

beefup FORUM

Taroom BeefUp Forum

WEDNESDAY 19 APRIL 2023

Hear about the latest on-farm R&D

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Have your say on R&D priorities in your region

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Gain insights, tools and next steps to beef up your business

Welcome

MLA's BeefUp Forums are held throughout northern Australia and are developed by regional Working Groups in collaboration with the BeefUp Coordinator (AA&P Events) and MLA. Thank you to the South Queensland Regional Beef Research Committee (RBRC) and the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) for their support in planning this event.

MLA's BeefUp Forums have been developed to:

- give you an opportunity to see and hear about what MLA and industry partners are delivering
- highlight current and completed research that is relevant to you
- give you a chance to participate in regional research, development and adoption (RD&A)
- hear about your regional RD&A priorities
- provide practical tools and information to beef up your business.

BeefUp forums are about helping northern beef producers identify ways to improve the productivity and profitability of their beef enterprises. After today, use this booklet to find the information, tools and contacts you need to put your ideas into action.

Event location

Taroom Town Hall

16 Yaldwyn Street

Taroom QLD 4420

Forum Coordinator Contact

Rosie Peace

AA&P Events

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About MLA

Meat & Livestock Australia Limited (MLA) delivers research, development and marketing services to Australia's cattle, sheep and goat producers. MLA has approximately 50,000 livestock producer members who have stakeholder entitlements in the company.



Program

Wednesday 19 April	
7:30am	Registration and trade stands open
8:00am	Welcome & housekeeping Tim Emery, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries & SQRBRC DAF Science Rep
8:15am	RBRC Welcome Kay Taylor, SQRBRC Producer Rep
8:20am	MLA R&D and market update Sally Leigo, Meat & Livestock Australia
8:50am	Australian Feedbase Monitor Jess Paton, Cibo Labs
9:05am	Session review
Understanding Carbon	
9:10am	CN30 – what it means for your business Julia Waite, Meat & Livestock Australia
9:40am	Panel Session Facilitator: Harriet Bawden, Meat & Livestock Australia James Henderson, H3K Cattle and Isadore Joshua Peart, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Julia Waite, Meat and Livestock Australia
10:10am	Session review
10:15am	Morning tea
Innovation and new technology	
10.45am	Producers sharing their experience and knowledge of on-farm innovation and technologies Facilitated by the Advancing Beef Leaders (Maranoa) Group Black Box Co. - Harry Scott, Willinga Pastoral FarmBot – Eustie Hill, Tooloombilla Partnership OptiWeigh – Harry Perrett, Cattle Downs Pastoral Company AgriWebb – Emma King, Echo Hills Farming Company Drones – Mitch Koster, Aqualoo, St George
12:15pm	Drone group photo & session review
12:20pm	Lunch
Pasture dieback, rundown and legumes	
1:20pm	Pasture dieback – what is happening in the region and what are the solutions? Stuart Buck, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
1:55pm	Legumes being trialled and used in the region Gavin Peck, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
2:20pm	Panel Session Facilitator: Kay Taylor, SQRBRC Producer Rep Tom Nixon, Devon Court Herefords Rob Lethbridge, Lethbridge Bros Gavin Peck, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Stuart Buck, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
3:05pm	Session review
3:10pm	Afternoon tea

Biosecurity, livestock management and genetics	
3:40pm	Biosecurity update Jed Taylor, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
4:00pm	Surveillance for reproductive diseases Dr. Ian Croft, Taroom Vets
4:20pm	Genetics - project insights and tools Tim Emery - Department of Agriculture and Fisheries & SQRBRC DAF Science Rep
4:50pm	Review and priorities Kay Taylor, SQRBRC Producer Rep Tim Emery, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries & SQRBRC DAF Science Rep
5:20pm	Closing Remarks Harriet Bawden, Meat & Livestock Australia
Taroom BeefUp Dinner	
5.30pm	Networking BBQ and drinks at the Town Hall
7:30pm	Event concludes



RBRC Representatives



Kay Taylor

Phone: 0447 285 214

Email: kayxscott@bigpond.com

Kay has had a lifelong involvement and passion for the beef industry. Born and bred in the central Burnett on a cattle property, she gained her degree through UQ Gatton (then QAC) and invested 23 years with DAF (then DPI) mostly in Beef Extension, working with beef producers and other industry stakeholders across much of Queensland.

Since leaving the department, Kay has been able to spend more time managing the small performance-based cattle breeding and seedstock business she operates with husband, Scott, as well as doing some consultancy work, and balancing various family, industry and community commitments.

Kay is a current Producer Member of the South Queensland Regional Beef Research Committee and as such maintains a strong affiliation with different players involved in the beef industry. She is committed to best practice, sustainable beef production that not only ensures the resilience, success and profitability of the beef industry, but also the strength of social licence within the broader community. She has particular interests in nutrition, breeding/genetics, grazing land management and cost-effective labour-saving technologies.



Tim Emery

Phone: 0408 707 155

Email: timothy.emery@daf.qld.gov.au

Tim was appointed as a Beef Extension Officer with the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) based at Roma in early 2009. For eight years he organised and delivered extension activities, undertook field work as part of research projects, developed extension materials and addressed producer enquiries. The projects & demos he was part of focused on genetics, NLIS as a management tool, high output forages and the economics of different finishing systems.

In February 2017 he joined the Tropical Beef Technology Services (TBTS) team as a Technical Officer on a 4.5 year secondment from DAF, working closely with both seedstock and commercial producers across northern Australia with the goal of increasing the adoption of BREEDPLAN and associated genetic technologies.

Tim has been back in his Beef Extension role since July 2021, working predominantly on the GrazingFutures Livestock Business Resilience Project and heavily involved in its Advancing Beef Leaders (Maranoa) Program and Echo Hills Walk Over Weighing Demonstration NE of Roma.

Outside of work, Tim has a wife and two young daughters, is involved in his parents' nearby beef business, owns a small breeding herd and has travelled extensively overseas. He was named a Zanda McDonald Award Finalist in 2021.

Advancing Beef Leaders (Maranoa) Group



Sam Curran

Email: cooksley.sam@gmail.com

Hi! I'm Sam, a Canadian citizen & permanent resident of Australia, born & raised in beautiful British Columbia. After travelling to NZ & then Australia, I fell in love with an Australian cowboy, Nicolas Curran, who showed me the ropes of cattle farming with his family. From showing cattle at the Ekka to chasing scrubbers in the paddock, and much more in-between, this lifestyle was one not to be missed! Nearly 10 years later Nic & I married and are now living in the Maranoa on a 10,000 acre family breeding block with our newborn son, Cooper. I am a very active contributing member on the farm and can do most things, however I am constantly learning & growing with the farm. I am currently part of the Advancing Beef Leaders program, which has opened such doors for me as being on the SQNNSW Next Gen Council as well as a new member of the Glenmorgan CWA.



