



CATTLE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

MEDIA ALERT

MR 14/07

20 June 2007

Feed and fibre workshops underway across Australia – there is one near you!

Feed. FIBRE. Future workshops will be held throughout Australia's dairy and beef producing regions this month to help farmers prepare for critical fodder and water shortages.

Peak industry bodies for Australia's beef and dairy industry have announced the dates and venues of workshops in each state. The workshops, which are free for farmers to attend, will provide advice on managing technical nutrition and animal health issues as well providing the tools that will help in making on-farm management decisions.

The workshops are funded by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and were announced as part of a national program following consultation with the Cattle Council of Australia and Australian Dairy Farmers last month.

President of the Cattle Council of Australia, Bill Bray, has urged farmers to attend.

"The Cattle Council of Australia has discussed this critical situation with farmers and we recognize the urgency of the situation. These information sessions are a critically important way for farmers to discuss their situation and options."

"The immediate effects of this year's water and fibre shortages are diabolical for many farmers and could lead to longer term issues if the national breeding herd is not sustained."

The workshops will cover:

- Assessing the current position and short term fodder and water scenarios
- Options and strategies to close the fibre and water gap including a risk management approach
- Feeding strategies – managing alternative feed and fibre sources, and constructing feed rations
- Livestock management strategies – managing herd numbers and maintaining livestock health and welfare
- Financial implications and business management strategies
- Demand and supply situation and outlook for fodder.

Dates and venues for the 35 workshops will be advertised and are published on the websites of Cattle Council of Australia (www.cattlecouncil.com.au), Meat and Livestock Australia (www.mla.com.au), Dairy Australia (www.dairyaustralia.com.au) Australian Dairy Farmers (www.australiandairyfarmers.com.au) and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (www.daff.gov.au).

Ends - Dates and venues for the 35 workshops are attached for media publication.

For further information contact David Inall, Executive Director, Cattle Council of Australia on 0418 165 340 or 02 6273 3688.

REPRESENTING AUSTRALIAN CATTLE PRODUCERS SINCE 1979

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