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Stock inspectors prepared

STOCK inspectors across the north of the State have refreshed their roles and responsibilities in the event of an emergency animal disease such as foot-and-mouth at workshops held in September.

NSW Department of Primary Industries regional veterinary officer Paul Freeman said the one-day workshops at Wollongbar and Tamworth covered identifying and reporting disease, implementing quarantines, and entering infected premises.

The inspectors were put through real life situations where they were required to use their powers under the NSW legislation.

The workshops are an important part of NSW preparedness in case of an emergency animal disease affecting the State's livestock industries.

Similar workshops have also been staged at other locations around the State.



Stock inspectors undertake a training exercise at Wollongbar, entering a mock infected farm and implementing quarantine measures.

Get blogging - farm writing workshops a highlight at the National Field Days

HAVE you ever wanted to learn more about blogging or even to just get some helpful tips about writing your own farming story?

You can call into the Writing Workshop at the DPI stand at this year's Australian National Field Days (ANFD) for the chance to add your farm story to the One Farm Day Blog.

This new initiative involves Central West Libraries and DPI working together to highlight books, reading, literacy and

the National Year of Reading as well as the Australian Year of the Farmer with a Writer-in-Residence program.

Sophie Hansen (pictured) from Orange has been appointed local Writer-in-Residence.

She will visit 10 rural sites throughout the Central West and bring to the community insightful stories of men and women involved in agriculture.

The stories are to be showcased on the blog website *One Farm Day: Stories from behind the farm gate* with the community invited to share their stories.



Other highlights at this year's DPI display include the Rural Support Worker Men's Pit Stop Health Check, a presentation

of Agriculture and Natural Resource Management by the Central West and Lachlan Catchment Management Authorities with DPI agronomists, recreational fishing advice, Soil Conservation Service and Rural Assistance Authority information, sheep and wool talks and diagnostic testing services.

■ Visit www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/events and <http://onefarmday.blogspot.com.au>



Department of
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Henty Field Days' optimism

Minister's message

Katrina Hodgkinson
Minister for
Primary Industries



A VISIT to the NSW DPI display and crop variety trial sites was one of the highlights of my visit to Henty Machinery Field Days in southern NSW.

In addition to officially opening this year's event, I also released the *Weeds of the Riverina Identification and Control Guide* and launched the *Lowbidgee Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Mapping Project DVD* for Murrumbidgee CMA.

It was great to catch up with local producers and exhibitors and share their sense of optimism for this year's cropping season.

Henty always stages a fantastic event and this year was no exception, with more than 800 exhibitors taking part and attracting thousands of visitors.

Thanks to all DPI staff involved in co-ordinating our presence this year.

I look forward to seeing staff, farmers and local businesses at the opening day of the Australian National Field Days event near Orange on October 16.

Aquifer Interference Policy Released

THE State government recently released details of the Aquifer Interference and Strategic Regional Land Use Policies.

For the first time in the State's history, the NSW Government is protecting prime agricultural land and water resources while providing greater certainty for landholders and the resources industry.

The Strategic Regional land Use Policy comprises 27 new measures, including the Aquifer Interference Policy, provides greater protections for farmers and better balances

competing land uses.

These important policies were developed following lengthy consultation with farmers, land managers, communities, peak bodies and industry.

DPI played an important role in helping to shape these policies and balancing the land and water use requirements of our towns, farmers, industry and the environment.

NSW now has an Aquifer Interference Policy that objectively defines the process through which the DPI's NSW Office of Water will assess projects to determine any potential impact on the aquifer.

This policy is a key plank of the Strategic Regional Land Use Policy, delivery of which will involve the independent Office of Agricultural Sustainability and Food Security.

I thank all those stakeholder organisations, as well as DPI staff, for their contribution to the development of these new policies.

I encourage anyone interested to see the range of information available at www.nsw.gov.au/strategicregionallanduse or contact the Strategic Regional Land Use Policy Hotline, 1300 305 695.

NSW Wild Dog Strategy Launched

I WAS pleased to recently launch the NSW Wild Dog Management Strategy 2012-2015.

Wild dogs can devastate our livestock industries and are penetrating further and further into our valuable grazing regions.

The NSW government is determined to turn this around and, for the first time in NSW, has put in place a comprehensive strategy to better co-ordinate wild dog control measures.

The strategy details the roles and responsibilities of Government agencies, industry and the community and lists planning, surveillance, reporting and control actions to more effectively manage wild dogs.

I look forward to seeing more co-ordinated efforts to control wild dogs from these agencies.

The strategy is available at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/pubs/wdms