Ann-Maree Johnson

Phone: 0407 101 773

Email: JohnsonA@agforceqld.org.au

I am currently the Southern Inland Queensland Regional Manager for AgForce based in Roma. I love that my job differs every day, I never stop learning and I get to work in the agricultural industry supporting landholders day in and day out.

I come from a working background of local government administration, station work, fencing on the wild dog barrier fence and operating machinery in the civil earthmoving space.

I am a part of the Advancing Beef Leadership program with our graduation coming up in June. This program has been so beneficial to me both personally and professionally. Our group project has involved teaming up with MLA to be a part of the working group for this Taroom BeefUp Forum.



Tom Nixon

Phone: 0427 276 182

Email: tom@devoncourt.com.au

Tom Nixon is from Devon Court Drillham. Stud principal of Devon Court Herefords and Director of our mixed farming business.

During the last 20 years of co-managing our family enterprise, I'm most proud of our business milestones; diversifying our activities to include five properties, additional farming and introduction of multi species pasture's, large scale rotational grazing project, increasing commercial cattle numbers and after nearly twenty years, bringing our Stud Bull Sale back home to Devon Court.

It is my aim to help fellow beef producers to learn more about the unknowns and profit, from their enterprise profitability to cattle production or pasture improvement.

Personal achievements; Recent appointment to Herefords Australia R&D advisory board starting 2023, 2022-2023 ABL, travelling to New Zealand as a youth ambassador, and participating in TSBE's Emerging Exporters program in 2021 developing international prospects to trade genetics in both New Zealand.



Mitch Koster

Phone: 0448 198 129

Email: kostermd3@gmail.com

I'm a grazier living in the southern Maranoa region with my wife and 3 three kids. We are a breeding and back grounding operation targeting both the domestic feeder job as well as 100-day export markets. I'm passionate about safe and efficient stock handling. We have been using drones as a mustering tool along side working dogs for a couple years and see great potential in them.



John Syme

Email: johnsyme87@gmail.com

John Syme grew up in the Toowoomba, Rockhampton, and Mitchell districts, where he developed a passion for agriculture and the rural way of life. With his experience and passion for farming, he now serves as the property manager of Loch Lomond, a property situated south-west of Mitchell.

John joined the Advancing Beef Leaders program last year. The program provides a platform for emerging leaders in the beef industry to develop their skills, gain knowledge, and create valuable connections with industry professionals. By joining the program, John hopes to learn from the best in the business and share his experiences with his fellow beef producers.



Leanne Hardwick

Phone: 0436 912 349

Email: leanne.hardwick@daf.qld.gov.au

I began my Livestock Extension role with the DAF team in Longreach five years ago before transferring to the Roma team two years ago to be closer to my partner, where we reside in Mitchell. Previous to these roles, I completed my Bachelor of Agricultural Science at UQ before trialling livestock sales processing, working on property as a Technical Officer with and working as a Technical Officer on a research station for DAF. I love that the role I work in today provides me with the opportunity to assist people within the industry.

In this past 12 months, I have been lucky enough to be involved in a personal development opportunity of my own with being a part of the Advancing Beef Leaders Program (ABL), who I am representing as part of today. The ABL group has been lucky enough to be a part of the organising committee for today's event, particularly with the Technology session. Whilst in Longreach I worked on the E-Beef Project which looked at trialling technologies within business. This was a great opportunity to work with producers and technology providers to increase adoption and confidence in many products (there is always learnings too!). I hope you enjoy the day and get the most out of it as you can.



MLA Representatives



Harriet Bawden

Project Manager – Northern Beef Adoption

Meat & Livestock Australia

E: hbawden@mia.com.au

Harriet is an agricultural communications and extension professional with a focus on supporting on-farm adoption of new research, technologies and practices. She is currently the Project Manager for Northern Beef Adoption at MLA. Harriet works closely with industry and project partners across Queensland, NT and northern WA to deliver programs including BeefUp forums, integrated producer Demonstration Sites, the EDGENetwork and FutureBeef.



Sally Leigo

Program Manager – Producer Adoption

Meat & Livestock Australia

E: sleigo@mia.com.au

Sally is the program manager for MLA's Producer Adoption program, which aims to put in the hands of producers the latest research, technology and best practices to increase production and profitability of red meat businesses. Prior to joining MLA, Sally worked in the NT for close to 16 years delivering research and extension projects, with 13 years based in Alice Springs working with local beef producers.



Julia Waite

Project Manager – CN30

Meat & Livestock Australia

E: jwaite@mia.com.au

Julia is an agri-professional with a background in startup, agtech and investment. In her role as CN30 Project Manager with Meat & Livestock Australia, Julia identifies high impact R&D opportunities to deliver progress against net zero emissions, without compromise on productivity. Prior to joining MLA, Julia was Head of Operations at SproutX – a national accelerator and venture capital fund for food and agtech startups, based in Melbourne.

Speakers and Presentations

Welcome



Tim Emery

Extension Officer

Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

SQRBRC DAF Science Rep

E: timothy.emery@daf.qld.gov.au



RBRC Welcome



Kay Taylor

Producer Rep

South Queensland Regional Beef Research Committee

E: kayxscott@bigpond.com

Session overview:

South Queensland Regional Beef Research Committee (SQRBRC) is one of 11 Regional Beef Research Committees (RBRCs) within the North Australia Beef Research Council (NABRC). They span across Queensland, the Northern Territory and the northern regions of Western Australia. The RBRCs connect producers, researchers and other industry stakeholders to drive improved production in Australia's northern grassfed beef industry. They also help set the Research, Development and Adoption (RD&A) priorities for agencies such as Meat & Livestock Australia, on behalf of producers and industry stakeholders in their region.

SQRBRC currently has 4 producer reps (looking for one or two more) and involvement from QDAF, UQ, QUT, CSIRO, SQ Landscapes, and an industry consultant. South Queensland, along with our neighbours in CQ and SEQ, is the home of the greatest concentration of cattle in Northern Australia. As such, we need to be on the front foot in terms of helping to identify the high priority RD&A issues, and helping to direct funding to where the biggest gains can be made.

Key messages:

- Industry needs to be pro-active in identifying RD&E priorities and ultimately funding for projects.
 - RBRC's are a conduit to help this happen.
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Next steps:

- NABRC website <https://www.nabrc.com.au>
 - SQRBRC Chair Contact – Fleur Winter fleurwinter@bigpond.com 0417926033
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Market and industry insights

MLA R&D and Market update



Sally Leigo

Program Manager

Producer Adoption, Meat & Livestock Australia

E: sleigo@mla.com.au

Bio:

Sally is the Program Manager for MLA's Producer Adoption program, which aims to put in the hands of producers the latest research, technology and best practices to increase production and profitability of red meat businesses. Prior to joining MLA, Sally worked in the NT for close to 16 years delivering research and extension projects, with 13 years based in Alice Springs working with local beef producers.

