



Bi-monthly e-newsletter Oct 2011 8th edition

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Grants to realise big ideas from young rural innovators

Grant applications are now open for the 2012 Science and Innovation Awards for Young People in Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. If you're 18-35, this is your chance to apply for up to \$22,000 to fund your project on an innovative or emerging scientific issue to benefit Australia's primary industries.

The Awards aim to encourage science, innovation and technology in rural industries and help to advance the careers of young scientists through national recognition of their research ideas. Project recipients can undertake groundbreaking research and innovation with the objective of keeping Australia's rural industries sustainable and profitable.

There are twelve Award categories open for applications: cotton, dairy, fisheries and aquaculture, forestry, grains, viticulture and oceanology, animal welfare, red meat processing, pork, new and emerging rural industries, meat and livestock and horticulture. Each category includes a grant of up to \$22,000 for the nominated project.

The Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry's Award provides an additional \$33,000 to one recipient of the industry Awards to extend their project.

Applications for the awards close on **Friday 18 November 2011**. For further information and application forms visit www.abares.gov.au/scienceawards, email scienceawards@abares.gov.au or contact 02 6272 2260.

Farm Ready Grants re-open

In July 2011, the Australian Government has re-opened FarmReady Program to boost training opportunities for primary producers and Indigenous land managers, and enable industry, farming groups and natural resource management groups develop strategies to adapt and respond to the impacts of climate change. In addition to the original nine Key Learning Areas the Australian Government has now included training in agritourism and food tourism. The FarmReady Reimbursement Grant Guidelines have been amended to cater for the new key learning area.

Eligible participants are able to claim up to \$1,500 per financial year to attend FarmReady-registered courses, with additional funding available for associated reasonable travel, accommodation and childcare expenses. The arrangements for indigenous land managers will not change and they will be eligible for a 100% reimbursement of the cost of approved training courses up to the maximum of \$1,500 annually.

For further information about FarmReady please visit: www.daff.gov.au/farmready.



Subsidised Interest Rate Scheme for cattle producers

To help businesses affected by the temporary suspension of cattle exports to Indonesia, the Australian Government is offering to subsidise the interest on new and extended borrowings for up to two years.

Eligible farm businesses can now access a subsidised interest rate on new and extended borrowings of up to \$300,000. The subsidy rate will be up to 8 per cent in the first year and 4 per cent in the second year. The maximum total subsidy available under the Scheme is \$36,000.

The Subsidised Interest Rate Scheme (the Scheme) will help cattle producers and other businesses directly involved with the live cattle export trade to Indonesia (such as transporters, vets, hay producers, heli-musterers and agents) manage the ongoing costs of their businesses.

To be eligible, you must demonstrate that you:

- have an ABN registered before 7 June 2011, and
- have an annual business turnover of less than \$10 million, and
- derived more than 50 per cent of business turnover from the trade in any one of the last three financial years, and
- have been directly involved in the live cattle exports to Indonesia during the 2010–11 financial year OR were to be involved in the live cattle exports to Indonesia during the 2011–12 financial year.

For more information on the subsidised interest rate, **please contact the Rural Business Development Corporation** on Freecall 1800 198 231 or Email: rbdu@agric.wa.gov.au

Grants of up to \$5,500 available for cattle producers

Grant of up to \$5,500 for professional financial advice is available to eligible cattle producers who supply the Indonesian live export trade. The grants will be issued in the form of vouchers. These vouchers can be used for professional services (such as financial advisers and accountants) to help producers make management decisions on the medium-term future of their business.

If you are a cattle producer and have successfully claimed and received the \$5,000 Business Assistance Payment you can still be eligible for the \$5,500 financial advice grant.

Vouchers can be used for activities such as financial advice and planning, business advice and planning, legal advice and advice directly related to agriculture.

Applications for financial advice grants will be accepted until 31 December 2011. The grants will be issued to cattle producers in the form of vouchers, which must be used by 31 December 2011. The vouchers must then be submitted by service providers to Centrelink by close of business on 27 January 2012.

To apply or find out more about the financial advice grant please contact Centrelink on 1800 050 585, or the Australian Government Assistance Line on 1800 808 869.

Be your community's voice on sustainable resources funding

The Australian Government is seeking applications from people interested in becoming a community assessor.

Community assessors play a crucial role in environmental and sustainable natural resource management by representing local, community perspectives on a range of funding decisions. They may be involved in assessing funding applications for things like Caring for our Country and Action on the Ground.



