



Media Statement

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Biosecurity funding schemes determined for 2012-13

The latest annual funding arrangements for grain and livestock producers to respond to priority pest and disease threats in 2012-13 have been determined.

The Industry Funding Schemes, under the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*, aim to help industry fight biosecurity threats which impact on their sector but are not covered under national arrangements.

The schemes, which came into effect in 2010, put the State's farmers in control of determining what established pests and diseases to tackle and have a fundraising mechanism in place.

Three Industry Management Committees (IMCs) for cattle; grains/seeds/hay; and sheep and goats, determine priority pests or diseases and the required funding arrangements.

The Cattle IMC has determined producers continue to pay a 20 cent contribution on the sale of all cattle/carcases produced within the State in 2012-13, with the proceeds being used to fund surveillance programs for bovine tuberculosis (BTB), bovine Johne's disease (BJD) and enzootic bovine leucosis (EBL).

The Sheep & Goats IMC has determined that producers continue to pay a 12 cent contribution on the sale of all sheep and goats/carcases produced within the South West Land Division in 2012-13, in order to fund a program to control virulent footrot.

The Grains/Seed/Hay IMC has determined that producers continue to pay a 30 cent contribution on the first sale of every tonne of grain and seed produced within the South West Land Division of WA in 2012-13, to fund continuing programs for the control of skeleton weed and the eradication of three-horned bedstraw.

A contribution of 15 cents per tonne on the first sale of every tonne of hay produced within the South West Land Division will be collected for the first time this financial year to go towards the skeleton weed and bedstraw programs. It will not be collected on the sale of straw.

Producers who wish to opt-out of the Industry Funding Schemes in 2012-13 must have notified the Director General of the Department of Agriculture and Food by submitting a 2012-2013 Notice of Opt-out form before 30 June 2012. Forms are available from www.biosecurity.wa.gov.au

Opting out of the schemes does not negate producers' responsibility to address biosecurity issues on their property. Opting out will mean producers have to deal with biosecurity issues wholly at their own expense, and they will need to contribute to the schemes for two consecutive years after opting out, before they can regain eligibility for any scheme assistance.

To find out more about the process and conditions attached to opting-out of the schemes, go to the Industry Funding Scheme page of the website www.biosecurity.wa.gov.au or contact 9368 3942.

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