Session overview:

This presentation will look to provide an overview of the Research, Development and Adoption (RD&A) investments that MLA is making across the red meat supply chain to improve the prosperity of the industry.

The presentation will look at the current operating environment for the red meat industry drawing on the latest market insights to understand some of the current and future drivers for red meat sales, and will progress on to supply chain initiatives including the Meat Standards Australia (MSA) program and what this means for Darling Downs and Central Queensland producers.

The update will also highlight how MLA is addressing some of the industry's strategic priorities as outlined by the Red Meat Advisory Council, including achieving carbon neutrality, doubling the value of red meat sales, doubling the investment in adoption and ensuring that red meat is the trusted source of high quality protein for consumers.

Key messages:

- Global retailers are driving sustainability requirements and consumers associate sustainability more with Australian red meat than with New Zealand or the USA.
- 55% of the national adult cattle slaughtered in Australia are graded MSA, representing 3.25million cattle.

Next steps

- Pick up a copy of the Northern Beef Producers Resource Guide to see what information is available for you.
- Register for your next MLA adoption event or activity via MLA's events calendar: mle.com.au/events

Notes

My action items:

Australian Feedbase Monitor



Jessica Paton

Customer Support
Cibo Labs

E: jpaton@cibolabs.com.au

Bio:

Jess started her role as the Cibo Labs Customer Support Manager in April 2022 and is based in Roma, Queensland. Jess successfully completed a Bachelor Agriculture/Bachelor of Business through the University of New England. Cibo Labs was established in early 2018 with the mission to bring new approaches to monitoring Australia's grazing lands, aimed at underpinning more profitable farms and more sustainable landscapes. In four years, Cibo Labs have established fully commercial services delivering estimates of pasture biomass and ground cover to over 60 million hectares on a weekly basis.

Key messages:

- The Australian Feedbase Monitor provides every livestock producer with access to new levels of objective information on trends in pasture biomass over their entire farm.
- Combining traditional pasture assessment methods and satellite imagery can help producers better understand paddock variability in pasture growth, utilisation and ground cover throughout the season to inform business and grazing management decisions.
- The new tools can help producers to get on the front foot by providing objective and transparent data to support emerging regulatory, supply chain, finance and consumer expectations.

Next steps:

1. Create a MyMLA account: mymla.com.au
2. Link your LPA/PIC account
3. Go to www.cibolabs.com.au to set up your property in the Australian Feedbase Monitor (using your myMLA login details)
4. Get in touch with Cibo Labs for more information by emailing us at support@cibolabs.com.au

Notes

Australian Feedbase Monitor

Information for producers

The Australian Feedbase Monitor is a world-first tool to help producers improve grazing management, forage budgeting and ground cover.



The Australian Feedbase Monitor provides:

- access to farm-level rolling monthly pasture biomass estimates for every Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) account holder, updated every five days
- regionally calibrated predictions based on more than 6,000 sites, using world-leading satellite monitoring and data analysis systems
- data showing the trends in pasture growth and ground cover dating back to 2017
- support for more objective and accurate feed budgeting, leading to sustainable grazing management decisions.

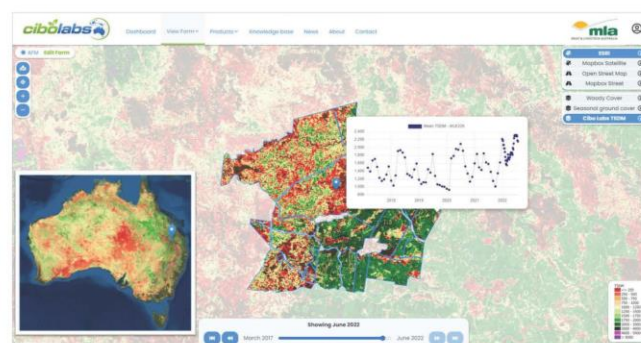
How will this tool help producers?

The Australian Feedbase Monitor will offer multiple benefits to producers and the wider red meat industry including:

- supporting more objective and timely grazing decisions allowing an increase in production and the ability to meet market specifications
- avoiding environmental or welfare issues in grazing enterprises due to increased ability to monitor and report on ground cover and pasture status and trends
- increased consumer confidence in the environmental stewardship of red meat producers.

How to sign up

Want free access to the Australian Feedbase Monitor? The free subscription to this tool can only be accessed by MLA members via [myMLA](https://mymla.com.au), so make sure you've registered for [myMLA](https://mymla.com.au) and linked it to your current Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) account: mymla.com.au.



Not an MLA member?

You can still access the tool if you're not currently an MLA member:

- apply to be an MLA member (this process can take up to two weeks) at mla.com.au/membership
- sign up for a paid subscription through Cibo Labs: support@cibolabs.com.au

mla.com.au/afm

AFM news and updates: Sign up for MLA's e-newsletter, *The Weekly* (mla.com.au/enews), subscribe to *Feedback* magazine (mla.com.au/feedback) or follow MLA on social media.

Help with using the AFM: support@cibolabs.com.au

MLA membership support: membership@mla.com.au or 1800 023 100



Understanding carbon

CN30 – what it means for your business



Julie Waite

Project Manager – CN30
Meat & Livestock Australia

E: jwaite@mla.com.au

Bio:

Julia is an agri-professional with a background in startup, agtech and investment. In her role as CN30 Project Manager with Meat & Livestock Australia, Julia identifies high impact R&D opportunities to deliver progress against net zero emissions, without compromise on productivity. Prior to joining MLA, Julia was Head of Operations at SproutX – a national accelerator and venture capital fund for food and agtech startups, based in Melbourne.

Key messages:

- Strategies that reduce emissions or improve carbon storage on farm can deliver win-win benefits for production and profitability.
- There are existing and emerging market opportunities, brands and supply chains for red meat producers committing to a low carbon pathway.
- Early consumer insights suggest a move towards sustainable credentials in red meat.
- MLA and industry partners are developing technologies to help reduce GHG emissions within livestock businesses, as well as tech and tools to make GHG measurement, tracking and reporting easier.

Next steps:

- Ensure you are collecting key livestock inventory to capitalise on future opportunities.
- Have a go at completing a carbon account.
- Consider herd practices to improve livestock wellbeing, reproduction to reduce emissions per kilogram of liveweight produced (emissions intensity).
- Consider soil and land management strategies that boost soil carbon retention and livestock productivity.

Notes

Want to know more about how the Australian red meat industry will become carbon neutral by 2030? Here are the answers to some of the frequently asked questions MLA receives from producers, industry stakeholders and the wider community.

When was the target set?

In 2017, MLA committed to support the Red Meat Advisory Council's goal to achieve net zero emissions by 2030.

Will the CN30 target restrict productivity?

No. The CN30 target and productivity are complimentary goals. While the target is based on a herd size cap (28 million cattle, 75 million sheep) the goal can accommodate herd and flock increases through increased carbon efficiency in production.

What progress has been made to date?

