

Chook Chat

A joint publication of The
Free Range Poultry
Association of Qld Inc.
and the Qld Egg Farmers
Association Inc.

July 2007
Volume 6, Issue 4



Special Interest Articles

Update on environmental
management systems
training

News from other Countries

FarmBis Update

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Report from the Chair

Well I'm back after our long and interesting trip overseas. We saw lots of farming methods that would not be tolerated here in Australia but in spite of all the bureaucracy in 'good old Oz' Roy and I would not farm any where else.

I've been very busy since my return starting with meetings with SafeFood in an attempt to rationalise the Safe Food Workbook (originally written by QEFA) which, during my absence, had grown to unworkable proportions. We seem to be back on the right track now.

I attended the 8th AECL Industry Forum over a three day period in June which included an extraordinary meeting;

the object being to update the Constitution aligning it with the Safe Food Act. The egg marketing scheme '*be inspired*' was continued in Brisbane by hosting an egg food media event which was very tasty. Hopefully the media coverage will support the expense.

The Qld Poultry Science Symposium was held at Gatton on the 19th of July. A fair emphasis was placed on keeping poultry producers updated about Avian Influenza and knowledge about how to recognise it. Sessions for each industry included the usual topics on nutrition, disease and animal husbandry. Issues associated with bird welfare, the environment and Organics were also discussed.

Members of the QEFA executive committee met with officers from the DPI&F Biosecurity Department to discuss the Newcastle

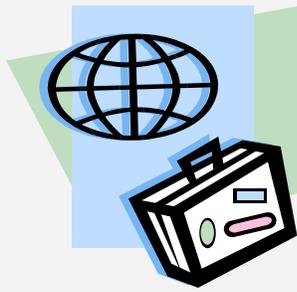
disease Vaccine program

Later the same day, the same members met with officers from the DPI&F Poultry RD & E Office to receive an update on the future direction of the investment.

It was good to read that companies are now being taken to task financially by the ACCC for dubious labelling of their product. Although the case involved the Organic egg industry the spin off against other producers who flaunt the law and rip off the public must be - to stop or get caught. Not before time.

J. Inwood





News from the UK and other Countries

Q. What did the Chick say when his mum laid an orange?

A. Look what marmalade

Chickens

The only animals you eat before they are born and after they are dead

American farmers involved in the poultry industry have had a number of poultry units placed under quarantine in response to rice protein concentrate and wheat gluten from China that have been found to contain melamine and melamine-related compounds.

Pale Eggs

Professor Soloman from the **University of Glasgow Veterinary school** has revealed that, after detailed examination of affected eggs, **pale eggs** are laid 6 hours prematurely - before the cuticle could be formed. She puts this down to heat stress which would explain why it is not so prevalent in winter.

Go to work on an Egg

And what about a cheap advertising campaign? In the UK, the egg industry was shocked when their old Tony Hancock iconic ads '*Go to work on an egg*' were banned from being re played on British television as a celebration of 50 years of the British Lion Mark. Their (British TV) reasoning being '*because the concept of eating eggs every day goes against the principle of eating a varied diet.*' The ad was placed on the internet and has received more than a million hits. You can view these ads for yourself on

www.gotoworkonanegg.co.uk

Dutch Free Range Chooks locked up

The Dutch Government has ordered commercial poultry farmers to keep their free range flocks indoor due to new cases of H5N1 being found near the Netherlands border

Avian Influenza (H5N1) and Sniffer Dogs

With the arrival of summer in Europe, bird flu takes centre stage again. The Dutch have trained two sniffer dogs to sniff out all kinds of poultry, alive or dead, as well as feathers and eggs. The dogs have started work at Schiphol Airport in the Netherlands checking all flights from high-risk countries including China, Thailand, Egypt, Russia and Turkey and have already confiscated 1,626 kg of prepared poultry meat, 203 kg of raw poultry meat and 245 eggs

And on the home front

Training Courses at Qld Commerce.

Qld Commerce has put together a number of half day courses that are designed to improve Organisation performance to take place from August 15 through September 19

Call today and speak to Kristy, Helen or Val for further information or Bookings on 4639 3277

Attention Growers Water Registration

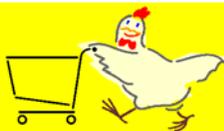
Are you aware that water allocated for use by intensive industries must be registered?

Poultry farming is considered an intensive industry and your water licence should be registered as such to avoid any repercussions later.

Cage Issue

After many hours debating the issues at countless meetings, committee members of QEFA and Industry have reached stalemate with the Government over the 2008 deadline.

Discussion within the industry is continuing.



Snippets

- People have decorated and given eggs to each other in the springtime for hundreds of years, as a symbol of the new life which grows in the spring.

FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT

From the FarmBis Group

Farmers and graziers in Queensland are exposed to many risks that are outside their control. Climatic variability, droughts, floods, cyclones, commodity price fluctuations, pests, disease outbreaks, interest rate fluctuations and government legislative changes can affect the bottom line profitability of the business or even put the whole business at risk.

Financial risk for primary producers can be managed by spreading the risk through investing in other areas of the economy such as shares, urban property, commercial property, money market, futures, derivatives and warrants, just to name a few. Commodity price risk can be lessened by using futures or hedging or implementing price/currency management strategies.

In the longer term, the financial survival of your business can be assisted by considering options such as superannuation and succession planning.

How Can FarmBis Help?