Caring for our Country is an Australian Government initiative that aims to build resilience in the natural environment through investing across a broad range of areas. Action on the Ground is part of the Carbon Farming Initiative under the Australian Government's Securing a Clean Energy Future plan and is designed to help farmers and land managers make the most of new



carbon farming opportunities. Further information about these initiatives can be found at www.nrm.gov.au or www.cleanenergyfuture.gov.au.

Australian Government is looking for people with the following

- broad community knowledge and experience in managing natural resources
- knowledge of local natural resource management issues and opportunities
- knowledge of sustainable farming practices (including commercial fishing and aquaculture)
- knowledge and experience in practices and technologies that can reduce the emission of greenhouse gas from the agricultural sector and/or increase carbon stored in soil.

Applications from Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians across a broad age range and from all regions of Australia are encouraged.

Community assessors are paid for their time and travel according to rates set by the Remuneration Tribunal. You can be a community assessor, even if you're already in other employment, but will need to have some flexibility when taking part in a funding assessment process.

Applications close 8am, Wednesday 26 October, 2011

For more information on this or to obtain application information, please log on www.daff.gov.au/communityassessors or contact Christine Aughey email Christine.Aughey@nrm.gov.au or communityassessors@daff.gov.au

Caring for our Country Review – the story so far

In February 2011 the government invited community members, stakeholders and governments throughout the nation to take part in a public discussion about Caring for our Country - what works well, what can be done better or completely new ideas.

Since then, the Australian Government's CFOC Review Team has heard from over 4,000 participants through online conversations, formal submissions, video segments, case studies, and face to face meetings. A part of the review process, they have also gathered information from a wide range of sources including research papers, reports and surveys, which have now been added to our library. The team has now finalised the feedback of the review and would like to share these views in the *Caring for our Country Review – The Story So Far*.

To access this documents please log on www.nrm.gov.au/review/ or alternatively drop me an email and I will send you the document in pdf file. My email: Stanley.Yokwe@nacc.com.au.

Landcare Landscape – 2011 Volunteering Survey Report

In July and August 2011 a nationwide survey was conducted by Landcare Australia Ltd in order to capture the needs and challenges faced by volunteer Landcare groups ('Landcare' including Coastcare, Bushcare, 'Friends of', Rivercare and Dunecare groups). The survey was conducted to coincide with Landcare Week, which runs from September 5th to 11th and aimed to help raise awareness of the Landcare movement and the vital role it plays in repairing and protecting Australia's biodiversity and the uptake of sustainable production practices.

The 'Landcare Landscape' survey shows a passionate and dedicated movement of people who are concerned for the future of our natural resources and the need for support to assist them to continue with their valuable environmental and community work. The surveyed results showed that Landcare groups generally have between 11 and 50 members which most commonly undertake planting and weed management activities a few days per month with the majority stating that the main reason as to why they donate their time to landcare is due to concern for local environmental issues.

The average age of landcare volunteers is over 50 yet there is also a healthy representation of members less than 18 years of age and a steady and active recruitment of new members happening. It was stated that the major perceived barrier towards volunteering is the lack of time for many people and in order for groups to maintain active volunteers the most required needs are funding and new volunteers, respectively. Most landcare volunteer work is undertaken primarily on public land and 83% of



respondents believe that the main aim of their groups' activities is to protect the local environment for future generations

If you would like to look at the whole report, log on to www.landcareonline.com.au or alternatively drop me an email and I will send you the report in pdf. My email: Stanley.Yokwe@nacc.com.au.

LOCAL EVENTS

Health Animals, health Landscape

Would you like to know what makes animals eat what they eat?
How do animals learn and adapt to their environment?
How we can use this to our advantage; and learn the value of plant diversity?

The Mingenew Irwin Group has teamed up with the Department of Agriculture and Food to run one day workshop for landholders and interested individuals across our region to learn from Dr Fred Provenza, visiting Emeritus Professor from Utah State University in USA. Dr Provenza is a leading authority on animal feeding behaviour and management with emphasis on herbivore learning and food selection; www.extension.usu.edu/behave. It is a not-to-be-missed event for livestock producers and interested individuals to tap from Professor Provenza's wealth of knowledge on linking livestock with landscape, and improving the health of both the animal and the land.

Other speakers include:

Dr Dean Revell, Principal Scientist, CSIRO Perth. Dr Revell established and led a national project Enrich, exploring the potentials of Australian shrub species for grazing systems and landscape health. His research focuses on animal nutrition and metabolism and grazing behaviours relating to landscape health and profitability; www.futurefarmonline.com.au.

