



**CQ BEEF**  
Information for rural business in Central Queensland

13 25 23 futurebeef.com.au



Get bang for your buck in the wet season

# Phosphorus proves profitable

ON PHOSPHORUS (P) deficient country, the wet season is when the biggest benefit from phosphorus supplementation will be seen.

P deficient cattle have a reduced appetite which means they cannot make use of the high energy and high protein pasture available in the wet season. Supplementing deficient cattle with P results in higher growth rates, higher weaning rates and lower mortalities.

New findings from the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) shows that supplementing P deficient cattle is a very profitable business decision.

There are several ways to supplement cattle with P. It is important to consider cost, infrastructure required and the logistics of delivering the supplement to cattle in the wet season when accessibility can be difficult.

## SUPPLEMENTATION OPTIONS

### Loose lick

MDCP or DCP mixed with salt and or protein meal

■ Pros: Low cost per kilogram of P; can be home mixed or custom

mixed; and the recipe can be adjusted to achieve target intakes.

■ Cons: Shelters are required to protect supplement throughout the wet season.

### Wet season blocks

■ Pros: Weather resistant; and easy to distribute before the wet season starts.

■ Cons: High cost/kg of P; composition cannot

be changed; and target P intakes are often not achieved.

### Water medication

■ Pros: Uniform intake across the mob.

■ Cons: Alternative watering

locations in the wet season can make achieving target intakes difficult; and water quality can cause problems with medicator operation.

It is important to consider

the cost of the supplement and how much P it contains. Higher phosphorus percentage supplements are usually the most cost effective to feed.

Target weight gains are the potential daily weight gain based on the diet quality when P is not limiting.

Supplement palatability is an important consideration in achieving target P intakes. Achieving target intakes in the wet season can be challenging, so time must be invested in identifying the most suitable P source and lick mix, and training animals to eat supplements.

Good supplement intake records are critical to ensuring target phosphorus intakes are achieved and for managing the feeding costs. A free lick intake calculator is available from the FutureBeef website and can be downloaded as an Excel file or a printable document.

For more information, visit [futurebeef.com.au](http://futurebeef.com.au) and search for 'Phosphorus supplementation'.

■ Kylie Hopkins, beef extension officer, DAF Rockhampton, 07 4843 2615.

| Class of animal                 | Weight (kg) | Target weight gain <sup>1</sup> (kg/day) | Recommended supplementary P intake (g/hd/day) for three levels of phosphorus deficiency |           |                      |
|---------------------------------|-------------|--|---|-----------|----------------------|
|                                 |             |  | Acutely deficient   | Deficient | Marginally deficient |
| Steers & heifers                | 200         | 0  | 2   | 1         | Nil                  |
| Steers & heifers                | 200         | 0.3                                      | 4   | 3         | 1                    |
| Steers & heifers                | 200         | 0.6                                      | 6   | 4         | 1                    |
| Steers & heifers                | 200         | 0.9                                      | 8   | 5         | 2                    |
| Steers & heifers                | 200         | 1.2                                      | 10  | 7         | 2                    |
| Steers & heifers                | 400         | -0.3                                     | 2   | Nil       | Nil                  |
| Steers & heifers                | 400         | 0  | 3   | 2         | 1                    |
| Steers & heifers                | 400         | 0.3                                      | 5   | 4         | 1                    |
| Steers & heifers                | 400         | 0.6                                      | 7   | 5         | 2                    |
| Steers & heifers                | 400         | 0.9                                      | 9   | 6         | 2                    |
| Steers & heifers                | 400         | 1.2                                      | 11  | 8         | 3                    |
| Pregnant breeders <sup>2</sup>  | 400         | -0.3                                     | 3   | 2         | 1                    |
| Pregnant breeders <sup>2</sup>  | 400         | 0  | 5   | 3         | 1                    |
| Pregnant breeders <sup>2</sup>  | 400         | 0.3                                      | 7   | 4         | 1                    |
| Pregnant breeders <sup>2</sup>  | 400         | 0.6                                      | 9   | 6         | 2                    |
| Lactating breeders <sup>3</sup> | 400         | -0.3                                     | 7   | 5         | 2                    |
| Lactating breeders <sup>3</sup> | 400         | 0  | 9   | 6         | 2                    |
| Lactating breeders <sup>3</sup> | 400         | 0.3                                      | 11  | 7         | 2                    |
| Lactating breeders <sup>3</sup> | 400         | 0.6                                      | 12  | 8         | 3                    |

