

Northern Breeding Business (NB2)

NB2 supports northern breeding businesses by:

- ✓ **Increasing productivity** through reproductive efficiency, reducing mortality, and increasing herd production
- ✓ Improving the **financial viability** of northern beef enterprises
- ✓ **Increasing adoption** of proven management practices and technologies to foster a **long-term, sustainable future** for the northern beef industry



NB2 focuses on improving performance in:



Herd management

Enhance productivity and efficiency by understanding the key drivers of performance



Feedbase

Optimise feed supply and demand for a resilient, sustainable, and productive feedbase



Business

Improve the long-term sustainability and viability of beef breeding enterprises in northern Australia



Practice change

Share ideas and experiences with peers to make changes for measurable improvements to productivity and profitability

Benefits to producers

All producers involved in NB2 will get:

- An **analysis of your business performance** against similar enterprises to identify opportunities and make more informed management decisions.
- **Access to a network** of like-minded producers, industry professionals and the latest research to identify potential interventions that address areas for improvement.
- Funding support to undertake **professional development and training** activities with the group, including presentations from experts, EDGE training courses, conference attendance, or other opportunities.

What's involved?

Working with a group of like minded producers, and the support of a trained facilitator, NB2 will support northern beef businesses over a 2 year period to:

- Collect standardised beef business records which will be analysed to establish baselines for herd productivity, feedbase resilience and business profitability.
- Within a peer group discuss areas for improvement, learn from what others are doing, and identify learning and development opportunities to focus on together.
- Identify potential interventions and repeat annual data collection for measurable improvements to business performance.

FAQs

1. What can we do with the group funds?

Each business's contribution and MLA Donor Company funds will be pooled to create a group account. How the group's funds are spent will be decided on by the group, based on facilitated discussions and consensus on what activities will provide the greatest impact. Examples might include:

- Skill development or training courses, such as EDGE training packages or other workshops
- Registration for relevant conferences
- Bringing in expert speakers to present to the group on topics of interest
- Study tours to see what other top producers are doing and to understand other parts of the supply chain

2. What data will I need to collect?

Using standardised templates, each business will collect metrics that inform key performance indicators for herd, feedbase and business performance. Training will be provided to use these templates. Data that will need to be collected annually includes:

- Opening and closing herd numbers by class
- Sales, purchases, brandings and transfers during the year
- Basic paddock data including average ground cover, watered area, land condition, feed supply and feed consumed

These measures will provide the key performance indicators:

- Kg beef produced/adult equivalent
- Mortality and weaning rates
- Gross profit/kg beef produced
- Productivity and stocking rate compared to carrying capacity
- Feed conversion efficiency
- Trends in ground cover and land condition

3. What will happen to my data?

Data collection templates will be submitted to a third party for analysis, and data integrity, security and confidentiality will be maintained in accordance with the NFF Australian Farm Data Code. Only de-identified and aggregated results for the group will be reported.

4. How much of my time will be involved?

Time required will be different for each individual producer, their current practices and set up, and how much they want to get out of the program.

Minimum expectations include completing data collection templates for herd inventory, feedbase and cashflow, participating in training workshops and engaging in group meetings, which typically occur up to four times a year on a member's property.

5. How much will it cost?

Each business contributes \$2,000 per business per year (plus GST). The MLA Donor Company will also contribute to make a fund the group can use on identified opportunities.

There may also be some other costs in gathering the required information, depending on the individual's situation, and some of the recommended changes could involve capital costs.

Interested?

For more information on how to apply, contact:

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