



Newsletter March 2019

Welcome from our CEO – Craig Perkins

The dry conditions continue to have a dramatic impact on our farmers and we all hope that we receive some rain in March. We are in process of sourcing more hay and are planning to store as much as possible to support our customers over the coming months.

I strongly recommend you speak with our Agronomist Alex Good if you haven't already to evaluate your options for management of weeds and pasture planning.

As you are aware, a major focus of the Coop has been the improvement of our Customer Service experience and we have taken major steps in this area through the appointment of new experienced staff with more to follow in coming weeks, together with embarking on a major product training program.

Throughout the month of March we will have numerous Suppliers on site not only training our existing & new staff members, but providing additional time to meet with our customers for any specific questions you may have.

The program of Supplier visits will be communicated via Face Book, Instagram and our website with a hard copy available on our counters in the near future once dates are confirmed.

AGRONOMY

The Highlands have certainly dried off over the past few weeks and really slowed the vigorous crop and pasture growth we saw through Spring and early summer. However, this shouldn't be a major deterrent from getting paddocks prepared and ready for the Autumn break.

Weed control and removal of old damaged pasture will be key to a successful Winter and capitalising on the rain we do receive, albeit possibly a lower than average amount. Weeds and old, unproductive pasture are actually competition for newly establishing seedlings from both sown seed and natural re-generation.



By removing low quality pasture and weeds you ensure all moisture, nutrient and sunlight are dedicated to your desired plants that will provide your livestock with the incredibly valuable feed you will need over Winter!

Complete removal of pasture may not be possible or may not be desired. In these situations there are chemical and physical controls we can introduce to help assist new plants and seedlings as much as possible.

If you would like to understand more about the best way to renovate your pastures this Autumn, get in touch with us to arrange a property inspection so we can understand your property, your livestock and help provide guidance through what may be challenging times.

As always, the Co-op will have good stocks of top quality varieties of pasture and crop seeds for you this Autumn including our **Sheep and Beef Blend**, **Dryland Blend** and our **Perennial Equine Blend**. We can also have any seed mix tailor made for you with Poncho Plus treatment to ensure the best return on your investment on your property.

For all Agronomy queries, please contact **Alex Good**: M: 0434 642 663

E: agood@bowralco-op.com.au

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

Last month we touched on the current prevalence of Pink Eye in the Highlands. We have had a number of customers coming in to buy Coopers Bovilis Piliguard, an effective vaccine to aid in the prevention of the disease. A new shipment of stock has now arrived in store in our Retail section.

Pink eye in cattle is certainly making its presence felt at the moment. It is a highly contagious and painful disease of the eye, having negative effects on welfare and production.



Pink eye occurs in cattle when the cornea (outer surface of the eye) becomes damaged (e.g.

by sunlight, abrasions, trauma, dust or dry conditions) and the bacteria in the Moraxella genus, most commonly Moraxella bovis, is present.

Pink eye most commonly occurs during dry conditions, especially in summer and autumn, when there are high numbers of flies, the biggest spreaders of the bacteria, are present. The disease can then last from year to year when infected cattle become carriers of the bacteria.

Pink eye in sheep is caused by different organisms and does not spread to cattle, nor does pink eye spread from cattle to sheep.

The signs of pink eye include increased blinking, streaming and watery eyes, ulcers on the surface of the eyes, cloudy opaque or white spots in the eye (from accumulation of pus and white blood cells) and sensitivity to direct sunlight.

We also have alternative medication to vaccinations in stock including spray, powder and adhesive patches.



For more advice on how to control and treat pink eye in your livestock, please contact our Amanda in our retail store.

WATER MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS

The Small Farm Field Day held early February at Moss Vale Showgrounds was an excellent opportunity to showcase our extensive range of Water Management products.



We have recently been in discussion with Rapid Plas who have launched a new range of products & literature to assist with your water management needs. We will be introducing a

display stand in the produce department which will enable you to inspect the quality of the Rapid Plas products.

Call or email Chris on cheathcote@bowralco-op.com.au

PRODUCE

RHODES GRASS HAY IS BACK IN STOCK - \$21.50 PER SMALL BALE



Rhodes grass is a fast growing tropical species that has unique nutritional characteristics which align well with the requirements of a lot of horses.

By nature, Rhodes Grass is higher in protein than Teff, and lower in energy (especially soluble sugars) than Lucerne. It is highly palatable and digestible when made correctly meaning there is very little waste which can sometimes be a problem with low quality Lucerne or Teff hay.

Protein levels range from 16-12%, and energy is between 9 and 7 MJ/kg of metabolisable energy. The Co-op has all Rhodes Grass hay tested as it arrives, so ask us for a feed test result and consult with your Vet or Nutritionist to see if it is suitable for your horses.

For helpful information on the requirements of your horse take a look at <https://www.msdrvmanual.com/management-and-nutrition/nutrition-horses/nutritionalrequirements-of-horses> and download the spreadsheets available for calculating feed volume and quality requirements.

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING WITH A LITTLE EXTRA TO CONDITION YOUR PERFORMANCE HORSES?

Try Coprice High Joule - \$51.00/ 20 KG bag, contains Vitamin E and organic selenium, perfect for muscle conditioning.

Coprice High Joule is an ultra-high fat and energy dense feed supplement, excellent for boosting energy, muscle development, building topline and weight gain. Rich in naturally occurring antioxidants, amino acids, lysine and methionine, and a source of



omega fatty acids, it helps strengthen immunity, build muscle mass and provides superior skin and coat health.

Extruded feed supplement

For superior conditioning, intensity & endurance

Ultra-high fat & energy dense

Excellent for building mass & topline

RETAIL STORE



It's that time of year again where we need to control Vermin and a range of products from TOMCAT, RATSACK & BUNNYBAIT are now in stock.

GARDEN CENTRE

Beautiful Autumn arrives this month usually bringing cooler temperatures and much needed rain. Let's hope this is the case this season.



Autumn in the Highlands gives you a chance to take note of the glorious foliage in our region. You can then be certain how any particular plant will appear in your garden. Remember, we can specially order any tree, plant or shrub that particularly appeals to you from the Co-op.

It's also time to think about Spring bulb planting. We have stocks of Tulips, Daffodils, Jonquils, Anemone, Bluebells, Dutch Crocus, Freesias, Hyacinths, Ranunculus and many more arriving very shortly. Plus, we have delivery of new season vegetable seedlings coming in the next week.

Most importantly, it's time to get your garden prepared for Winter dormancy. Lawns need attention as we have had little rain. They can be over sown or patched if necessary while there is still warmth in the ground. Cleaning up flower beds and cutting back perennials and excessive growth are important this month as well.

Fruit trees can still be fed, and the mulch renewed. Keep consistent watering until leaf fall.

Use slow or controlled release fertilisers to keep nutrition up to your plants until they go into their winter mode. We have a large range of very effective products to use, including Troforte Rejuven8or, Powerfeed and Seasol.



For more gardening advice, come in and see Jenny at our gardening centre, she has lots of tips and tricks to help you get the most out of your garden.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Robertson show – 8th & 9th March 2019

Moss Vale Show – 15th – 17th March 2019

Bowral Co-op Community Support & Sponsorship

Southern Highlands Hospice

Bowral Show

Moss Vale Small Farm Field Day

Wallaby Hill Extraganza

Website : www.bowralco-op.com.au

