

Newsletter

Pyrenees Hay Processors Co-operative Ltd.

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New Year

News

Welcome to our first Newsletter for 2002. It is fabulous to welcome the New Year in with great news

the plant is operational!

Even though, every new venture is fraught with difficulties and challenges that must be overcome, (and we are tested regularly), we believe that we are keeping on top of things at the moment. No serious breakdowns, just annoying occurrences.

We have appointed Steve Carey, Allan Peacock, Michael Dridan and Brett Johnson as casuals in the plant and we are very pleased with the way they are mastering all the equipment and the interest they are taking in getting the plant to run smoothly.

MARKETS

I am pleased to report that we have sent out 3 shipments so far. One shipment or consignment consists of 5 containers.

We are currently sending hay into South Korea, where they have a maximum weight content, of product of 23,500 kg (23.5 tonne) per container. All containers being sent are 40 foot containers, these are the only ones we shall be using, to ensure we get the most packing weight per shipment, as freight costs are not cheap!

We are gearing ourselves towards a 10 container turnaround per week and hope to have more of a system organised soon to ease container movement issues. If you see a 40 foot box heading between Avoca and Melbourne on a KT Preston and Sons truck, there is a chance that they are carrying PHPC hay.

CONTAMINATION

We have been disappointed with the amount of contaminants that have been coming in with the hay. Just to name a few, we have had countless rocks, string, sheep manure, chain, engine mounts and even dead sheep.

To test for a variety like the contaminants above, we would require a sonar detection unit, which is a very expensive unit. Either people clean up their paddocks, and cut the hay high enough to avoid a lot of the contaminants, or we may have to introduce some sort of levy to raise funds to install a sonar detection unit. I hope this is not the case.

The quality of baling and the contents of your product for export is very important!

BALING

Having never had such a close association with such a variety of hay, I never realised how much a bale of hay can vary. One feature that has become particularly apparent is the density of the bale. Ed.

“SOFT” BALES

Baling at inopportune times eg. The middle of the day, when the hay is too dry, causes problems all the way along the supply chain. We know who's hay is baled well and who's is not. Ensure your balers bale when they should, it is your product, be proud.

- Increased stacking and transporting time in paddock - can only load one at a time
- Increased unloading time off trucks at Mill - can only unload one bale at a time
- Problem storing bales on site, as stacks can fall over - which can be very dangerous
- Increased time carting hay from storage shed to processing shed - can only carry one bale at a time
- Increased loss of hay during compacting process - dry, shiny and bales make more mess and dust and often fall apart
- Increased labour in the plant shed, as it requires extra cleaning up.

Management Reports

PLANT MANAGER—KEN WILLS

I am pleased to report that we have gone to two shifts in the plant. The hay sheds are slowly filling and starting to empty and refilling again. Apart from the dust, we are all coping!

We have commenced running two shifts and all seems to be working well. When the plant is running well we are hoping to put out one container per shift, which should result in 10 containers out per week. (This week we have actually had some really good shifts where we have got 1 1/2 containers out per shift!! Lets hope this keeps up! - ed.)

The dust extractor should be installed in the next fortnight or so, through a very kind deal with Mark Edmondson Electrical Services. All in the plant shed are very much looking forward to this.

PLANT MANAGER—DAVID JARDINE

In regards to straw - I am pleased to inform you that we shall be taking 1 thousand tonnes of white wheat straw this year, as a trial in the market place for more next year. All wheat straw must be clean, white and bright. Storage here, on site, is on a "first in best dressed basis".

Seed grain - If you have clean seed available please contact the Co-op as we would like to help members who need seed get in touch with those who have seed to sell.

Please let Caroline or myself know.

FUTURE POSITION VACANT

At some stage in the near future we shall be looking to employ an administrative assistant in the office on a part time basis.

Desired skills include:

- Administrative and clerical experience
- Good english and grammar
- IT experience, including of- fice and most importantly MYOB premier or another accounting package.
- Confident telephone manner and good people skills
- Initiative and self motivation
- A willing ability to get in and have a go!

Cleaner Required

The office requires regular cleaning. If any member is interested in some part time work, we estimate it to need about 3 hours per week. Main duties include: dusting, sweeping, vacuuming, mopping, bathrooms and kitchen.

Please contact Caroline ASAP if you are interested. You must be able to supply all your own equipment.

AFIA SEMINAR

Apologies these fliers are late. If you are interested in attending this seminar, you will need to call Anne Fleming on 9890 6855 to confirm your attendance ASAP. Then forward your payment with the application form.

PHPC shall have a presence there and encourage your attendance if possible, as AFIA are our peak body for the export hay industry.

It is a good opportunity to mix with a variety people who are involved in the hay industry in