The red meat sector has reduced its emissions by 64.9% from 2005 baseline levels according to latest modelling by CSIRO.

Why is 2005 the baseline year for the target?

Emissions are compared against the baseline year of 2005 as this is the year that Australia committed to a 26–28% reduction by 2030 on a 2005 baseline under the Paris Agreement.

Will all farms have to become carbon neutral?

No, the industry goal can be achieved without every individual producer becoming carbon neutral. However, it will require significant adoption of carbon efficient practices by a large majority of industry to achieve this collective goal.

Does carbon neutrality only refer to carbon? What about other greenhouse gases like methane?

The term carbon neutral encompasses the 3 key greenhouse gases, carbon dioxide (CO₂), nitrous oxide (N₂O) and methane (CH₄).

How can I lower emissions on-farm while maintaining productivity?

Focus on improving the emissions intensity of your business. Emissions intensity refers to the amount of emissions produced per kilogram of liveweight. The more efficiently we can produce meat, the better our intensity. Management decisions that improve reproduction rate, improve rate of weight gain or decrease time to turn off can all improve the emissions intensity per kilogram of liveweight of your operation, which is great for CN30 and productivity.

What carbon farming practices are eligible to earn carbon credits?

Not all methods that have a positive impact on emissions and productivity are eligible to generate carbon credits. Under the Carbon Farming Initiative, only methods approved by the Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF) and the Clean Energy Regulator are eligible to earn ACCUs. You can view approved methods online at the ERF website. A 5-minute survey via **CSIRO's LOOC-C tool** can also guide you on the most suitable methods for your business and region. Some of the most common project methods for Carbon



Farming projects in livestock are revegetation, avoided clearing, soil carbon improvement and herd management.

What is a carbon credit?

A carbon credit represents 1 tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent abated or stored. In Australia, the financial product for carbon is an Australian Carbon Credit Unit (ACCU) which is issued by the Clean Energy Regulator through the Emissions Reduction Scheme.

What is carbon off-setting?

Offsetting is the practice of obtaining carbon credits to neutralise some or all emissions produced by a business. Credits are traded through a regulated marketplace. Offsets are used when a business wants to lower its carbon footprint but is unable to do so through practice changes. Landholders can generate carbon credits through audited

carbon farming projects, which may be sold to third parties as offsets or kept to offset the farm's own emissions.

What is carbon in-setting?

Insetting refers to the building of carbon within a supply chain or property, without formal carbon credits. Carbon stocks in soil and vegetation on-farm are recognized in the calculation of a farm enterprise's carbon account. Demonstrating healthy carbon stock and net emissions balance could be beneficial to access trade, supply chain and other financial benefits.

Where should I start?

Understand your sources and sinks of carbon on farm through **MLA's Carbon 101 online training**. Progress through the learning modules at your own pace to understand what management decisions can



improve your productivity, profitability and carbon efficiency. There is also step-by-step guide to completing a carbon account to estimate the net emissions



profile of your property. Use your own data to explore your property's emissions profile with **MLA's Carbon Calculator**.

I want to register a carbon farming project. Where should I start?

- Complete a carbon account of your business, online or with an independent consultant.
- Consider your capacity to lodge the project yourself, or if you'd prefer to engage a carbon project developer to manage.
- Understand the feasibility of your project - expected carbon credit yield relative to any capital, costs and commission fees. Get second opinions.
- Have any contracts reviewed by a trusted advisor. Understand the implications and what they mean for your cash flow or autonomy.
- Check the carbon developer is a signatory to the Carbon Market Institute Code of Conduct.

Panel session



Harriet Bawden

Project Manager – Northern Beef Adoption
Meat & Livestock Australia

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James Henderson

Owner and founder
H3K Cattle and Isidore

E: jameshenderson@isidoreag.com.au

Bio:

James Henderson and his family run 5400ha across three properties in the North Burnett and Southern Central Queensland. After the Millennium drought, James and his father, John, knew they had to change how they managed their business. The introduction of cattle rotation and two vegetation based carbon projects in 2017 have transformed the business and landscape outcomes. James has been volunteering with AgForce for the last five years and currently sits on the AgForce board as an independent director. Last year, along with some other producers, he founded Isidore Agri and Eco Solutions to help landholders get real advice about carbon and ecosystem services.



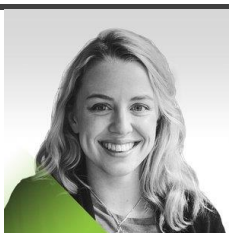
Joshua Peart

Sustainable Grazing Scientist
Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

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Bio:

As part of the Method to Market team, Josh has been investigating the opportunities in environmental markets available to grazing businesses in south-west and central Queensland. This has predominantly involved working to collate herd records to produce emission baseline estimates and assessing abatement options available to meet industry targets and projected market standards.



Julia Waite

Project Manager – CN30
Meat & Livestock Australia

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MLA's EDGEnetwork® (EDGE) delivers northern research & development and helps red meat producers improve productivity and profitability. Face-to-face workshops allow producers to develop new skills, learn from others in the industry and access the latest research, leading to effective practice change in their businesses.

Grazing fundamentals EDGE

Foundations for grazing production

A one-day workshop to give you a broad understanding of grazing production system components and the core, scientifically-backed principles to optimise grazing land productivity.



Breeding EDGE

Build a more reproductive herd

A three-day workshop to evaluate the performance of your breeding program and identify strategies for higher productivity and reduced reproductive loss.



Nutrition EDGE

Nutrition fundamentals to hit production goals

A three-day workshop to understand optimal use of supplements and the nutrition required to reduce mortality, improve fertility and boost weight gains in your herd.



Business EDGE

Know your business, grow your business

A two-day workshop to enhance your financial management and improve business efficiency and profitability. You will also develop strategies to deal with financial risk and external market factors.



Grazing land management EDGE

Strategies for long-lasting grazing potential

A three-day workshop to thoroughly understand your grazing environment and strategically manage your grazing business to optimise land condition and productivity in the long-term.



More information



For more information about EDGE:

 mla.com.au/edge-network

To find an EDGE event near you:

 mla.com.au/events

To request an EDGE event in your area, send an email to:

 edgenetwork@mla.com.au

Innovation and new technology

Producers sharing their experience and knowledge of on-farm innovation and technologies



Harry Scott

Willinga Pastoral

E: hscott@juandah.com.au

Bio:

Harry grew up on a family beef operation outside Roma, went away for my secondary schooling in Brisbane and then went on to study Agribusiness at UQ, finishing in 2019. On completion of his degree, he started working with Willinga Pastoral and Packhorse where he still works today. Harry has had numerous rolls within the businesses over the years, however he is now managing the Greenacres Aggregation outside Wandoan. This business will be a breeding operation supporting our other aggregations within the area.

Session overview:

Discussing all facets of how Blackbox works from breeding, backgrounding to the feedlot and carcass. This tool is connecting the supply chain for businesses to be making more informed decisions based on data from their herd. It also allows graziers to benchmark their herds and properties to allow greater decisions making tools to make the businesses more effective.

