

Beef extension in the Fitzroy



The Central Queensland beef extension team is comprised of beef cattle extension officers, pasture agronomists, nutritionists, spatial scientists and economists, with staff located in the Rockhampton, Emerald and Biloela Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) offices.

Collectively, the team has more than 150 years of experience in the Queensland grazing industry, with expertise in cattle production and genetics, grazing management and beef business performance. Staff work with producers in the greater Fitzroy River Basin area and the southern end of the Burdekin catchment. They also actively contribute to statewide beef industry research and extension projects, often partnering with natural resource management groups, research institutions and agribusiness. As well as using their own strong technical knowledge and practical industry experience, the Fitzroy team is able to access the resources and skills of the Queensland-wide DAF beef team.



Personalised support and sound advice

Beef extension staff are available to provide advice and one-on-one support to beef businesses across all aspects of land, livestock and business management. DAF staff are committed to providing a free and trustworthy source of best practice information for the grazing industry. With access to the latest research findings, there is no better place to go for reliable information for your beef enterprise. DAF beef extension staff are here to help.

Strength in numbers

Group workshops and field days are an integral part of beef extension in the Fitzroy region. They facilitate networking within the grazing community and peer-learning from fellow graziers. Numerous training and extension activities are held across the Fitzroy region every year and cover a wide range of topics, including:

- beef business analysis
- breeder herd management
- genetics
- grazing land management
- forage budgeting
- National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) database training
- nutrition and supplementation
- sown pasture establishment and management
- workplace health and safety.



Grazing BMP program

The Grazing Best Management Practice (Grazing BMP) program has been delivered in the Fitzroy region since 2009 and has engaged more than 780 grazing businesses managing more than 4.9 million hectares of country. Grazing BMP, funded by the Queensland Department of Environment and Science, is a partnership between DAF, Fitzroy Basin Association (FBA) and AgForce. The program is a free and voluntary online tool designed to help landholders improve the economic, environmental and social sustainability of their grazing enterprise. The program enables producers to self-assess their management practices and identify opportunities to improve business performance.

In the Fitzroy, the Grazing BMP program is delivered in a two-day accelerated workshop format. Over the course of the two days, DAF and FBA staff present best practice information and encourage group discussion. These workshops are very interactive and attendees are encouraged to learn from group discussion.

Graziers are able to re-assess their modules every year to refresh their action plans, and maintain their knowledge of industry standards. Reassessment workshops are held over one day and feature guest presenters and topics that aim to further the knowledge base and improve practices of those attending.

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