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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

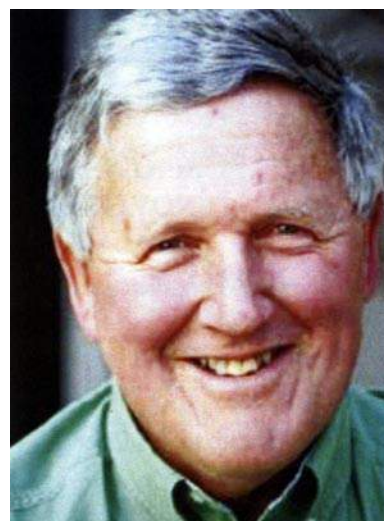
By Andrew Hansen

The welfare of farmed animals is constantly in the news. Most recently, there were problems with live sheep exports to the Middle East, and raids on piggeries in NSW by animal rights groups. Both of these exposed major acts of animal cruelty.

With calving/fawning and velvetting in full swing, I thought it was time we all reflected on the welfare of our animals.

The RSPCA believes that an animal's welfare should be considered in the terms of five freedoms. These are:

1. **Freedom from thirst and hunger**- provide water and a suitable diet;
2. **Freedom from discomfort** – provide a suitable environment with shelter and rest areas;
3. **Freedom from pain, injury and disease**- preventing by rapidly diagnosing and treating;
4. **Freedom to express normal behaviour**- provide sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal's own kind;
5. **Freedom from fear and distress**- – ensure that conditions and treatment avoid mental suffering.



These freedoms will be better provided for if those who have care of livestock practice:

- caring and responsible planning and management;
- skilled, knowledgeable and conscientious animal management;
- appropriate environmental design;
- considerate handling and transport;
- humane killing.

Our National Velvet Accreditation Scheme provides us with an excellent guide to satisfy welfare requirements. So, abide by the rules, follow the procedures, and operate as if someone was looking over your shoulder.

Regularly monitor your mobs of calving/fawning females. If you are unable to yard and treat a hind/doe with a dystocia, don't let her suffer. Dispatch her rather than let her die a slow death from toxemia.

We have been told to expect a long, hot and dry summer. Please ensure adequate shade and shelter in the maternity paddocks for the fawns. Review your property fire plan of course.

If you have not joined/ re-joined the DIAA this year please, consider doing so. We need your subscriptions to remain financially viable, and your numbers to be representative of our industry when dealing with government.

I wish you well for a profitable velvet season and a productive breeding season.

Andrew Hansen. President DIAA.