Key messages:

- How Blackbox is connecting the supply chain for graziers
 - Benchmarking your herd/s and properties
 - Creating more decision making tools that make a difference
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Eustie Hill

Tooloombilla Partnership

E: eustiehill@gmail.com

Bio:

I'm 36 and I grew up on Tooloombilla, north of Mitchell. I did my secondary schooling in Toowoomba and Brisbane. I attended Marcus Oldham College where I studied the one year agribusiness course in 2012. I've been working in the family business for the past 10 years. I live at Meandarra on a 5400 acre property with my wife, Hannah, and 18 month old, Sophie. My brother, George, and I manage three properties running 3,000-4,000 head of cattle in the Maranoa and Western Downs.

Session overview:

Farmbot water monitoring – what we monitor:

- water tank levels
- water flow meters,

Why Farmbot?

- The setup costs were lower than competitors.
- It offered a good range of water monitoring systems - tank levels, flow rates, rain gauge.
- Really good client services.

Impact on business

- Farmbot has allowed us to check waters from mobile phones.
- Due to physically not checking waters as much it creates savings - R&M on vehicles is less, reduction in fuel.

Challenges faced

- Rain gauges not reading correctly.
- Software updates change the parameters of the product.

Future benefits in 5 years time:

- It will make us less reliant on staff to check waters.
- It gives us the ability to turn pumps on and off remotely.
- It enables more mobility of staff between properties.

Has Farmbot helped you make any major business decisions since implementation?

- We have changed some water systems which now have less water capacity - meaning less capital expense.
-



Harry Perrett

Cattle Downs Pastoral Company

E: cattledowns@bigpond.com

Bio:

My wife Erica and I are based at “Cattle Downs”, with our closest towns being Wandoan and Taroom.

We own three properties being Cattle Downs, Mt Maria North in the Morven district and Bonus Downs at Mitchell, totalling 65,000 acres.

We run Santa Gertrudis cattle and we breed approx. 1300 weaners at Mt Maria North and buy approx. 900 head of steers av 220/240kg which we run at Bonus Downs. Cattle Downs runs 1600 head. We sell heavy feeder steers to the feedlots and the rest we fatten and sell to the meatworks.

Session overview:

Optiweigh data collection

- We collect weight gain data.
- It's user friendly
- It takes half an hour once a week to check weights and progress.
- We fill the feed box once a week.

Why Optiweigh?

- Ease of use and transportability.

Impact on business

- Muster knowing approx. what number of cattle in the paddock will meet target market
- Time and cost efficient as only needing to muster when you know they are ready
- Helps assess pasture by watching the cattle weight gain

Challenges faced

- Learning to trust the information.
- One property required a concoction of a more enticing lick to get the cattle to weigh.
- In the beginning we had to establish the curfew between full paddock weight and yard weights. At Cattle Downs we work on a 2.5% curfew between Optiweigh paddock weights and yard weights (mustering).

Future Benefits in 5 years time:

- We see the benefits now, and don't see this changing in 5 years.

Has Optiweigh helped you make forecasted decisions on selling/trading etc?

- Determine when cattle will be saleable.
 - When you are trying to fit cattle into the specs of the feeder steer market, knowing what kilos your steers are reaching in the paddock is very important.
-



Emma King

Echo Hills farming Company

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Bio:

Emma has a background in Agriculture, working in resource management for a number of years. Prior to this role Emma lived and worked on a property at Goondiwindi for 8 years. Emma and her husband, Angus, now manage Echo Hills Farming for Peter and Nikki Thompson.

The business consists of two conjoining properties, Echo and Nugget Hills, which are half-way between Roma and Taroom with a total area of 20,000 acres. Peter and Nikki have their own breeder herd of about 300hd (increasing to 500hd), selling grass-fed steer progeny into local markets. The properties also includes cropping and running of agistment cattle to allow for flexibility in the dry seasons.

Session overview:

AgriWebb Data

- Livestock data management system
- Weight gains and management
- Farm mapping-WH&S
- Calendar for tracking
- Ease of use for all staff on property
- Used daily.

Why use AgriWebb?

- The ease of integration of all aspects of the properties activities and other tech i.e. Cibolabs and Farmbot

Impact on business

- Better management of property: livestock (movements, weight gain, health treatments etc), pastures, ease of staff induction and so everyone is on the same page
- Central data point

Challenges

- Learning to use it to it's full potential
- Linking external products/tech
- Different to what we have used previously
- Working in 'live sessions'
- Takes time to set up properly and have data entered correctly.

Future Benefit to Business

- WH & S
- Reporting capabilities for decision making
- Business transparency
- Paperless

Agriwebb- Assistance with forecasted decisions

- Forecasted weights
 - Identifying empties/culls for selling down
 - Stock numbers and pasture for grazing decisions
 - Grasslands management records- can identify animals no longer eligible (set alerts)
-

Key messages:

- Don't be afraid to trial technologies
- Have a good relationship with your tech provider
- When implementing tech ensure that every product your implement can talk to each other and linking in for ease of use.

Next steps:

- Agriwebb Website [Farm management software - AgriWebb](#)
- Ag Tech Finder Website
[Helping Australian farmers and producers make confident technology decisions | AgTech Finder](#)
- Soil2Soul Website <https://soil2soul.com.au/>



Mitch Koster

DR Fox & MP Koster

E: kostermd3@gmail.com

Bio:

I'm a grazier living in the southern Maranoa region with my wife and 3 three kids. We are a breeding and back grounding operation targeting both the domestic feeder job as well as 100-day export markets. I'm passionate about safe and efficient stock handling. We have been using drones as a mustering tool along side working dogs for a couple years and see great potential in them.

Session overview:

This session will provide information to assist producers with the introduction of drone mustering into grazing operations. Mitch will cover the regulations currently in place, different models and rough pricing, along with some helpful tips on the practical side of mustering with a drone.

He will also touch on some of the new work with drones being explored by Luke Chaplain and Tim McGrath, along with the changes they're hoping to implement within CASA and the industry which will help make drones more accessible for graziers and farmers to use. Whilst it will be a brief overview on the technology, the session will provide a base to start making some educated decisions on how to implement drones into your operation.

Key Messages:

- Drones can help increase productivity within grazing operations, increase safety whilst mustering and drive profit margins.
 - For us, drones are a tool to help overcome labour shortages that the industry is currently facing.
 - Drones are simple and able to be flown by all skill levels of operators.
-

My action items:

Slido code: 2429974



Pasture dieback, rundown and legumes

Pasture dieback – what is happening in the region and what are the solutions?



Stuart Buck

Principal Pasture Agronomist
Dept. Agriculture and Fisheries

E: stuart.buck@daf.qld.gov.au

Bio:

Stuart is a Principal pasture agronomist with the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF). He has over 25 years of RD&E experience in dryland cropping and pasture agronomy. He has coordinated DAF's pasture dieback program for the last 8 years and has worked with other DAF colleagues on pasture rundown including helping graziers establish tropical legumes into grass pastures, including leucaena, for the last 15 years.

