

*Peter & Heather Watson's*

243 Woods Road

Craven NSW 2422

*Commencing at 10.30 am*

*Please bring a plate for Morning Tea, a  
chair, picnic lunch and an item for the  
Hamper Raffle.*



## **Christmas Luncheon.**

*Greenhouse Café at NABIAC has been  
suggested. A date has yet to be picked.  
We need to book soon. Suggestions  
Please!*



## **FOR SALE**

*3 x 75% Murray Grey X Simmental heifers from  
Wallawong X Box and Murray Grey X Simmental  
Heifers.*

*7 months old born February 2017*

*Needle Drenched, 5in 1 and pesti-virus  
vaccinated. Yard Weaned.*

*\$650 each GST included. Weigh 221-243kgs*



**Phone: Robin & Kyle 0427381859**

Murray grey x red angus and murray grey x black angus heifers. \$700 each no gst. Weaned and quiet. Vaccinations and drench utd. Located 16kms from Taree South on The Bucketts Way. Call Ray on [0403 400 152](tel:0403400152).



**These Heifers are also from Wallawong X Box**

## **DRY LICK FORMULA**

*Taree Veterinary Hospital has had some cases of lantana and green cestrum poisoning, and may see more plant toxicities while it continues to be dry and feed gets shorter. As feed gets shorter, grass tetany occurs on short rye and acidosis due to a lack of fibre can occur. This can be prevented by feeding silage or hay, and using bicarb and magnesium oxide as buffers in concentrate.*

*Our cattle don't like lick blocks so we mix a dry mix in the cement mixer consisting of:*

*1 bag of agricultural lime*

*1 bag of dolomite (magnesium carbonate)*

*1 bag of salt granules*

*1 bag of copra meal (protein)*

*1 bag Mega-Min loose supplement*

*All 20kg bags*

*1kg of sulphur*

*This mix is based on the Devanah Murray Grey stud mix with a few extra additions for the current environment.*

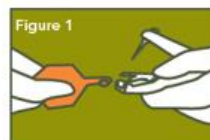


## **INSECTICIDE EAR TAGS FOR CATTLE**

*With the cost of fighting off buffalo fly, ticks and other biting insects we have decided to try Insecticide ear tags. There is nil withholding periods for Meat, Milk and Export slaughter interval. Highly effective for up to 4 months. The first lot of cows we have done have a one tag in each ear. A lot of work. We will be trying one tag only per animal.*

*To prolong the effectiveness of the chemical groups available for fly control, do not use the same chemical year in year out. Use an organophosphate OP tag for then rotate to and SP tag (Cycline Ultra) for the following year. These tags can also help in the control of pinkeye. Make sure you remove the tag at the end of the season to prevent the flies becoming immune.*

*We will let you know how we go. Some beef producers put these ear tags in their calves for tick protection. There is one who also mentions paralysis ticks.*



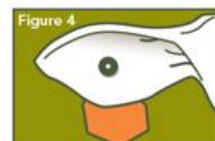
Place tag under clip by depressing lever, raised knob must be pointed down.



Slide button on pin. Tag and button are now ready for application.



Apply tag through the ear half way between the head and tip. Do not allow shaft of male button to penetrate a rib or blood vessel, as ear damage may result.



*Note that the tags go onto the back of the ear and an Allflex tag applicator can be used. If successful it will cost less than \$8 per animal. A lot cheaper than the gallons of pour-on we usually apply.*

## **BIOSECURITY PLANNING & JOHNES DISEASE REQUIREMENTS**

***Everybody should have received the information in the post about the LPA requirements. If you have not been able to get into any of the workshops, go into the local LLS office and talk to them. The workshops have been hard to get into as they are only catering for 25 people at a time. If you are satisfied with a Johnes score of 6 just adhere to the biosecurity plan.***

***The Johnes manure test is just a case of locking the required number of cattle in the cattle yards for the vet to come and collect the samples. This is cheaper and simpler than a blood test.***

***Until June 2018 a check test of 50 head older than 2 years, or all over 2 years in smaller herds is required to progress to a score of 7 in beef herds as well completing and adhering to a detailed biosecurity plan signed by your vet. This is then repeated every 3 years.***

### **MSA program update**

Dear MSA member

I am writing to inform you of an enhancement to the MSA program that will further strengthen Australia's world-leading eating quality grading system.

During the next three years, MSA-accredited producers across Australia will be asked to recommit to their MSA accreditation when they complete their Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) reaccreditation.

The MSA recommitment process is free and involves completing a short assessment – either online or via hardcopy – and agreeing to the MSA Terms and Conditions.

The recommitment will require you, as an MSA-accredited producer, to refamiliarise yourself with the principles underpinning MSA, ensuring you are up-to-date on the latest requirements so you can enhance the compliance of your herd or flock to MSA.

Recommitting to MSA will also ensure you can continue to access the premiums payable on product meeting MSA and customer specifications.