Bruce Maynard, Livestock Producer, NSW; Mr Maynard is a livestock producer who runs stress free stock handling courses working with Dr Provenza concepts to reduce the time taken for stock to adapt to food types; www.stressfreestockmanship.com.au

The workshop will be held in Dongara on 16th November 2011. For more information and to RSVP your interest please contact Jane Bradley on 0428 281 007 or jane@mig.org.au.

ENVIRONMENTAL INCENTIVES AVAILABLE AT NACC

NACC Wind erosion incentives

NACC has recently reviewed and updated their incentives programs. Tree crops now have further options on top of just oil mallees that include sandalwood and brushwood. The fodder shrub (saltbush) incentive has been doubled to a maximum incentive of \$8,000 which could help plant up to 47 ha of saltbush. There are also other incentives available: perennial pastures, strategic revegetation and rabbit control.

The incentives funded through the Australian Government's Caring for our Country Program, will be offered on a first-come-first-served basis. Sites will be assessed against specific guidelines and criteria to ensure that on-ground works funded through the project deliver landscape-scale change and value for money.

Farmers and land managers undertaking on-ground works will also be offered 12 months membership to appropriate industry groups to enable them to access the latest technology and management information available. In addition to offering incentives, the project will also provide training and information dissemination opportunities to farmers and land managers involved in the project.

For more information regarding NACC's wind erosion incentives contact your local NRMO or phone Shannon Cook, Acting Sustainable Farming Coordinator on 9938 0218.



JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN THE REGION

Two positions: Research and Development Coordinator and Administration Officer (with Liebe Group)

Administration Officer

The Liebe Group is a progressive and vibrant grower driven group from the Dalwallinu, Coorow, Perenjori and Wongan Ballidu Shires. We are seeking a highly motivated and enthusiastic person to coordinate research and development in the Liebe Group area. The preferred candidate will possess agricultural experience or a degree in Agriculture or Natural Resource Management. Good interpersonal skills, the willingness to work in a team situation and the ability to communicate both verbally and through written communication is essential.

THE POSITION:

Under the guidance of a management committee the successful applicant will be required to carry out a range of activities including:

- Understanding and prioritising local grower agronomic, environmental and business management issues through farm visits, surveys and interaction with members at field days.
- Develop and deliver a research, development and extension program which addresses local on-farm issues.
- Co-ordinate and manage the Liebe Group Main Trial Site, Grower Demonstrations and Satellite sites.
- Co-ordinate the Liebe Group Spring Field Day and Crop Updates.
- Co-ordination of production and Natural Resource Management based projects developed by growers.

This role will provide the successful applicant with an extensive network within the agricultural industry and offers a variety of work with an enthusiastic group of growers and a supportive staff team.

SALARY: An attractive salary package to be negotiated.

LOCATION: The Liebe Group Office is located in Dalwallinu, 260km north of Perth.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATION: 31th October, 2011

Administration Officer

This is an excellent opportunity for the right candidate to move into an administrative role with an innovative and nationally respected farmer group.

Applicants with office administration experience are highly desirable. Good interpersonal skills, the willingness to work in a team situation and the ability to communicate both verbally and through written communication is essential.

THE POSITION:

As Administration Officer, you will be responsible for the administrative activities of the Liebe Group, guided with strategic direction from an Executive Officer and Management Committee. This diverse role will include, but is not limited to:

- Administration duties for the Executive Officer and Management Committee, and also delivering membership outputs.
- Promotion and publication activities including developing articles and coordinating the Liebe Group newsletter, website, rural media and local paper.
- Event coordination from planning, implementation through to reporting on all Liebe Group events and field days.
- Occasional field work

Desirable skills

- Project application development of identified areas of group priorities.
- Financial and bookkeeping experience.

The person will be committed to continuous improvement within the agricultural sector; the successful candidate will possess exceptional interpersonal skills, with a proven ability to communicate with a diverse range of people. You will be team oriented, with demonstrated ability to work efficiently and effectively on a broad range of tasks.



This role will provide the successful applicant with an extensive network within the agricultural industry and offers a variety of work with an enthusiastic group of farmers and a supportive staff team.

POSITION: Part time/Full Time – 3-5 days/week. To be negotiated.

SALARY: Salary package to be negotiated on experience.

LOCATION: The Liebe Group Office is located in Dalwallinu, 260km north of Perth.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATION: 25th Oct 2011.

For further information and application forms for the two positions please contact **Chris O'Callaghan** on **(08) 9661 0570** or chris@liebegrup.asn.au.

