



Dow tops up farmer fund with \$300,000 for flood rebuilding

Queensland farming families rebuilding their livelihoods after flooding received a USD\$300,000 boost today from agrochemical and bio-technology company Dow AgroSciences, in a generous donation which doubles the Queensland Farmers Appeal, set up by state farm group AgForce and rural charity Aussie Helpers in January.

The Dow AgroSciences donation was made through its philanthropic affiliate The Dow Chemical Company Foundation, with Dow Chemical Asia Pacific President, Pat Dawson, on hand to present the cheque to AgForce president Brent Finlay and Aussie Helpers founder Brian Egan.

Mr Finlay said it was inspiring to see such a commitment from the wider agricultural community to help farmers get back on track after the devastation across Queensland.

“Since January, Aussie Helpers has channelled thousands of dollars of donated goods and services to where it is needed most. In April alone, Aussie Helpers connected more than 90 volunteers who delivered 1800 hours across 18 farms from Moura to Kilcoy to Oakey to Roma,” Mr Finlay said.

“Hundreds of individuals and businesses have donated money and volunteered their time to help repair fences, retrieve displaced livestock, clean flooded houses and, most importantly, provide a supportive ear to producers as they work through the emotional challenges of this natural disaster.

“Dow AgroSciences provides innovative technologies for primary production and agricultural biotechnology to serve the world’s growing population. This generous donation is their way to give back to the agricultural sector to rebuild farms and help reinvigorate Queensland’s role in feeding this global population.”

Today’s donation to the Queensland Farmers Appeal follows Dow AgroSciences’ earlier USD\$200,000 donation to the Premier’s Flood Appeal. Dow AgroSciences Marketing Manager George Saville said the company wanted to do whatever it could to support the farming sector.

“Many of those affected by the floods are our customers and employees. As we watched the catastrophic weather events unfold we knew we had to do something that could make a difference,” Mr Saville said.

“We wanted to do something that would directly benefit affected farmers, and that’s why we chose to make our donation to AgForce.”

Dow AgroSciences’ Queensland and New South Wales Sales Manager, Tony Marshall, said it was important to know that the donation would be used wisely, to help the people who needed it the most.

“We knew AgForce could help us reach out to these people through their partnership with Aussie Helpers. With two such strong and well regarded organisations at the helm, we know our donation will be used very effectively.

“We want to see the people in these communities get back on their feet as fast as possible. We’re pleased to have the opportunity to help and we know that AgForce and Aussie Helpers will do a fantastic job.”

Can you help?

With many months of hard work still ahead for flooded farmers, AgForce and Aussie Helpers still need donations, equipment and volunteers to get rural Queensland back on its feet. To volunteer: contact Aussie Helpers on 1300 665 232. To donate to the Queensland Farmers Flood Appeal: ‘Flood Appeal – Suncorp’, BSB: 484 799, account number 015147867 or post to PO Box 405, Charleville Qld 4470.

For comment, contact AgForce president Brent Finlay on 0414 415 361.

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About Dow AgroSciences

Dow AgroSciences, based in Indianapolis, Indiana, USA, is a top-tier agricultural company providing innovative agrochemical and biotechnology solutions globally. The company, a wholly owned subsidiary of The Dow Chemical Company, has sales of \$4.9 billion.

In Australia, Dow AgroSciences provides innovative products for weed, disease and insect control in many crops including winter cereals, oil seed crops, sorghum, canola, fruit and vegetables, trees and vines, sugar cane, pastures, fallow and for woody weed control.

www.dowagro.com.au

About AgForce

AgForce is the state farm group representing Queensland's beef cattle, sheep and grain producers. Founded in 1999 from an amalgamation of three agri-political groups, AgForce builds on this legacy to lobby all levels of government on behalf of its farming members.

Never has AgForce's role been so important as now, when the issues facing agriculture are many, varied and rapidly changing. Every day, AgForce takes up the challenge to shape agriculture's future through proactive and constructive engagement on emerging influences to influence outcomes and develop proactive agricultural policies.

AgForce leads the way to ensure the social, economic and environmental contributions of broadacre agriculture are recognised by all levels of government and the community, to secure sustainable, profitable and progressive food and fibre into the future.

www.agforceqld.org.au

About Aussie Helpers

Brian and Nerida Egan established Aussie Helpers in 2002 to help fight poverty and lift the spirits of those severely affected by drought in the outback. From what they saw around them and what they heard from people in the bush, Brian and Nerida felt that no organisation was doing anything significant to help families suffering the full effects of the worst drought in living history.

Today, Aussie Helpers continue to work mainly via the ever faithful "Bush Telegraph" to find farming families who are in desperate need of assistance. Aussie Helpers work around three words "care, share, respect" which simply means that Aussie Helpers care about people in need and will share whatever assistance they have available free of charge and will give the recipients the utmost respect and confidentiality.

Aussie Helpers raises all its own funds and is not aligned to any other charity or religious association. Aussie Helpers are all unpaid volunteers making a real difference to the lives of real people.

www.aussiehelpers.org.au