As you may be aware, the LPA program has recently undergone a series of upgrades, including asking producers to renew their LPA accreditation every three years. More information on this can be found at [www.mla.com.au/LPAchanges](http://www.mla.com.au/LPAchanges). As all MSA producers must be LPA accredited we have simplified the process so you can recommit to MSA and LPA at the same time.

#### **What do you need to do?**

You are not required to do anything yet.

When your recommitment is due, you will be notified via email and/or post at least two months before. At that point in time, you will be asked to complete the assessment either online or via the hard copy postal pack.

For further information phone 1800 111 672, email [msaenquiries@mla.com.au](mailto:msaenquiries@mla.com.au) or visit [www.mla.com.au/msa](http://www.mla.com.au/msa)

Regards,

Sarah Strachan  
Program Manager, Meat Standards Australia  
Meat & Livestock Australia

**THIS IS A COPY OF AN EMAIL SENT TO MSA PRODUCERS.**

# Drought feeding

Droughts and dry times are part of Australian farming enterprises. They result in increased costs, decreased production and income, and increased mental and physical strain on those affected.

## Making decisions

Periods of drought require producers to make important decisions that will have short-term and long-term impacts on a farming enterprise. Droughts can be very difficult, but planning and management based on sound information will help producers through the experience.

For producers facing a feed shortage, a range of options are available including selling stock or buying in feed. The earlier the decisions are made the better (and usually the economic cost is minimised). Each farm situation is different and needs to be considered on its own merits.

Producers should know what livestock they can afford to feed through to the expected break and gain an appreciation of what the value of their livestock is in the current market. This will allow for a realistic assessment of the relative merit of management strategies such as selling, agistment and feeding.

**Animal welfare** is critical when feed and water resources are under pressure and producers must always act in a way that delivers a good animal welfare outcome, even if that means destocking.

## Nutrition

Livestock require a combination of protein, energy, roughage and minerals to maintain good rumen function and body function. Surplus nutrients contribute to animal production eg weight gain.

When drought feeding, it is often not feasible to feed more than is required for maintenance and this is referred to as a 'maintenance ration'. The condition score of livestock should be monitored throughout the drought and feeding regulated to ensure the condition score reflects reasonable **animal health and welfare** and suits the production requirements of the enterprise.

If reasonable condition cannot be maintained, livestock should be sold or agisted.

## Choosing a feed

When drought feeding, the nutritional requirements of the livestock as ruminants must be considered. To maintain good rumen function and, therefore good animal health, drought feeding should satisfy the animal's need for protein, energy, roughage and minerals. Dry matter content and digestibility, should also be considered.

In choosing the right feed for a particular situation, the objective is to select the lowest cost option feed or a combination of feeds that meet the livestock's requirement for energy, protein, roughage and minerals while meeting the enterprise production requirements.

Common feed stuffs used to meet nutritional requirements include:

- Energy - grain, molasses, silage
- Protein - cotton seed, lupins, silage, hay, urea (non-protein nitrogen)
- Roughage - hay, silage
- Minerals - calcium carbonate, phosphorus

Care must be taken when feeding minerals and urea not exceed recommended intakes as this can result in illness and even death. Blocks and licks fed according to instruction are the recommended ways to feed these supplements.

Grain is often more readily available and better value in terms of meeting the animal's nutritional requirements. Hay tends to become scarce and overpriced upon the onset of drought.

Although there are some risks when feeding grain, such as acidosis, these can generally be minimised through careful management, such as through the feeding of hay or the use of a rumen buffer such as sodium bicarbonate.

## Parasite management

Livestock are often contained to small areas of a property at high densities during drought. They also tend to graze lower to the ground than might otherwise be the case.

These factors predispose livestock to **internal parasites** which will compete with the animal for nutrients. During a drought, it is critical that parasites, particularly internal parasites, be controlled to ensure that as much of the feed being provided as possible is going toward maintaining the animal and not being utilised by parasites.

Faecal worm egg counts and strategic drenching as required is recommended to control internal parasites.

## Water during a drought

One of the main limitations of feeding animals through a drought is the availability of good quality water. If water is a limiting factor, calculating the total water available and the total water required by livestock over the drought period will determine how many livestock can be carried.

## Feed management at the end of a drought

Some of the worst stock losses can occur immediately after the drought has broken due to sudden changes in nutrition or livestock depleting already low energy reserves chasing green pick. It is important that the feeding of livestock be carefully planned and supervised over the weeks following a break in the drought.



***THIS IS JUST SOME OF THE VALUABLE INFORMATION FOUND ON THE MLA WEBSITE.***



***The cows are looking ok and surviving on Silage and lick. The calves are healthy and probably could be a little larger. The one thing we do have an abundance of is cow manure and even though it is extremely dry there is the odd dung beetle.***

***We have the ants, the black cockatoos passing over and the odd frog croaking, hopefully we all get a good shower of rain soon.***