

# Newsletter

## Pyrenees Hay Processors Co-operative Ltd.

Volume 2, Issue 2

12 March 2002

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### 24 Hr Weighing

### Marketing

It is with great excitement that I welcome you to this newsletter with the announcement of 24 hour weighing facilities now in operation at the site.

The facility is open to everybody, however Members receive a special discount price of \$11.00 per weigh (includes Gross and Tare), where as Non-Members pay \$16.50 and all B-doubles are \$22.00. All prices include GST.

In order to set up a weighbridge account, you will be required to come into the office and purchase a dallas tag (\$11 inc. GST), which is required to operate the weighing system. All deliveries for hay and straw will also operate on this basis. So every person delivering will be required to have a Dallas Tag. A dallas tag belongs to a registration so each vehicle must have one.

Your account must be kept in credit to use the system, otherwise you will be notified with "an insufficient funds notice". When you set up your account, you are required to enter such information as: Paddock names that you will be delivering from, vehicle registration, Carrier and grower information, addresses and ABN's.

This is a very exciting addition to the Avoca area and we are very proud of it. We hope you will respect it and use it often. Please call in and see Caroline with your cheque book to set your account up.

It is very exciting to finally be able to announce to you all, who our marketing agents are ...

### International Ag Commodities

IAC are predominantly a family business, based in Courtland, California. Annually, they move 170,000 tonnes of product throughout the world. They have a family farm which crops 6-7000 acres per year, and their own hay processing facility, which processes in excess of 70,000t hay per year.

They understand the PHPC philosophy and have dealings with other farmer co-operatives in the US. Since commencing as our marketers, they have visited Australia once, and thoroughly enjoyed meeting all the Directors and seeing our setup. They were most impressed, which was nice to hear from veterans of the industry!

IAC have strong representation in Japan and Korea, which is fantastic from our point of view, as with the decline in the Japanese economy, Korea is really coming into its own, and has the potential to be the "New Japan".

IAC will be working exclusively for PHPC in the marketing of oaten hay into Japan and Korea, they also have an Australian representative in Wagga Wagga, who has had many years dealing in the export hay industry.

Our two shifts are running very well, and we are pumping out 10 boxes a week, which are being shipped straight over to Korea at the moment. So far very good feedback on our product, packaging and moisture content of the containers—This is why the moisture of bales is so VERY important!!

# Management Reports

Both Ken and David have been busy managing shifts, which I might add, are really starting to take form! We are easily (provided no breakdowns—touch wood!) getting 1 and a bit boxes out per shift, which shows how well our teams are working together.

David, in the next few weeks will be out and about, assessing all hay stored on farm. So if you haven't heard from him in the next fortnight, please call and book your hay in for an inspection.

The most exciting news to come from the last Board meeting is that payments to growers have commenced. All growers will be contacted in the next fortnight, in regard to their payments. If you have any queries, and haven't heard from someone in the next 2 weeks, please call Caroline at the office.

We are really appreciative of all suppliers understanding of our financial constraints during our start up phase of the business, so

*Thankyou*

## NEW APPOINTMENTS

### Mark Baldwin

Formally of Avoca, Mark has worked in a variety of capacities, and for many years as a motor mechanic. He decided to return to Avoca a few years ago and has worked locally for most of that time. You may even recognise him as the RACV man from Maffesconi's a few years ago!

We believe Mark has many skills that will come in handy and already he is showing a keen interest in the work.

### Zena Jones

Zena will be commencing next week as the Administrative assistant in a part time capacity. Zena is moving up from Melbourne to assist her husband in the running of their beef herd at Warrenmang. Having previously worked for Daimler Chrysler in light commercial vehicles, I believe Zena's necessary attention to detail will only complement the existing team here.

We welcome both our new employees, and hope we all have a long and fruitful association.

### Richard Connellan

Richard Connellan is a lawyer with Minter Ellison, and has been with us since the inception of PHPC as our legal adviser.

Richard has agreed to join the Directors as Secretary to the Board and Legal Counsel. We are most fortunate that Richard has taken such a genuine interest in PHPC, and I suppose it goes to show

*"you can take boy out of the country,  
but you can't take the country out of the boy!"*  
(He grew up in Balranald!).

As well as assisting with general business, Richard will be responsible for the Annual General Meeting.

Hopefully at an Open Day in the near future, you will have the opportunity to put names to the new faces of PHPC! Until then, we are very happy with our new acquisitions!

### Recycling ideas required

As you can imagine, there is an enormous amount of baling twine that is cut off the big bales prior to them being re-baled and compacted through the plant.

I would appreciate any ideas for recycling the twine, as it is an enormous waste of a resource. Currently the twine is removed as rubbish in a skip.

Please contact Caroline if you have any ideas.

## Zimbabwe

As the current elections are a topical subject, I thought I would include a few interesting facts about Zim.

Zim is bordered by South Africa, Mozambique, Zambia and Botswana. Vegetation is mainly savannah woodland and open grassland. Avg. rainfall is 450mm, occurring between Nov and March. Rainfall failure, from time to time is a serious natural hazard. Population is 12 million people, of which 7.5 million people live in the communal areas and depend mostly on the land for their livelihood. About 2 million people live and work on commercial farms, thus 76% of the population rely on agriculture for a living.

Agriculture in Zim is divided into 4 sectors: large-scale commercial farms, small-scale commercial farms, communal subsistence farmers and those on resettled farm land. Production is dominated by the commercial sectors, which produce over 70% of the annual output, while the communal and resettlement sectors are largely subsistence farming most years, characterised by low inputs, eg labour and capital and thus result in low outputs.

For the economy to grow, commercial farming must be successful, because of the role it plays in the economy. All farmers need to be commercial, the land resources are finite and the country can not afford the luxury of supporting subsistence farmers. Is redistribution of land for resettlement really the panacea of Zimbabwe's economic problems?

In Feb 2000, Zim held a referendum to ratify a new constitution, this was rejected at the polls. A week afterwards land invasions started with war veterans moving onto occupying commercial farms. The aggression and violence intensified during the run up to the parliamentary elections in June 2000. This was believed to be an intimidating election for the ruling party, as for the first time in history, there was a significant opposition party, holding more than 1/3 of the parliamentary seats.

Since the elections, occupation and intimidation of commercial farms has continued, as the government attempts to "fast track", an unplanned resettlement programme. So far about 95% of commercial farms have been listed by the Government for **compulsory** acquisition. The supreme court has deemed these illegal, yet they continue, unhindered in an environment of anarchy.

The current election results will be very interesting. To hear though, that Harare polling booths opened 5 hrs late, as a tactic to reduce ones ability to vote, makes one realise how fortunate we are to live in democratic Australia.

Source: L. Kennedy and K. Phillips. "Zimbabwe - A Young Farmers Perspective". The Journal, RACA

