

EDITORIAL

Where are we going? Our food production industries are being regulated out of existence while at the same time we are being fed with imported product of dubious quality. Recently I was about to use honey on my breakfast toast in a motel. Upon examining the honey sachet it was branded 'contains imported honey'. I need to know the country of origin of food before I eat it.

Australian bee keepers have been denied access to National Parks and had their industry regulated in good old Aussie fashion. They have been squeezed on price by the supermarket chains to the point where their industry is no longer viable. We are now being sold cheap imported honey at Aussie prices. This product has not only been produced without the Aussie style QA regulations, but sourced from countries still using chemicals that were banned here 20 years ago. Our primary industries are being "knocked off" by Aussie regulation and the food product is being replaced by cheap dubious quality imports.

Aren't we suckers for accepting, and continuing to accept this impost not only to the financial status of our nation, but the health status of our nation also? Come on! Let's stand up and be counted and say enough is enough! Regulation is strangling Australia.

I have a current pilot's licence and have owned a registered aircraft for 18 years. I have recently been required, along with every other pilot and owner, to go through an identification process to get renewal of both my licence and aircraft registration. I have resided at my current address for almost 50 years and now have to produce proof of residency to satisfy some bureaucratic nonsense. When you try to contact someone in CASA they have either flexed out or are at some training workshop. You would think, if they were so highly skilled, we would not be required to go through this application nonsense because we would be dealing with such knowledgeable people.

In northern Australia Cyclone Larry and then Monica changed the perspective of a failed wet season to one of excess. Someone said, how can we complain about too much rain? But the reality is that getting this much rainfall late in the season does little for pasture growth and quality. Soil nutrients get leached away and grass goes sour and loses quality. I guess the plus is having soil moisture through winter and into spring. This is one of the quirks of nature - with the rest of Queensland generally in drought.

The Brazilian beef cattle herd has topped the 160 million mark and the industry is in crisis with beef prices the lowest for many years. Watch out - the global beef market will be subjected to cheap Brazilian product, especially into countries that do not have foot and mouth objections.

In Brazil's high rainfall areas there is a swing from beef to sugar production for ethanol. In one traditional beef area alone, there are plans to build 20 new sugar mills. Brazil is about to devalue their Real again so watch out global markets.

John Rains

Silence is one of the hardest arguments to refute.

ON THE ROAD



Beef 2006 - Rockhampton

**LOW SEED STOCKS PREDICTED FOR UP AND
COMING SEASON**

- Ross Newman -

While the south of the state is in the grip of drought, up north on the Atherton Tablelands there has been an extended wet season, which has caused headaches for graziers and seed producers alike. Seed production from many of the crops is going to be low this season, and in some cases there will be no new season harvest at all.

This is going to place major strains on pasture improvement programs that graziers/farmers may be planning to implement this up and coming season. Therefore it is suggested that you talk to either your local Southedge Seeds' agent, or Southedge Seeds directly, to assess the seed availability for your chosen system and to secure your seed requirements while stocks last.

PRE END-OF-JUNE SEED PURCHASES

Well, the end of the financial year is near. For anyone wishing to make purchases before 30 June 2006, Southedge Seeds will happily store the seed in their controlled climate storage area until dispatch is required. This will ensure that seed is secured for this year's planting season, and you can be confident that it will be of the same quality as the day it was bought.

There will be an attractive discount for payments made before the end of the month on these June purchases.

CONTROLLED CLIMATE STORAGE FACILITY

- Ross Newman -

As mentioned in previous newsletters, Southedge Seeds has recently moved into its new facility on the outskirts of Mareeba. Quite clearly the centrepiece of the facility is the 400m² controlled climate storage provision, which operates at 50% relative humidity and 20°C, 365 days a year.

What does this mean for you - the customer? This means that seed can be stored for extended periods of time without deterioration and without losing

germination. The seed comes out of storage of a similar quality to the day it goes in. This will enable Southedge Seeds to procure seed in seasons of excess supply and maintain continuity of supply during periods of limited production in years such as this. It is anticipated that by doing this, it will potentially offset the exorbitant prices that occur in those lean years.

Take this into consideration when making your next pasture seed purchase.

SUCCESSFUL SECA STYLO SEEDING

Recently we had the opportunity to visit Bolwarra Station, southwest of Chillagoe, where late last December Maurie Hicks and his family undertook an aerial seeding program using Southedge Seeds' ENVIROGRO™ Seca stylo over an area of 8000ha.

The seed was aurally sown by Tableland Air Services, covering one in every five swaths of 250m, or effectively 20% of the total area. This meant a sowing rate of 5kg/ha within the swath and an effective sowing rate of 1kg/ha over the total area, making it an economical proposition.

Early signs show that there has been excellent seedling establishment under harsh conditions.

This system will not only mean that there will be good stands of Seca throughout the paddock, it is also hoped it will encourage better pasture utilization. Maurie Hicks is one of many northern graziers who have identified stylos as an economical means of improving productivity in their grazing systems, thus increasing their returns on capital investment.

Thank you to Maurie and his family for their hospitality.

Ross and John



Stylo seedlings at Bolwarra

HOW DO YOU MEASURE YOUR PRODUCTIVITY?

- Ross Newman -

As grazing property land values spiral upward, the need to increase the overall productivity of a property is more important than ever. Productivity from a grazing enterprise isn't about how many head of cattle are turned off each year - it is much simpler than that. It all comes back to how many kilograms of beef leave through the front gate each year (unfortunately we don't seem to get paid for the ones that go out through the back gate!). From this, one is able to determine production of kilograms/hectare/year, a good measure of return on investment.

However this doesn't help to compare productivity across different properties over different rainfall zones. For this reason, rainfall needs to be incorporated into the equation so that a property at Cape York can be compared with a property at Cameron's Corner or at Charters Towers. Therefore this financial year, when doing the books up for the accountant, have a think about how many kilograms/hectare/100mm/year came off your

property this year; it may aid in identifying production issues within systems.

At Southedge Seeds we would be interested to hear some of these figures - potentially to see if pasture improvement has enhanced them.

Prosperity is something businessmen create and politicians take credit for.

SOUTHEDGE SEEDS AT BEEF 2006

It was good to see so many drop in at our stand during Beef 2006 recently. It was particularly pleasing to see both old and new clients from as far away as Papua New Guinea, as well as clients from the Northern Territory and Queensland. Hopefully you found Beef 2006 as interesting as we did.

If you rest your chin on your hands when you are thinking, it keeps your mouth shut and you can't interrupt yourself.