<sup>1</sup> Target weight gains are the potential daily weight gain based on the diet quality when P is not limiting

<sup>2</sup> Late pregnant breeders, last three months of pregnancy.

<sup>3</sup> Lactating cows, producing 5 kg milk/day.

**TABLE 1:** Recommended supplementary phosphorus intakes for different classes of country and cattle. Source: Meat & Livestock Australia.

## Farmers urged to apply for \$1000 rebate

NORTH Queensland farmers and graziers can apply now for a share of a \$10.1 million rebate scheme, to assist producers in the Great Barrier Reef catchments to meet water quality requirements.

Sugarcane, banana and beef cattle farmers in reef catchments can apply for a rebate of up to \$1000 each for

seeking agronomic advice.

Eligible graziers and growers can apply for funding for farm-specific advice on how they can meet the new regulations.

The Farming in Reef Catchments Rebate Scheme follows legislation passed in the Queensland Parliament in September 2019, aimed

at improving water quality in the Great Barrier Reef.

To be eligible for a rebate, applicants must be a primary producer of sugarcane, bananas or beef cattle grazing located in the Great Barrier Reef regions including Wet Tropics, Burdekin, Mackay Whitsundays, Fitzroy and Burnett Mary.

Applicants must have sought advice from an Accredited Agricultural Adviser (AAA) and not have received any financial assistance from Australian or Queensland government programs around managing nutrient and sediment run-off on a commercial agricultural property.

Advice must be from a AAA listed on the Queensland Rural and Industry Development (QRIDA) website.

AAAs are qualified and experienced professionals that undergo a rigorous assessment and application process managed by QRIDA. This is to ensure the agronomic advice provid-

ed to primary producers is compliant with environmentally relevant activity (ERA) standards for the sugarcane, banana and beef cattle grazing industries.

For more information and to apply, visit [qrda.qld.gov.au/current-programs/farming-in-reef-catchments-scheme](http://qrda.qld.gov.au/current-programs/farming-in-reef-catchments-scheme).

## CATTLE SHADE

Darling Downs Tarpaulins use shade cloth technology to provide the most effective shade possible.

- Australian made 80% shade cloth • Monofilament for minimal dust retention
- 15 year UV warranty • Beat the heat • Increased productivity



Contact us for more information on design.

**Darling Downs Tarpaulins**

33 Industrial Ave, Toowoomba QLD

**Ph: 07 4634 2166**

**[www.ddt.com.au](http://www.ddt.com.au)**

Fax: 07 4634 7725 | [ddt@ddt.com.au](mailto:ddt@ddt.com.au)




**CO BEEF**

Information for rural business in Central Queensland

13 25 23 futurebeef.com.au



Which pain relief option suits your cattle?

# Choose the right pain relief

PROVISION of pain relief medication to cattle during routine husbandry procedures is increasingly being adopted by beef producers.

The benefits of administering analgesia for castration and dehorning are widely acknowledged and supported by field trials.

There are currently three pain relief products registered for cattle with the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicine Authority (APVMA).

One is local anaesthetic, Tri-Solfen, while two are non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) analgesics, Ilium Buccalgesic OTM and Metacam 20 or Metacam 40.

## ANAESTHETIC VERSUS ANALGESIC

Anaesthetics and analgesics target different areas of the pain pathway.

Local anaesthetics provide short-term pain relief by temporarily blocking sensory function (i.e. numbing the area).

