



Veterinarians proudly support Year of the Farmer

The Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) has welcomed the new year with plans to celebrate the Year of The Farmer and the crucial role veterinarians play in supporting rural communities.

AVA President Dr Barry Smyth said that veterinarians are vital contributors to agricultural industries.

“Veterinarians are of enormous assistance to farmers; they help ensure food is safe to eat, help farmers increase production, promote the welfare of farm animals, and detect and respond to outbreaks of emergency animal diseases,” Dr Smyth said.

Clinical practitioners in rural areas work with companion animals, horses, farm animals including cattle and sheep as well as wildlife.

“Veterinarians are at the forefront of detection and response to endemic and exotic animal diseases, including foot-and-mouth disease and zoonotic diseases that cross between animals and humans such as the Hendra virus.

“Veterinarians are also best placed to ensure that the welfare of all animals is monitored and maintained.”

Approximately 60 per cent Australia’s agricultural production is exported which represents around 76 per cent of the total gross value of Australian agricultural production^[1].

“With its reputation for safety and high quality, Australia is helping to feed the world. The agricultural industry will also continue to maintain the nation’s economic wellbeing into the future which is why the AVA is so proud to support the Year of the Farmer and highlight the role that veterinarians play in supporting this important industry,” Dr Smyth said.

The AVA will be working with organisers The Australian Year of the Farmer Limited, throughout the year, to help maximise the benefits from the celebration of Australian farmers and farm produce.

[1]