Key messages:

- Pasture rundown is the gradual reduction of pasture productivity due to the tie-up of nitrogen in organic matter. It affects all grass-only sown pastures and reduces stocking rate capacity and animal liveweight gain.
- Pasture dieback is the premature death of tropical grass pastures. Dieback is reported to affect all sown grasses across millions of hectares of eastern Queensland in rainfall zones of greater than 600mm.
- The most cost effective solution to both of these issues is to incorporate an adapted perennial legume into the pasture. Establishment technique is critical for success, as is long-term grazing management for persistence.

Next steps:

- Access the Pasture Dieback management guide on the MLA website (mla.com.au) or pick up a copy here today.
 - Download a copy of the Pasture Dieback Identification Guide from the NSW DPI website.
 - Find further information and research at futurebeef.com.au, including factsheets, case studies and webinars.
- For more information contact Stuart Buck (details above).

Notes

Better your business



MLA offers red meat producers a range of educational resources, tools and programs to improve profitability

Training programs/workshops

MLA delivers a range of programs and workshops to equip producers with the latest best-practice knowledge:



MLA resource hubs

MLA has compiled this series of hubs containing relevant resources on a range of on-farm topics:

- **Livestock:** Genetics, beef, sheep, goats
- **Feedbase:** Healthy soils, phosphorus, leucaena, pasture dieback, dung beetles
- **Sustainability:** Carbon neutral by 2030, dung beetles
- **Climate:** Climate, disaster recovery
- **Other resources:** Seasonal resources, COVID-19 resources and market insights hub, mental health, MLA's e-newsletters



mla.com.au/hubs

The toolbox

Self-guided online tools and training packages to upskill anytime, anywhere. Topics include:

- assessing nodulation in legume pastures
- establishing a new pasture
- pain relief use in southern cattle
- pain relief use in sheep
- introduction to MateSel
- soil testing
- visual indicators of soil condition

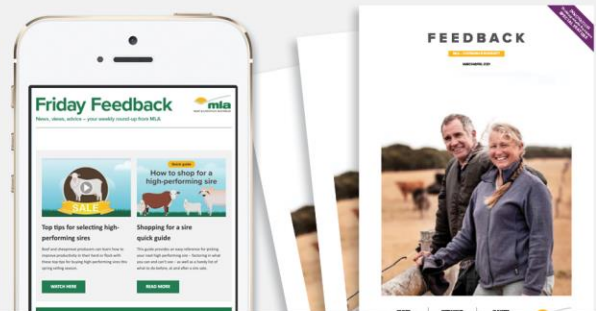


elearning.mla.com.au

Keep informed

Stay ahead with MLA resources:

- **Red meat industry events:** mla.com.au/news-and-events
- **Feedback magazine:** mla.com.au/feedback
- **Feedback podcast:** mla.com.au/feedback-podcast
- **On the ground podcast:** mla.com.au/on-the-ground
- **e-newsletters:** mla.com.au/enews



Become an MLA member today

MLA membership is **free** to levy-paying producers of grass or grainfed cattle, sheep, lambs or goats. MLA members receive the following free or discounted products:



Market information



Discounted entry to MLA events



Publications and information tools



Subscription to MLA's *Feedback* magazine

FREE
to levy-paying
red meat
producers



To become an MLA member call **1800 023 100**, visit mla.com.au/membership or scan the QR code above.

Legumes being trialled and used in the region



Gavin Peck

Principal Pasture Agronomist
Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

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Bio:

Gavin Peck is a Principal Pasture Agronomist working on sown pastures in the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF). He has research and extension experience in pastures, agronomy and grazing land management. Gavin currently leads the sown pastures team for southern Queensland in DAF and leads research, development and extension projects working on improving the productivity and sustainability of sown pastures in Queensland. In particular this work involves improving the reliability and productivity of pasture legumes to improve the performance of sown grass pastures.

Key messages:

- Plant legumes: Pasture legumes have been identified as the best long-term option to increase the productivity and returns from both rundown sown grass pastures and native pastures in the Brigalow Belt bioregion.
- The right legume in the right situation: Select the legume that is best suited considering soil type and fertility, rainfall and climate, short or long-term pasture, summer or winter growing, seed availability.
- Manage for good establishment and long-term production.

Next steps:

- Access relevant resources via the FutureBeef website or pick them up here today:
Leucaena – the productive and sustainable forage legume
Stylos in Queensland – an identification and suitability guide
- To find a Grazing Fundamentals or Grazing Land Management EDGE workshop near you visit the MLA events calendar, mla.com.au/events.

For further information contact:

Louise Walker:

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Gavin Peck:

E: Gavin.Peck@daf.qld.gov.au Ph: 0428 78 3 771

Notes

My action items:

Panel Session



Kay Taylor

Producer Rep
South Queensland Regional Beef Research Committee

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Tom Nixon

Devon Court Herefords

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Rob Lethbridge

Lethbridge Bros

E: Yoyo77@bigpond.com

Bio:

Rob is in a family partnership including his parents, Bob and Anita, as well as brother, Don, and wife, Nadine, and four children, Bae (helicopter engineering), Mia (university), Yas and Oli (boarding school). Rob finished at Toowoomba Grammar school in 1988, then went to Emerald Ag college for two years.

The family run an EU beef enterprise at Taroom as well as a breeding property in northern NSW. They produce conventional cattle for either the EU or certified grass fed markets. They also produce wagyu cross cattle for the 400 day feeder market as well as lot-feeding themselves for a 150 day EU Wagyu market, of which they also buy cattle to fill contracts.

They have dieback of varying degrees on all properties in the Taroom district. It started on the most northern property in 2018 and has only been visible on the most southern since January 2023.



Gavin Peck

Principal Pasture Agronomist
Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

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Stuart Buck

Dept. Agriculture and Fisheries

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Notes

My action items:

Upgrade your skills to drive long-term productivity

MLA's new **Grazing land management hub** can help you upskill and improve the management of your feedbase.

- 
 Attend a BeefUp forum
- 
 Watch a FutureBeef webinar
- 
 Use a tool or calculator
- 
 Complete an online short course
- 
 Sign up for a training program

Hit the road now and improve your feedbase this season.

mla.com.au/grazing

Biosecurity, livestock management and genetics

Biosecurity Update



Jed Taylor

Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

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Bio:



Jed Taylor is a Policy Officer with the Animal Biosecurity Policy Team with Biosecurity Queensland based in Brisbane. Jed's role includes looking after the Cattle Tick Project and other designated restricted matter under Queensland legislation. Jed was a biosecurity inspector based in Roma, where the work included working with landholders dealing with cattle tick outbreaks.

