

Careers Section on NHIA website

As a free service to members, we intend to build a careers/positions vacant section onto the NHIA website. Members will be able to advertise their positions vacant, free of charge on this website, so if you have a position that you need to fill, please can you email the details to Sara Merckel (sara@nhia.org.au).



~ NHIA makes contribution to bushfire appeal ~

The scale of the destruction caused by the recent bushfires in Victoria has been amazing. Many farmers who are customers of our members have been affected, especially by loss of sheds and fodder.

On behalf of all members, the Board of NHIA, has announced that NHIA will be making a donation of \$5,000 towards the VFF Bushfire Disaster Relief Fund, which has been established to give farmers affected by the fires urgent financial support.

Many of our members have also announced donations in the form of cash generated from sales this month and also in kind, with staff members being given time off to help with practical jobs such as fencing. It is a fantastic feeling to watch the community coming together in this time of need. The NHIA Board and staff acknowledge and thank all members that have contributed in this way.



• Herd Improvement - It works for you •

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Newsletter



Issue — February 2009



Herd 09 Conference set for 1st & 2nd April 2009



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It has been a while since the herd improvement sector has had a major conference and we are pleased to announce the Herd 09 Conference will take place on 1st and 2nd April 2009 in Bendigo, Victoria.

The final program and registration brochure can be accessed on line at the home page of www.nhia.org.au. There are special rates for NHIA members and their employees to attend the conference.

We have a fantastic line-up of speakers over the two days and there are so many topics that will be of interest to both herd improvement service providers and farmers. This is really going to be a sensational event.

Genomics is the industry's "buzz" topic and the event provides your best opportunity to come and hear all the current information. We also have some really thought-provoking presentations that will make everyone look at herd testing in a new light.

This is a fantastic opportunity for all NHIA members to invest in their staff development by sending them to this conference. It would also be an important event for all farmer directors to attend to see and hear new things.

The aim of the event is to stimulate discussion in our industry about how we can do things better, how we can provide more meaningful services to our customers and how we can raise the bar in herd improvement. Sure, things are going to be tough in the dairy industry in the coming few months, but the world and the industry are changing fast and the future belongs to those who can seek out relevant information and plan ahead. (continued over page).

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- **Herd 09 Conference — continued**

After attending this event, I guarantee that your staff will be motivated, informed and keen to get out there and do the business this coming autumn. Places at the conference are limited, as is accommodation at the conference venue in Bendigo – so be sure to book early and send the registration form off soon.

In order to assist and encourage non-Victorian NHIA members to attend the conference, the Board of NHIA has agreed to provide travel subsidies. These subsidies will take the form of an amount of up to \$200 if return travel is by air and exceeds this amount and \$100 if return travel is by road and exceeds 1,000km. Any member whose headquarters are interstate and would like to apply for this subsidy should contact Carol Millar.

Herd Test Survey

As an industry peak body, one of NHIA's responsibilities is to collect and compile data for the benefit of our industry.

It is proposed that NHIA carries out a Herd Test Survey amongst herd test centres to collect much needed data and statistics on the current state of the sector.

The first step in this process has been to finalize the format of a Confidentiality Agreement which is an essential prelude to getting the Herd Test survey underway.

In essence, the survey is a stock-take that examines the sector's performance and highlights emerging challenges. The 2007/08 Australian Dairy Herd Improvement report released just last week shows an alarming drop in cow numbers in herd testing compared to the overall dairy cow population. The future competitiveness, profitability and sustainability of herd testing will be determined by the effectiveness with which it responds to these challenges. A factual understanding of the industry's current position is essential for any decisions going forward.

The survey is expected to be completed within the next three months and NHIA have retained the services of an independent analyst, Ken Phillips, as a consultant to write up the final report.

Investment Allowance

Members might like to seek advice from their advisors as to how best to take advantage of the Federal Government's recently announced investment tax break for Australian businesses as part of the financial stimulus package.

The package provides for small businesses (less than \$2million annual turnover) to claim an additional 30 per cent tax deduction for eligible assets costing \$1,000 or more that they acquire between 13th December 2008 to 30th June 2009, and install by 30 June 2010.

The package will also apply to large businesses (those with turnover greater than \$2million) which purchase eligible assets over \$10,000 in value.

The assets available are new, tangible depreciating assets and new expenditure on existing assets used in carrying on a business for which a deduction is available under the core provisions of Division 40 (Capital Allowances). Land and trading stock are excluded from the definition of depreciating assets and are excluded from this scheme.

So, if this investment tax break applies to your business and you have the capital available, the next few months might be a good time to think about upgrading some of your equipment such as computers, AI tanks, etc. Speak to your accountant or financial advisor for more advice.

www.nhia.org.au

Welcome to new members

We are pleased to welcome the following new members who have joined NHIA in recent weeks:

- ABS Australia
- Collins Breeding Services
- Holland Way Pty Ltd

AI Courses and Professional AI Technician Accreditation

Please note that the dates for the Autumn round of AI training are available from our website by accessing www.nhia.org.au and following the [Artificial Insemination Courses](#) link.

During the duration of these courses, we intend to run an Accreditation Day for Professional AI Techs subject to interest from members.

If you have any staff who you would like to nominate for the Accreditation process, please would you forward the names directly to Carol Millar by email on carol@nhia.org.au

Once we know how many names we have for Accreditation, we will confirm prospective dates with members. If demand is sufficient, it may be necessary to hold more than one Accreditation Day.



BOC price Review leads to Energy Surcharge

BOC have advised us that the cost of purchasing electricity has increased significantly over the last 12-18 months for energy-intensive industries. Electricity is the largest cost element in the production of liquid nitrogen.

Accordingly, BOC have advised us that, as from 1st February 2009, they will be instituting a \$1.52 (excl. GST) surcharge per 100m³ of liquid nitrogen supplied to NHIA members.

It is our intention to pass this surcharge on to members at cost, and to record it as a separate item on all liquid nitrogen accounts so that members can see the effect of the surcharge.

We are regret having to have to pass on this news at a time when things are becoming progressively tighter in the industry.

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