

QUESTION ON NOTICE
No. 431
Asked on Thursday, 24 March 2005

MR HORAN asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries (MR PALASZCZUK)—

QUESTION:

Will he advise if his department is planning to close down tick fever vaccine supply in December and January each year; if so, why?

ANSWER:

The Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries has no plans to close down supply of tick fever vaccine in December and January.

The department actually wants to increase the use and supply of tick fever vaccine to the cattle industry.

For a number of reasons including handling of vaccine by cattle producers during the summer months, it is generally recommended that tick fever vaccination be done during the cooler months and used on weaner aged cattle.

The department surveyed livestock owners who have used vaccine in December and January to better understand their vaccine requirements.

Information obtained during the survey will be used to ensure adequate supply during summer months when demand for the vaccine is very low and also to help target gaps in graziers' knowledge of tick fever vaccination, including the best times of the year to vaccinate, and the best age when cattle are vaccinated.

The department will soon be mailing to graziers in tick infested parts of the State the latest information about the best ways to protect cattle from tick fever, including use of the vaccine.