



SEPTEMBER 2009

Australian Government

Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation

Proposed Transfer of the Deer R&D Program from RIRDC Established Industries Portfolio 2 to RIRDC New Industries Portfolio 1

In recent consultations between representatives of the deer industry and RIRDC, it was proposed that the Deer Program be moved from its current 'stand-alone' position in Portfolio 2 to that of a sub-program in the New Animal Products Program in Portfolio 1. Such an action would be consistent with the outcomes of a recently commissioned review of the Deer Program. The New Animal Products Program includes industries of a similar size, and with similar research and development needs to the deer industry. This synergy will provide opportunities for information sharing, and inclusion in program activities, such as the New Animal Industry Symposium.

During discussions of this possibility, a number of key points were raised by industry representatives as conditions for any such change. The Corporation's responses to those requests are provided here.

(1) Use of industry-derived funds. It is agreed that funds derived from the deer industry either directly (e.g., as levies or voluntary contributions) or indirectly (e.g., as funds attaching to levies) will be used only for purposes relating to R&D for the benefit of the industry.

(2) The Deer R&D Advisory Committee. It is agreed that the deer industry will be entitled to nominate two representatives to the Deer R&D Advisory Committee. This Committee will be separate to the New Animal Products Advisory Committee. This will ensure that there is no possibility of a conflict of interest with any other industry in the program. It is agreed that one of the two initial appointees to the Committee will be Ms Nola Anderson.

(3) Continuance of a project relating to the Industry AGM. It is agreed that the New Animal Products Program will continue the existing practice of supporting the DIAA AGM as an element of the Communications Objective of the Five Year Deer Industry R&D Plan.

(4) Continuance of reporting to the Industry AGM. It is agreed that, on invitation, a representative of RIRDC will attend the DIAA AGM to provide a report on the activities of the Corporation in relation to the industry, and in other respects as appropriate.

New research manager for the RIRDC Deer Program Julie Bird, from RIRDC's New Industries Portfolio, will take over the management of the Deer Program. Julie has been with RIRDC for a year, and has been developing the National Research, Development and Extension Strategies for New and Emerging Industries, and Bioenergy. The New and Emerging Industries Strategy includes deer industry RD&E, and will recommend changes to current RD&E models, to increase collaboration, efficiency and effectiveness.

Julie has worked with many new and emerging industries throughout her career- both animal and plant. Industry development is her passion, and she looks forward to working with the deer industry in the future. Below is a brief bio outlining Julie's previous experience with agricultural industry research and development.

Senior Research Manager- RIRDC

Sept 08- current

Currently managing the National Research, Development and Extension Strategies for New and Emerging Industries, and Bioenergy. These strategies are part of the Primary Industries Ministerial Council's National RD&E Framework, designed to increase collaboration, efficiency and effectiveness of RD&E

across primary industry. The management of these processes has required significant industry liaison, including workshops and consultation, in order to develop these high level strategies.

Director Agriculture- Department of Climate Change
July 07- Sept 08

Managed the Greenhouse Action for Regional Australia Program. Research areas included mitigation of agricultural emissions, such as methane from livestock, as well as adaptation opportunities for regional Australia. Developed a best practice guide for farmers, to be released by the Agriculture Minister soon. Moved to RIRDC at the conclusion of this program.

Region Head Katherine- Crops, Forestry and Horticulture, NT Government

2005-2007

Management of horticulture, cropping and forestry divisions in the Katherine region. Business planning, head of the extension program, managed and reviewed research. Research at the Katherine Research Station included many new and emerging products, such as tropical fruits, sesame, and bioenergy crops. Also involved in NRM issues, water allocations. Involved in many intrastate initiatives (national extension activities, national conference organisation, biosecurity planning), and developed Indigenous employment program for the department. Was also running small cattle station on own at this time.

Senior extension officer, NT Government Katherine
2002-2005

Technical advice to farmers on one-on-one and group basis (workshops). Set up very successful best practice group, model copied in many other regions and interstate.

Agronomist- Landmark Darwin and Katherine regions.
1998-2002

Crops include tropical horticulture, tropical pastures, rangeland management, Asian vegetables. Running workshops, writing technical articles on a national level.

1996-1998

Furney's Stock Feeds, Dubbo- Stockfeed sales, advice and diet formulation

1994-1996

Inghams- Management of large meat chicken breeding farm

1993-1994

Animal Supplies/ Equine Supplies- sales and advice animal health products, writing technical articles

Prior 1993

Ran family cattle stud Wagga Wagga- embryo transfer, showing etc

Interests

Enjoy raising cattle, sheep, stock horses and working dogs in the Snowy Mountains outside Canberra. Keen campdraft competitor and skier.

Qualifications

Bachelor of Applied Science- Agriculture Charles Sturt University- Wagga.

Public Sector Management Post Grad Certificate- Macquarie University.

Rural Extension Post Grad Certificate University of Queensland- including adult learning, group facilitation.

