



A shot in the arm for ACMF's Chook Chat



Australian Chicken Meat Federation's Communications Manager, Annabel Selby-Jones, has advised that with the increase in communications capacity at ACMF, Executive Director Dr Viv Kite's popular Chook Chat blogs will appear more frequently. This is expected to increase traffic to the ACMF website, and continue to educate Australians about all things chicken meat – particularly focusing on challenging long-held myths and misconceptions. ACMF's most recent blog was an Australia Day-themed post addressing Country of Origin, and the blog before that was a Christmas-themed post highlighting the comparative value and versatility of chicken. You can look them over at the following links:

<https://www.chicken.org.au/hey-true-blue/>

<https://www.chicken.org.au/whats-on-your-table-this-christmas/>

In addition to posting on the website, Chook Chat will be shared with media contacts if deemed newsworthy, and placed on ACMF's Twitter platform and on ACMF's new LinkedIn page if the content is appropriate. ACMF is also looking at other ways to increase the blogs' visibility.

ACCC Inquiry: NFF's pre-budget advice to Government

When the Federal Government starts to put together its next national budget, it will have received advice from the NFF on how regional Australia can be properly supported for the benefit of the whole country. During January NFF consulted with its member organisations on the content of its submission to the Government, and ACGC recommended that if the Government accepted ACCC's recommendations rising from the Perishable Agricultural Goods inquiry, there will be adequate funds for the ACCC to proceed. Accordingly, NFF has included the following in its submission to the Government:

The agriculture industry demands a fair go for farmers in dealing with supply chain actors with significant market power. This is why the work of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC), and its Agriculture Unit, is vitally important in ensuring fair commercial dealings for farmers in line with competitive markets. As a priority, the NFF seeks that the ACCC Agriculture Unit is resourced to fully implement the recommendations of the Perishable Agricultural Goods Inquiry.

Recommendation 11: \$12 million over four years to continue funding for the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) Agriculture Unit.

NOTE: There is no suggestion that the Government will not accept or fund the ACCC's recommendations, but ACGC and NFF feel that there is no harm in letting the Government know what we'd like to see. The Government will probably give its decision on the Perishable Agricultural Goods Inquiry recommendations in late Feb/early March.

From NFF Weekly Wrap: Grants, courses and loans



Grants for innovative farmers up for grabs!

Australian farmers, producers and manufacturers [can now apply for financial support from the Coles Nurture Fund](#) to help them innovate and grow. Grants of up to \$500,000 for small and medium sized businesses to develop new products, technologies and processes are up for grabs, and you don't have to be a Coles supplier.

Free financial skills workshops for farmers

Rabobank will be running a new series of financial skills workshops for farmers in February and April 2021. Delivered online, the free courses will improve your understanding and interpretation of business reporting. [Registrations are now open.](#)

Find out more about Regional Investment Corporation's (RIC) AgriStarter Loan

The RIC recently launched the [AgriStarter Loan](#) to assist first time farmers and support farm succession arrangements. For those looking for more information about the loan, you can join the free [AgriStarter Loan webinar](#).

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