NSAIDs are a type of analgesic which block inflammatory pathways in the body but not the sensory function.



There are currently three pain relief products registered for cattle with the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicine Authority. To find out more visit [futurebeef.com.au](http://futurebeef.com.au) and search 'pain relief'.

## SINGLE OR MULTI-MODAL USE?

Anaesthetics and analgesics can be used individually or together to manage pain.

A local anaesthetic can reduce pain at the time of

the procedure by causing the surgical site to become numb.

As Tri-Solfen is a topical spray (as opposed to an injection), it will only work when applied to exposed

nerves, i.e. following the procedure. An analgesic will not block pain at the time of the procedure but provide a longer lasting pain relief by targeting inflammation as the wound heals.

## WHICH OPTION IS RIGHT FOR ME?

Producers should consult their veterinarian for a comprehensive understanding of the function and application of their chosen product(s)

“

The benefits resulting from administering analgesia for painful procedures such as castration and dehorning are widely acknowledged and supported by field trials.

and to ensure effective treatment, before investing in pain relief measures.

■ Mariah Maughan, development officer, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development Broome, 08 9194 1442.

■ Stephanie Coombes, development officer, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development Broome, 08 9194 1430.

# Time to consider how the season is tracking

COMING into March, it is time to consider how your season is tracking.

Most regions have received some rainfall by now, although totals vary widely across the board.

Is your pasture growth exceeding your animals' demand?

Pasture reserves need to

build up now to support your stock through the upcoming dry season.

Consider planning an end of wet season pasture budget to determine how much feed you have available.

Assess your stock numbers and their body condition, to determine whether management interventions

are required to reduce grazing pressure and weight loss issues.

Tropical grass pastures rely on adequate soil moisture, temperature and day length for growth.

April usually signals the end of optimal growing conditions.

A pasture budget at the

end of the growing season helps to establish how much feed you have for your stock during the dry season.

Comparing dry matter availability to projected requirements allows identification of shortfalls.

Remember, residual pasture needs to be factored in to protect your soil and

promote water infiltration to improve your country's response to the next break in the season.

Knowing you may have a shortfall in available pasture for the stock you are carrying gives you a guide as to how many animals to sell.

Lactating cows in low body condition (backward store)

will benefit from weaning before pasture quality deteriorates to allow replenishment of body reserves.

Your local beef extension officer can assist with pasture budgeting and herd management.

■ Roxanne Morgan, beef extension officer, DAF Mackay, 07 4999 8563.

# McHUGH STEEL

FREE CALL

1800 088 080

[mchughsteel.com.au](http://mchughsteel.com.au)

P 07 4153 6588

F 07 4153 6981

 E [info@mchughsteel.com.au](mailto:info@mchughsteel.com.au)

BUY DIRECT FROM THE SUPPLIER AND SAVE



## FARM SHEDS - CONTACT US FOR A FREE QUOTE TODAY



Colorbond

ENDURO FRAME







**CQ BEEF**  
Information for rural business in Central Queensland

13 25 23 futurebeef.com.au



Department of  
Primary Industries and  
Regional Development



# Store supplements correctly

HAVE you ever wondered how long you can store your supplements and what is best management practice when it comes to doing so?

Perhaps you're looking into how you can handle droughts better and are thinking about purchasing cheap cotton seed when the price is lower.

We have dug up some storage tips from the bottom drawers and brain recesses of past and present beef extension officers.

## MOLASSES

Molasses will store for many years provided it does not become contaminated with water. Water contamination causes rapid fermentation and spoilage.

Molasses and urea mixes (M8U) have been stored for up to eight years, but it is very important that it is thoroughly mixed, so the urea is completely dissolved in the molasses.

Molasses is 40 per cent heavier than water and corrosive, so appropriate tanks are required. Cement tanks need to be lined with a corrosion resistant coating. Poly



Molasses mixes containing protein meal are not suitable for long-term storage as the protein meal will rise to the surface.

and fibreglass tanks need to be heavy duty and have a very sound base. Metal tanks will corrode, so should be kept full when not in use.