June Murphy- Deer Program Coordinator

June has previously held the position of program coordinator for the deer program. She also coordinates the New Animal Products, Kangaroos, Buffalo, Rare and Natural Fibres, Essential Oil Products, and Wildflowers and Native Plants Programs at RIRDC. This October June will have been with RIRDC for 10 years, and she is looking forward to working with the deer industry again.

PIC

julie and june.JPG

Julie Bird and June Murphy

INDUSTRY COMMUNICATIONS

Project Title:

COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION PROGRAMS FOR THE AUST DEER INDUSTRY

Project Summary:

To maintain industry support for the RIRDC Deer R&D program and enable the results of the R&D to be used by those in the industry, an effective communication program is necessary to ensure that R&D results are easily available to end users.

Project Method.

1. RIRDC Newsletter.

Content information to be sourced from the RIRDC Deer program Manager, the RIRDC Deer Advisory Committee Chairperson, the DIAA President, DIAA State Branches and international contributors with expertise in deer.

Preparation, presentation and production issues to be the responsibility of the Principal Investigator.

This could be a tool for promoting research in allied programs that would be of benefit to Deer Farmers including the fodder program, new animals program, and other areas focused on farm health and safety, capacity building and climate change.

2. DIAA Website.

All existing content to be reviewed and new requirements and formatting to be determined by the Principal Investigator and Supervisor in consultation with the President of the DIAA. The Principal Investigator and Supervisor to brief the webmaster to achieve the required new format. The Supervisor will have the day to day responsibility of managing the webmaster.

Project Team:

Principal Researcher

Mr Andy Cowan
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DIAA

Principal Researcher Technical Staff

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DIAA

DIAA WEBSITE

If, on one of these rainy days, you wish to learn something about deer, why not visit the DIAA website - <http://www.diaa.org>. It is, without a doubt, the most comprehensive site dedicated to deer in Australia. It is arguably one of the most accessible and informative sites on the internet regarding the management of farmed deer.

RIRDC have helped fund recent upgrades to the site. The upgrades basically include developing a more user-friendly, faster and "modern" web page.

The "Deer Vet" page is now turning into a most comprehensive learning tool for anyone involved with deer. Dr. Tony English has been extraordinarily generous with his time and knowledge and has spent hours answering questions sent from all over the world - particularly America. The upgrade has sorted through the questions and answers and catalogued them conveniently for our reference. Why not cross-reference something that interests you in the search engine and see what happens!!

VELVET POOLS

**ADH & CP will conduct the first
Australian Pool on
Friday, 13th November 2009.
Farmers delivering product must do so
by 2 pm.**

**Product will be received, weighed and
packed and made ready for export to
New Zealand for grading.**

**All velvet is to be delivered to:
"Express Refrigerated Cold Storage
Distribution" at 110 Army Road,
Pakenham, Vic 3810.**

Phone – 03 5941 2444



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Dr. Tony English

By Dr. Andrew Hansen

Associate Professor Tony English AM RFD BVSc (Hons) PhD FACVSc FAVA was this year made a Life Member of the Deer Industry Association of Australia in recognition of the invaluable service he has given to our industry since the early days of deer farming in Australia.

Tony graduated in veterinary science from the University of Queensland in 1966 with first class honours.

Years 1967 to 1974 were spent in private veterinary practice in Queensland and Victoria. He returned to UQ in 1975, and post graduate studies there resulted in a PhD in 1977. That year he was appointed a lecturer in cattle medicine at the University of Sydney.

When the University of Sydney Deer Research Unit was established in 1978, Tony became its director, and it was here that many deer farmers had their first contact with Tony. The Unit was used for teaching, research and extension work for deer farmers.

In 1981 Tony spent six months working on deer research projects in Scotland. In 1982 he promoted to senior lecturer.

Tony was technical co-ordinator of the 1984 Post graduate Committee's Deer Refresher Course for Veterinarians which led to the production of two publications written by Tony, widely read and greatly valued by vets and farmers. The course proceedings became an essential reference book for vets involved with deer.

In 1990, Tony became a Fellow of the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists in the subject of deer medicine and production.

In 2001, now Associate Professor Tony English was coordinator of the veterinary conservation biology course and became director of Wildlife Health and Conservation Centre.

For 27 years, he has carried out research projects in cattle, deer and wildlife and has authored or co-authored 120 research papers.

His diverse interests have ranged from wombat reproduction to management of elephants in Nepal to conservation of Himalayan musk deer.

Somehow, Tony also had a remarkable second career in the Army Reserve artillery, retiring as a full colonel after holding the senior operational gunner posting in the Australian Army.

Now retired from university life, Tony is principal of a consultancy in wildlife health and population management.

He remains, among many other interests, a director of both the Zoological Parks Board of NSW and the Game Council of NSW and the working group managing Rusa deer in the Royal National Park.

Over the 30 years of involvement with the deer farming industry, Tony has addressed countless farmer gatherings in Australia and overseas, and has given invaluable advice in such matters as the National Velvet Accreditation Scheme, quality assurance, deer as a "pest" species, deer management and deer diseases.

He has given generously of his time and knowledge to many individual farmers and runs the "ask the deer vet" service on the DIAA website through which he has acquired a large overseas following.

Our industry is very fortunate to have such a friend.