

ANIMAL HEALTH

A FIVE-PAGE ADVERTISING FEATURE

'Be ready', farms told

ALL livestock producers have been urged to heed the warnings of the equine influenza outbreak and to secure their farms against diseases that can be introduced to their livestock by people.

Jed Matz, policy director with the Cattle Council of Australia, said proven cases of disease being carried between properties on people's boots, clothing and vehicles should remind farmers of the risks.

"We are calling on all livestock producers to have a look at their own farm biosecurity practices and secure their properties," Mr Matz said.

"People can transfer some animal diseases and pests without actually contracting an ill-

The equine flu outbreak has lessons for all farmers, says one industry leader

ness themselves and they, or their vehicles or equipment, can easily infect another property."

Mr Matz said that getting good practices in place on-farm, in advance of an outbreak, was the key to securing farms against disease.

"That means knowing what the risks are and understanding that disease can be carried in different ways," he said. "Then practices need to be put in place that address those risks.

"These will depend on the enterprise, but could include disinfection of shoes or equipment, showering, changing clothes or overalls and parking vehicles away from where the animals are kept.

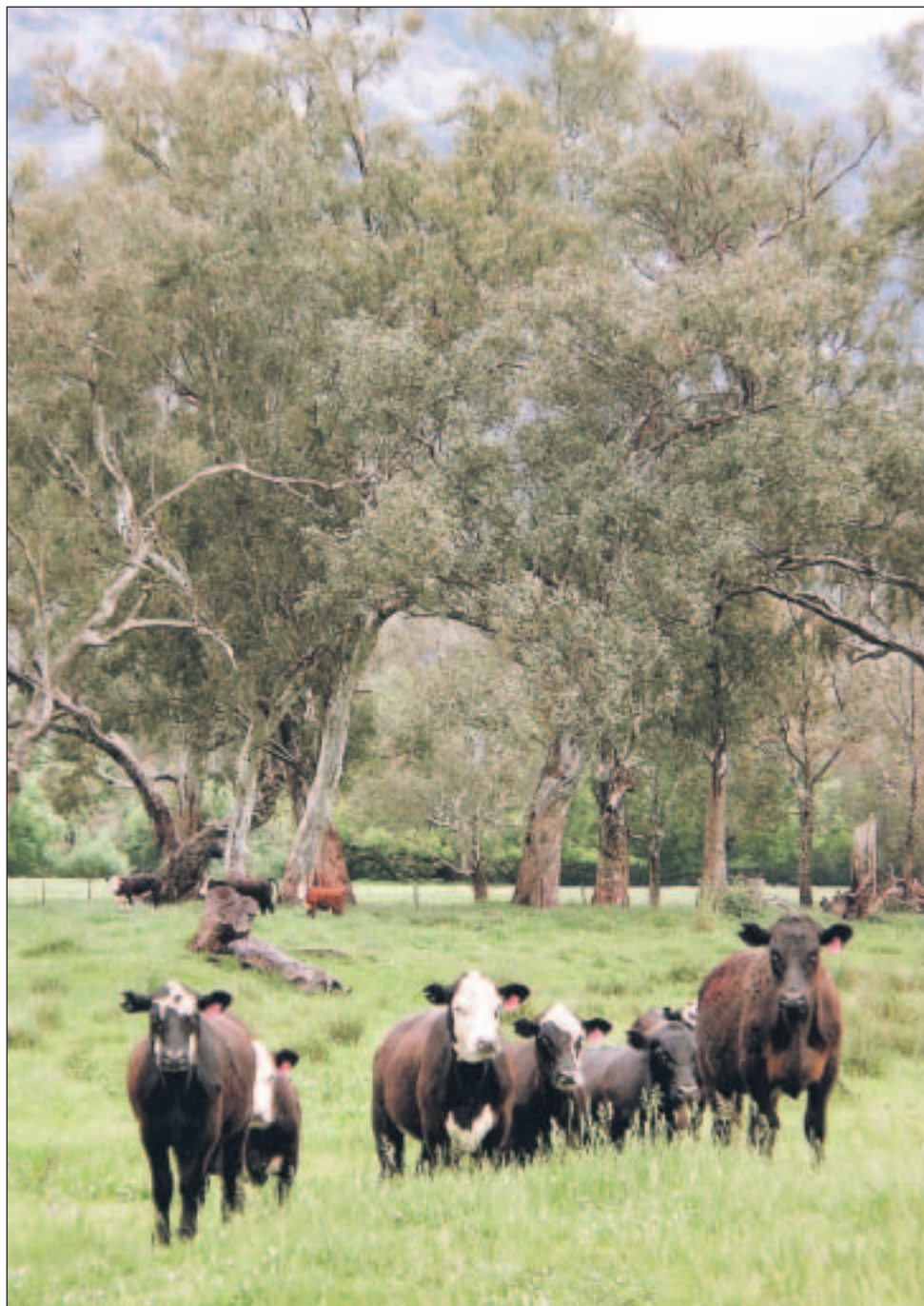
"The third part of the strategy is to log people coming on to your farm, so if there is an outbreak, it can be tracked and controlled quickly.

"Prevention is always going to be better than cure — no one wants to see animal disease affect another livestock industry the way it has affected horses."

Producers can find more information on farm biosecurity practices by visiting www.farmbiosecurity.com.au

If you spot unusual disease symptoms, abnormal behaviour or unexpected deaths in your stock, call your vet or the emergency animal disease watch hotline on 1800 675 888.

For more details, phone Jed Matz, at the Cattle Council of Australia, on (02) 6273 3688 or Thea McNaught-Reynolds, at Animal Health Australia, on (02) 6232 5522.



Hidden threat: infection can be carried on to farms in unexpected ways.



Poor spring rainfall, extreme feed costs, low cash reserves and an Australian dollar that has hit a 23 year high have lowered producer returns. Australian Wool Innovation Limited (AWI) and Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) are helping producers to prepare, plan and take action with an initiative called **Stock Wise**.

ABOUT STOCK WISE

Stock Wise pulls together the resources and expertise of respected industry experts, online tools and information along with interactive workshops to help producers make smart decisions about their business.

EWE FEED BUDGETING TIPS

From lifetime^{wool} project (visit www.lifetimewool.com.au)

- 1 What do they need?** Energy requirements will vary throughout their pregnancy and lactation period and depending on whether they are bearing a single or twins. This can vary between 7.4 and 30 MJ per day.
- 2 What energy can be derived from your pasture:** The total feed on offer and its digestibility affect what the potential energy intake is likely to be. On dry mixed pastures this can be between zero and 12 MJ per day.
- 3 Will your ewes lose, maintain or increase weight?** Managing the body condition scores of your ewes is critical as this greatly affects their lambing rate. Over a 30-day period a 5 MJ per day deficiency or surplus can mean a weight loss or gain up to 140 grams per day.
- 4 What is the ME (Metabolisable Energy) value of the feed to be supplemented?** Feed supplements need to be assessed for their full nutritional value, including energy and protein. Common feeds such as oats, barley and lupins vary in energy between 10 and 13 MJ per kg. Where possible have feed tested.
- 5 How much to feed?** Feed budgets need to reflect your flock strategies and financial realities. The lifetime^{wool} Feed Budget Tables and Worksheet are a good first step to gauge how much feed your flock will require. For a FREE copy call 1800 070 099.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TOOLS TO HELP YOU MAKE SMART DECISIONS VISIT
www.wool.com.au/drought
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