



The **LINCOLN RED** Newsletter

[AUST] December 2008

Dear Member,

Hope you all have a great Christmas and a prosperous start to 2009.

Please email any articles and news to kateturner@westnet.com.au or fax on **08 97691069**



News from the West Tone Park

The south west of Western Australia has had the wettest spring and early summer for many years and although this has some benefits, it also has its down side.

We don't expect heavy rains at this time of year and it has caused a lot of damage to cereal crops with down-grading of grain. Also some areas were hit with hail, barley has been down graded to feed quality and with an oversupply the price has dropped to \$150 per tonne.

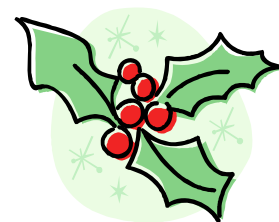
Flystrike in sheep has also been a big problem throughout the southern part of the state with the wet humid weather. Hay-making was a real challenge but on a brighter note farm

dams are all full and most towns reservoirs.

With the spring rains, livestock are looking in excellent condition and prices for both lambs and beef are improving slowly. We sold Lincoln Red baby beef rising 10 months for \$1.80 per kilo, live weighing an average of 340kg. Another line which went to the meatworks dressed 212kg at 325 cents per kg. These Lincoln Red cattle graded excellent MSA standard.

We hope all the Lincoln Red Breeders in the East have a happy Christmas and a good season in 2009.

From the Turner Family.



Avoid Costly NLIS Breaches

Albury Local Court recently convicted a cattle farmer for incorrectly tagging cattle from one farm with the NLIS tags assigned to another farm. The farmer was ordered to pay \$1,800 under the Stock Disease Act and ordered to pay \$15,500 in court costs.

To avoid being exposed to this kind of legal action, *all movements need to be traced.*

Livestock producers have the following responsibilities:

- a) Identifying cattle with an NLIS approved device
- b) Reporting all private cattle movements

The following cattle movements must be recorded in the NLIS database within 7 days:

- a) Moving cattle between properties, if they have different PICs
- b) Buying Cattle privately

- c) Moving cattle to and from leased properties and agistment

All cattle movements should be recorded at www.nlis.mla.com.au



The sharing of marriage...

The old man placed order for one hamburger, French fries and a drink.

He unwrapped the plain hamburger and carefully cut it in half, placing one half in

front of his wife.

He then carefully counted out the French fries, dividing them into two piles and neatly placed one pile in front of his wife.

He took a sip of the drink, his wife took a sip and then set the cup down between them. As he began to eat his few bites of hamburger, the people around them were looking over and whispering.

Obviously they were thinking, "That poor old couple - all they can afford is one meal for the two of them."

As the man began to eat his fries a young man came to the table and politely offered to buy another meal for the old couple. The old man said, they were just fine - they were used to sharing everything.

People closer to the table noticed the little old lady hadn't eaten a bite. She sat there watching her husband eat and occasionally taking turns sipping the drink.

Again, the young man came over and begged them to let him buy another meal for them. This time the old woman said "No, thank you, we are used to sharing everything."

Finally, as the old man finished and was wiping his face neatly with the napkin, the young man again came over to the little old lady who had yet to eat a single bite of food and asked "What is it you are waiting for?"

She answered
"THE TEETH."



NSW beef bill to impact across Australia

MATTHEW CAWOOD
12/12/2008

A BILL introduced into NSW parliament last week is set to have repercussions for the WA beef industry if it is passed.

After decades of circular debate, the push for "truth in labelling" of beef products has been given a chance to acquire some teeth and should NSW parliamentarians pass the Bill anyone in the beef supply chain who fails to accurately label meat will be subject to fines of up to \$2.7 million.

Those pushing for more substance in the "truth in labelling" issue hope that if the Bill is passed in NSW, other states may follow suit, achieving on a state-by-state basis what the industry has failed to do at a national level.

Despite past recommendations that the beef industry introduce mandatory "truth in labelling" rules, the industry currently works on a purely voluntary retail code, introduced in 2002, that among other things requires clear labelling of beef from cattle with more than eight incisor teeth - that is, older than three and a half years.

According to the code's critics, like J.R. McDonald, of the family-owned Inverell abattoir Bindaree Beef, the lack of any penalty for violating the code has encouraged the sale of sub-standard beef to consumers, at a severe cost to the industry.

The Food Amendment (Meat Grading) Bill introduced on Friday by Independent Member for Northern Tablelands, Richard Torbay, is similar to the United States system, which loads a voluntary retail code with hefty fines.

Under the current Australian system, processors, wholesalers, retailers and restaurants who sign up to the voluntary code are obliged to sell meat using descriptions based on the AUS-Meat trading language.

In particular, the code asks that meat from animals with more than eight teeth be labelled Budget Ox, Budget Cow or Manufacturing.

Presenting the legislation to NSW Parliament, Mr Torbay noted that under present marketing arrangements, these labels can be bypassed, meaning that "poorer quality beef can be sold at retail level with either no title or titles such as This Week's Special or Export Quality Beef".

Even if a retailer is signed up to the code, there are no penalties for failure to label according to the code's requirements.

Under the new Bill, the code would be audited, and violations subject to fines of up to \$55,000 for individuals and \$2.7 million for corporations.



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