NORTH EAST AND GOULBURN MURRAY



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Foot and mouth at the forefron

WITH Foot and Mouth Disease continuing to spread throughout the Indonesian archipelago, increasingly more industry leaders, stakeholders and farmers are adding their voice to the growing chorus of concern.

From Victoria's north to the south, the agricultural industry is calling on increased biosecurity measures not only on international borders but on those around farms and farming businesses.

Stakeholders are requesting clarification on procedures and a unified approach to combating the threat, with consideration made for specific industries and breeds.

And perhaps most importantly, is the campaign to increase community awareness.

Kelly Timms and Matt Ridd



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run a small cattle operation from their Yarck-based property, Pleasant Banks.

"We run 40 Angus cows and calves, which we then sell as weaners through the Yea cattle sales," said Kelly.

"As the farm is only 117 acres we invest extensively in our soil so that we are able to run so many head on such a small acreage.

"We also cut all our own hay." Matt and Kelly also both run their own businesses, with Matt a cabinet maker by trade, and the couple both managing and owning Country Lodge Kennels.

The kennels are their primary business, run from an adjoining

paddock with a separate entrance to the farm.

After the disruption of lockdowns and restrictions, Country Lodge Kennels is only now beginning to get back to pre-COVID numbers, where the business was booked out months in advance.

"It's been great to have lots of doggies in again," said Kelly.

However, the impending threat of a Foot and Mouth (FMD) incursion has Kelly concerned, and she, along with her team, have moved proactively introducing new biosecurity measures at the kennel.

"The nature of the business, means that we have people entering the property who could have flown in from an area experiencing FMD," said Kelly.

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