Jed recently worked as a project officer with the BQ Biosecurity Emergency Operations unit, specialising in emergency animal disease preparedness. This work involved biosecurity planning with the saleyards industry and designing and delivering emergency response planning activities for the intensive livestock industries.

Notes

My action items:

FMD and LSD: what you need to know

What's it called?	Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)	Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD)
What is it?	A highly contagious animal disease that affects all cloven-hoofed animals including cattle, sheep, goats, camelids, deer and pigs.	A contagious viral disease that affects cattle (both beef and dairy) and water buffalo.
How does it spread?	Through close contact between animals, by animal products or by the wind.	By biting insects and fomites.
What are the possible symptoms?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fever • drooling • reluctance to move • mouth, snout, tongue, hoof blisters. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • discharge from eyes and nose • decreased milk yield in lactating cattle • high fever • firm skin nodules • loss of body condition.
Where can I find out more?		

Australia is currently free from both FMD and LSD and our priority is to keep it that way.

An LSD or FMD outbreak in Australia would be devastating to our livestock and associated industries through international trade losses, market disruptions, animal health impacts and production losses. FMD alone could cost Australia around \$80 billion over 10 years (Source: DAFF, 2022).

The threat of these diseases entering Australia has increased significantly with the recent outbreak of FMD and LSD in Indonesia.

What's being done to stop the spread?

It's the Australian Government's responsibility to protect Australia from these diseases, and industry, in partnership with MLA, is doing everything possible to support this work.

What the government's doing

State and federal governments are undertaking a range of activities to manage the biosecurity risks posed by LSD and FMD and are actively engaged with industry on prevention and planning. The Australian Veterinary Plan (AUSVETPLAN) is in place as the nationally agreed approach to respond to an animal disease outbreak.

What MLA's doing

MLA, in conjunction with the Australian Government, is working closely with the Indonesian Government and industry on a biosecurity support program to help control the spread of FMD and LSD.

MLA is also an active member of the industry taskforce working on planning and preparedness. MLA's role here as the marketing and research provider for the red meat industry is to support the industry taskforce with technical expertise and investment in potential prevention and treatment solutions, including mRNA vaccines.

What can producers do to stop the spread?

- educate themselves and their employees on the symptoms of FMD and LSD, as well as how to report suspected outbreaks
- meet industry traceability requirements under the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) and complete National Vendor Declarations (NVDs) so they're clear, complete and correct
- review their Farm Biosecurity Plan and improve their farm biosecurity practices
- call the **Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline** on **1800 675 888** if you suspect FMD or LSD in your livestock.

More information

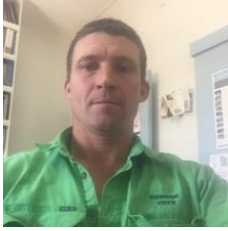


Scan here to view MLA's dedicated webpage about LSD and FMD for the latest information



Scan here to watch this webinar answering frequently asked questions about FMD and LSD

Surveillance for reproductive diseases



Dr. Ian Croft

Taroom Vets

E: icrofty@hotmail.com

Bio:

Ian studied Rural Science at UNE and then went on to complete a Masters in Agriculture at UQ, where he completed a thesis on heat stress in feedlot cattle. He worked at ACC's Brisbane Valley feedlot and then became 2IC at their Roma-based feedlot, Brindley Park. Ian did a short stint in animal health before returning to study Vet Science at CSU in Wagga. He has been at Taroom Vets since 2012 and a partner in the clinic since 2018. Taroom Vets is a predominantly large animal clinic, with 75% of the work being beef cattle pregnancy testing and bull testing. Ian performs herd benchmarking and consulting services to clients spread from Grafton, NSW to Moranbah in CQ and west to the channel country. He conducts fixed time AI programs for approximately 5000 head/year and this figure continues to grow.

Session overview:

Reproductive performance is the most critical profit driver for all cow herds. Hence optimising the reproductive efficiency of the herd is vital if you are to be in the top 25% of producers. We see a broad range of levels of reproduction across a wide range of production systems, breeds, country types. The principles remain the same.

Key messages:

The main impacts on reproductive performance include:

1. Management – body condition score of the female, influenced by stocking rate and timing of weaning. Long or absent controlled joining periods combined with limited to no bull control.
2. Vibriosis (Campylobacter) – incidence is high but varies in the herds which we see depending on their management of the breeder herd.
3. Pestivirus – a disease that is well marketed. I am not downplaying its potential to cause big reproductive loss, however its influence is often overstated especially in extensive systems.
4. Trichomoniasis – Less common, though has a massive impact when present. Movement of cattle and “cheap cows” from the extensive pastoral zones are a high risk.
5. B.E.F or 3-day sickness – This can have a bigger impact than most people give credit, especially in the case of yearling joining heifers. It's hard for a bull to serve a heifer who is lying down.
6. Leptospirosis – doesn't seem to cause widespread reproductive failure but is a human health risk.
7. Neospora Canium – theoretical risk, but we don't see widespread problems.

Next steps:

How to test and check for disease:

1. Demand a professional reproductive examination. PREGCHECK certified vets won't miss uterine pathology or its significance.
 2. Value-add to your preg testing by testing for disease at the same time:
 - Vaginal swab from 10 pregnant and 10 empty heifers at PT time (vibrio antibodies)
 - Blood test for BVDV (Pestivirus) antibodies from a sample of heifers (10 head) 6 weeks prior to mating start date
 - Preputial scrape from a cohort of your oldest bulls at bull testing time prior to culling (Trich).
-

Notes

Putting P supplementation into action



MLA offers red meat producers a range of practical resources, tools and programs to help producers identify and effectively manage P deficiency.

NutritionEDGE



NutritionEDGE is a three-day workshop that provides a comprehensive look at ruminant nutrition to assist producers to better match pasture and feed options to their livestock needs.

The workshop better enables producers to define production targets for their cattle and compare current and predicted performance against these production targets.

[More information](#)

[mmla.com.au/edge-network](https://mla.com.au/edge-network)

Profitable Grazing Systems (PGS) training package on phosphorus for beef cattle



The latest offer in MLA's Profitable Grazing Systems (PGS) program is a supported learning package specifically designed for northern producers encompassing phosphorus management in beef cattle. The package involves group workshops and one-on-one support afterwards.

The package will help producers develop a phosphorus management plan including supplementation strategies and feeding cost-effective supplements. The PGS package will be available to producers in early 2022.

[More information](#)

pgs@mla.com.au

Easy way to feed P and profit



A method of phosphorus (P) supplementation that removes the need to deliver P to stock during the wet season is proving just as effective as traditional methods of wet season P supplementation, according to the initial results of an MLA-funded project.

The strategy, dubbed 'Easy P', aims to provide a more efficient method of P supplementation for producers by including P in dry season supplements and then putting out bulk P before the start of the wet season. This method provides enough P for stock until the next dry season – removing the time, effort and labour required to supplement stock with P during the wet season, especially in areas difficult to access.

