



Sweet Spot Project

Improving breeder herd performance through optimal pasture utilisation



Robyn Cowley and Kieren McCosker
Department of Primary Industry and Resources
Katherine Research Station
Katherine NT 0851

Introduction

Breeders need the right nutrition to perform well. Is there a sweet spot of pasture utilisation that will sustainably increase breeder productivity in northern Australia?

Methods

There is an untapped gold mine of breeding herd production data from sites across northern Australia.

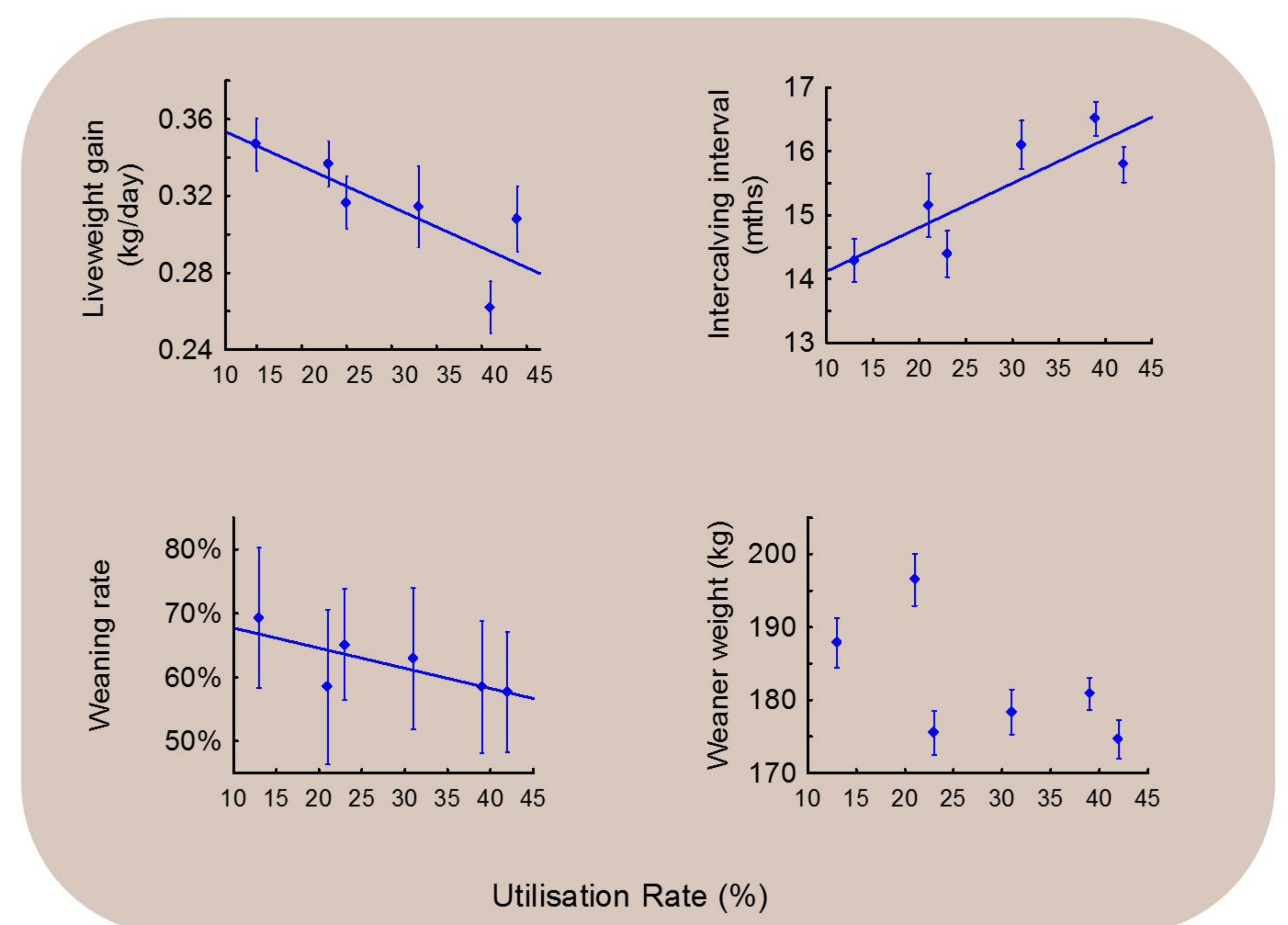
We will use existing datasets to ask new questions, getting the most out of research that has already occurred.

We will collate, analyse and model breeder data to:

- Identify the pasture utilisation rates which optimise breeder productivity
- Improve existing models to predict breeder performance and economics of herd management
- Develop tools to improve breeder productivity and maximise profitability.

Project aims

- Develop tools to predict the impact of pasture utilisation on reproduction
- Help producers optimise pasture use to maximise the kilograms turned off/ha (increase weaning rates and reduce breeder mortality) while maintaining the resource base
- Increase beef production efficiency with a reduced cost of production.



Breeder productivity and steer growth at Mt Sanford, Victoria River District, NT. Average 2003-2005/2006. Bars are standard errors.



Project Timeline	Project Team	Project Budget
2018 - 2022	NT Dept. Primary Industries and Resources Qld Dept. Agriculture and Fisheries Qld Dept. Environment and Science Karingal Systems Trudi Oxley	MLA \$0.7M Total \$2.1M