FarmBis has approved courses that can help you improve your skills in Financial Risk Management. These approved courses attract a 65% subsidy to help you afford the cost of the new learning experience. If you are looking for an approved course in the area of Financial Risk Management go to the FarmBis website and click on the Training Courses and Training Providers search option. Search via the Topics line under topic 206 - Financial risk management.

Visit our website www.farmbis.gov.au or talk to a FarmBis Networker to find a course to suit your needs. There are two Networkers in Brisbane – Stephanie Kratzmann (32390724), Michael Gilbert (32393064) and in Townsville – Ian Durham (47222511).

Inflation

Cutting money in half without damaging the paper.

What is a Committee?

A body that keeps minutes and wastes hours.

Spicy Potato Puffs**INGREDIENTS**

3 medium potatoes peeled	125g quark or ricotta
2 tsp olive oil	1 tsp chilli powder
2 bacon rashers chopped	3 eggs separated
1 leek – sliced	chopped parsley
1 tsp curry powder	paprika
½ tsp nutmeg	

METHOD

1. Heat oven to 180°C then brush patty pans with extra oil and set aside.
2. Boil potatoes till tender. Drain, mash and 'rest' 10 minutes.
3. Heat oil in a fry pan, sauté bacon and leek. Blend in curry, nutmeg, quark and chilli powder. Mix egg yolks into the sauté. (Blend a little hot mix into the yolks, mix lightly, then pour all back into the sauté).
4. Whisk egg whites until glossy white. Gently fold potato, chopped parsley and sauté into egg white foam, to combine thoroughly.
5. Divide mixture between patty pans, sprinkle with paprika or chilli powder. Bake 180°C 30-40 minutes. Cool 5 minutes before removing from pans.

TO SERVE

Make a mint mayonnaise from ½ cup peas, ½ cup of mayonnaise, ½ cup of sour cream, mint chives and garlic. Mix or blend together and serve with the puffs on an attractive platter

SafeFood Qld

Will be holding meetings at the following venues

Brisbane – August 8th
Toowoomba – August 9th
Townsville – August 10th

Phil Pond of SafeFood Qld will be available at this meeting to answer all of your questions. Now is the time to speak up and take this opportunity to find out what SafeFood requires from food producers and to let them know what you expect from their auditors and department
For further info ph: 4696 7545

Ivy Inwood, chairperson of QEFA and FRPAQ will be facilitating the meetings. She will be attending the National Egg Safety Summit on the 22nd August, talk to her about your concerns and expectations from the Industry. She needs your input and direction to take to these conferences, remember this is YOUR industry, it needs you to drive it.

Condamine Alliance and QEFA Environmental Management Systems

Marg Will, Consultant for QEFA's Environmental Management Systems Training seen here with a few of the trees she has been delivering to producers who, through their EMS plans, realised a need for trees to be used as screens and consolidation, for land and banks etc. Marg has been working closely with members of the industry and the Condamine Alliance who provided funding through QEFA.



Marg Will – consultant for QEFA EMS Training

EMS Plans

Marg is busy putting plans together for those producers who attended the training sessions. We have until the end of this year to complete them, so if you have not received your plan yet, rest assured you are still in the loop and Marg will be contacting you in the near future.

Ground Works

Another environmental risk identified through the Environmental Management System training was land and soil damage that occurred through runoffs from roofs. Marg, through the QEFA was successful in securing a grant to have tanks placed on a number of properties that had listed the above risk in their Farm Plans. One of the properties required contour work and a settling pond to deal with the risk of environmental damage. Marg is applying for further grants through the QEFA to assist producers across Queensland to finalise their EMS plans and implement some of the risk management schemes.

Substitution proven in the courts

Finally substitution, it would seem, does not pay.

In March, Go Drew Pty Ltd was forced by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) to pay \$270,000 to the Organic Federation of Australia (OFA) and the National Association for Sustainable Agriculture (NASA) after it admitted substituting free-range eggs for organic eggs.

And for the Kids.....

Check out some of the following websites for kids pages involving the humble egg.

The American egg board at www.aeb.org then click on Kids and Family and go to decorating eggs. This site is great for that wet day with nothing to do. Lots of ideas on decorating eggs and with Christmas just around the corner....(yes I know it's only July but the months are just flying past)..there are some lovely ideas that could be hung on the Christmas tree.

Another website is the British egg corp at www.britegg.co.uk then click on kids. They have some great recipes for kids to try out. They also have a very funny Joke section.

Why join an industry Association?

QEFA represents your Industry as a whole body. It is willing to fight for your rights, as both small and large producers. It is a Qld organisation with a committee that attends industry, agricultural, DPI&F, Science and Development meetings on your behalf. Information gained is passed on to you through mail outs, internet, fax and the newsletter Chook Chat.

QEFA represents its members at all levels of government from the rural council to state and national governments. The only way to get industry heard is a combined voice, so **join** today and be heard.

The **Farmers Weekly Interactive** is an electronic newspaper that can be downloaded from the www.fwi.co.uk website. It has a section dedicated to the poultry industry which transcends geographical borders.



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At the July 2007 **QEFA executive meeting** the following items were discussed:-

- Funding to be applied for to be used in coordinating SafeFood Qld training meeting.
- ND AI Salmonella meeting with QDPI 20/07
- AECL update report
- Cage exit 2008 update
- EMS documents Funding FNO
- EMS Condamine Alliance project (tanks-trees)
- CRC & AECL funding of Training project.

QEFA & FRPAQ Membership Renewals due