After the first few years of the project, which focus on data collection, the Easy P strategy will be demonstrated on commercial properties for producers to be able to see in action.

[More information](#)

mmla.com.au/phosphorus

BreedingEDGE



BreedingEDGE is a three-day workshop designed to help producers evaluate the performance of their breeding program and to consider opportunities for improvement.

This workshop better enables producers to:

- evaluate and improve their existing breeding herd management program
- understand the importance of measures of reproductive performance and reproductive loss
- identify strategies and management to improve breeding herd performance
- develop a management plan and program that incorporates practical, achievable strategies to meet desired objective(s).

[More information](#)

mmla.com.au/edge-network

Other MLA resources



Learn more through 'The toolbox' – self-directed online training, available to use anytime, anywhere.



MLA's phosphorus hub

mmla.com.au/phosphorus

FutureBeef resources



1 Phosphorus supplementation of cattle in northern Australia



2 Phosphorus supplementation video





Tim Emery

Extension Officer
Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

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Session overview:

When selecting the next team of sires for your breeding herd, you're ultimately making a decision that will have an influence on the genetic direction and profitability of your herd for over a decade. With this in mind, wouldn't you want to maximise the use of the tools available to you to make the most informed, objective decision?

This presentation aims to provide attendees with an explanation of the various genetic selection tools currently promoted amongst industry, and provide insight into some genetics focused research projects (past and present) that have developed such tools and are enhancing them for producers to use going forward.

Estimated Breeding Values (EBVs)

Estimated Breeding Values (EBVs) provide an estimate of an animal's genetic merit for a particular trait to assist with driving genetic improvement. Many herds, both within Australia and overseas, have benefitted from their use over the last thirty years, however a large portion of northern beef herds (both seedstock and commercial) have not taken full advantage of them to help drive genetic progress and reproductive performance.

A series of slides will showcase how Producer Demonstration Sites and Progeny Test Programs conducted across various years, locations and breeds have clearly shown that EBVs provide an accurate prediction of genetic merit, with the expected difference in the progeny and the actual difference closely aligning for various traits.

At present you cannot currently compare EBVs across breeds (e.g. Santa Gertrudis vs Droughtmaster), however there are research projects currently being undertaken that are driving the development of multibreed or cross-breed EBVs e.g. Repronomics (Qld & NT), Northern BIN Steer Project (Qld) and the Southern Multibreed Project (NSW).

Repronomics

The Repronomics Project, led by the Australian Genetics and Breeding Unit (AGBU)'s David Johnston, is currently in its second five-year phase and aims to genetically improve female reproduction and build the genomic reference populations of three tropical beef breeds in northern Australia – Brahman, Droughtmaster and Santa Gertrudis.

The project has collected an extensive number of phenotypes and genotypes on current industry-relevant genetics and this provides the northern breeding industry with the unique opportunity to implement genomic selection, increasing the accuracy of selection of young bulls, particularly for important female reproduction traits.

In the first phase of the project, more than 5,800 calves were generated representing more than 320 sires from 119 different studs. The project continues to impact the beef industry, with almost 80% of the bulls sold at the 2022 Brahman Week sale having days to calving EBVs, up from about 20% five-years ago. Cutting edge technologies such as Allflex collars to indicate puberty and use of sexed semen to generate more female progeny have been explored as part of the project with much success.

The Northern BIN Steer project

In the Northern BIN Steer project, the steers generated from the Repronomics Project at the Queensland based research facilities (Brian Pastures, Gayndah and Spyglass, Charters Towers) are purchased by the Brahman & Droughtmaster breed societies, along with a consortium of Santa Gertrudis breeders, and grown out and recorded for post-weaning performance and subsequent full abattoir carcass and meat quality assessments. The current steer mobs are being run not too far from today's forum venue at "Warraka", Taroom.

The Southern Multibreed project

The Southern Multibreed project is undertaking similar comprehensive phenotypic and genotypic data collection to the Repronomics Project, but instead on six breeds (with some crossbreeding of these breeds) - Angus, Hereford, Shorthorn, Charolais, Wagyu and Brahman. Additional linkage has been generated between the two projects, with semen being shared across the border and used in AI programs. Out of interest, UNE's Tullimba research feedlot has been used to measure feed intake and methane in project steers.

Genomic Breeding Values (GBVs)

Genomic Breeding Values (GBVs), developed as part of the Northern Genomics Project, are an example of a relatively new tool currently being promoted to industry and will be touched on briefly. The project was led by QAAFI's Ben Hayes, involved the monitoring of 30,000 females of various breeds and crossbreeds across Northern Australia and led to the development of GBVs for eight traits. GBVs are not designed to compete with technology such as BREEDPLAN (EBVs).

You are now in the driver's seat and have the power to utilise genetic selection tools to make positive genetic changes this coming bull buying season. Right now is the time to act – review your breeding objectives, spend the time doing your homework, identify those seedstock producers going the extra distance to provide you with all the information required, evaluate your current and potential sires and be sure to ask for assistance if required.

Key messages:

- A number of Producer Demonstration Sites and Progeny Test Programs conducted across various years, locations and breeds have clearly shown that EBVs provide an accurate prediction of genetic merit, with the expected difference in the progeny and the actual difference closely aligning for various traits.
- When selecting animals, genetic selection tools such as EBVs should not be used in isolation, but instead in conjunction with fertility, structural soundness and temperament.
- You are now in the driver's seat and have the power to utilise genetic selection tools to make positive genetic changes this coming bull buying season.

Next steps:

- Check out the MLA Genetics Hub for useful explainers – genetics.mla.com.au
 - Find 'how to' factsheets on the BREEDPLAN website – breedplan.une.edu.au
 - Sign up for a Bred Well Fed Well workshop (1 day) or a Breeding EDGE workshop (3 days)
-

An introduction to Breeding and feeding to maximise profit

On the back of a decade of success, the BredWell FedWell workshops have been redeveloped to reflect evolving best practice genetics and nutrition management.

- Develop a customised breeding plan for your livestock enterprise aligned to your profit drivers
- Identify sires and select animals that help you meet your objectives
- Learn about feeding animals well to achieve your objective and maximise your genetic investment



Informative

Presentations and discussions with deliverers and peers



Interactive

Practical and written activities hosted on-farm



Individualised

Learning outcomes you can apply in your own enterprise

So far, BFWW workshops have delivered **\$17.2m*** in total net benefits to participating producers



1.9M

cattle influenced by the BFWW workshop

\$2.98

net benefit per cow mated

639k

breeding females



19.6M

sheep influenced by the BFWW workshop

\$2.48

net benefit per ewe joined

12.7M

breeding ewes

*Calculated as net present value of adoption to 2045, discounted at 5% annually.



New workshops are available for all sheep types, southern cattle and northern cattle production systems. Register your interest to participate or host a workshop.

mla.com.au/bredwellfedwell





Kay Taylor

Producer Rep
 South Queensland Regional Beef Research Committee

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Notes

My action items:

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