

Drought and climate adaptation program

GrazingFutures Project Narrative

Collaborating with Biosecurity Queensland

GrazingFutures project members and Biosecurity Queensland staff based at Longreach have been collaborating to improve efficiencies in livestock inspections, producer enquiries and disease monitoring systems. Longreach GrazingFutures team members see a vital need to effectively collaborate with Biosecurity Queensland to allow producers to receive the best assistance from the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. The benefits gained from this collaboration include transferable skills development, increased awareness of current issues in the region, improved producer enquiry response, improved standards of animal disease and welfare management and increased networking opportunities. It is also essential to maintain confidentiality of issues specific to Biosecurity Queensland and GrazingFutures.

GrazingFutures team member, Milly Nolan, has been working closely with Longreach-based Biosecurity Officer, Eil Neal. Having worked together previously to support producers, Eil and Milly furthered their collaboration on a day trip to a Windorah property where blood samples were collected from cattle as part of the National Arbovirus Monitoring Program (NAMP). The property is part of a national network of sites that assist NAMP in monitoring the distribution of economically important insect-borne viruses (arboviruses) that can infect cattle, sheep, goats and camelids. Through testing blood samples and trapping insect vectors, NAMP monitors the distribution of bluetongue, akabane and bovine ephemeral fever viruses.



Images from property at Windorah.

Export opportunities for Australian livestock depend heavily on the confidence trading partners have in the health status of our animals. One of the prime objectives of the NAMP is to facilitate access to markets for live cattle, sheep, goats and camelids to countries that apply import conditions to reduce the risk of introduction of bluetongue, akabane and bovine ephemeral fever. NAMP underpins Australian Government export certification that Australian ruminants are sourced from areas that are free from these viruses.

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Blood samples collected as part of the program are sent for testing. The results contribute to data that allows the distribution of these viruses to be mapped. This forms part of the interactive Bluetongue Virus Zone Map available on the Animal Health Australia [website](#).

The Longreach GrazingFutures team plan to continue their long-standing collaboration with Biosecurity Queensland, aiming to provide the best possible assistance to producers in the area.

Created by: Amelia Nolan, GrazingFutures, DAF Longreach and Ell Neal, Biosecurity Queensland.

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