More storage and distribution tips:

- Have more storage capacity than the molasses load size. If the tank doesn't have to be empty before each load it reduces the risk of running out.
- The bigger the outlet on

storage and distribution tanks and mixers the better. A 6 inch (150mm) diameter is recommended and no smaller than 4 inch (100mm), otherwise flow is slow. Pipes should be kept

short and at least 4 inch (100mm) also.

- Molasses should be fed into the tank from the base, agitating the molasses prevents impurities accumulating.

## PROTEIN MEALS

Protein meals should be stored in a dry environment, kept an eye on and treated for weevils when required. Keeping rodents away is also a priority. Because poly bags deteriorate with light exposure, enclosed sheds are required for longer term storage. Silos are an option for bulk protein meal and make treating for weevils easy.

## COTTON SEED

Cotton seed can be stored on a pad under tarps if it is well drained. Steep sides help the pile shed water. For longer-term storage, sheds or covered bunkers are preferable.

Remember to watch the economics and overall management. Good herd and grazing management reduce drought risk and the need to drought feed. Regular long periods of energy (molasses, whole cotton seed or grain) and/or roughage feeding are economic and environmental danger signs for a beef business.

- Byrony Daniels, beef extension officer, DAF Emerald, 0427 746 434.

## REEF REGIONS' GRAZIERS INVITED TO JOIN SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS PROGRAM



GRAZIERS from the Burdekin, Fitzroy and Burnett Mary regions are beginning to participate in the new Grazing Resilience and Sustainable Solutions (GRASS) program.

This program provides resources and support to graziers to assist with improving land condition, productivity and profitability and meet their obligations under the new reef protection regulations.

The regulations that

commenced on December 1, 2019 will be rolled out in the Burdekin, Fitzroy and Burnett Mary catchments over the next three years. Under the regulations, graziers are required to record that activities, are being carried out in accordance with minimum practice agricultural standards.

Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) staff will assist graziers with one-on-one property visits and customised mapping to

identify areas of poor land condition and develop Land Management Plans (LMP) to improve land condition.

Tailored to each property, the LMP provides strategies to better manage areas of concern.

Potential strategies include land type fencing, erosion control, water distribution, pasture establishment and stocking rate adjustment.

Participation in the GRASS program will enable

graziers to receive extra personalised support such as nutrition programs and economic analysis.

Eligible graziers can apply for funding to assist in implementing the strategies detailed in their LMP.

The GRASS program is funded through the Queensland Government Reef Water Quality Program and is being delivered by DAF, Burnett Mary Regional Group, Fitzroy Basin Association and NQ Dry Tropics.

**For more information please contact your local DAF extension officer:**

- Burdekin: Alice Bambling, 0421 328 050, [alice.bambling@daf.qld.gov.au](mailto:alice.bambling@daf.qld.gov.au)
- Fitzroy: Matt Brown, 0428 104 248, [Matt.Brown@daf.qld.gov.au](mailto:Matt.Brown@daf.qld.gov.au)
- Burnett Mary: Roger Sneath, 0429 721 926, [Roger.Sneath@daf.qld.gov.au](mailto:Roger.Sneath@daf.qld.gov.au)



**Get the edge with  
Livestock Connect**

**Stay ahead with  
livestock news  
and information that  
matters from across  
the country.**

**Find commercial  
and stud stock -  
all in one place!**

**[livestockconnect.com.au](http://livestockconnect.com.au)**

**Make the connection**

**LIVESTOCK  
CONNECT**





# FLOCK TALK

13 25 23 leadingsheep.com.au



Australian Wool Innovation Limited



Queensland Government

# Do research before you build

IF YOU are considering upgrading your shearing shed, or building a new one, it's important to do your research by looking at different sheds and talking to people in the industry.

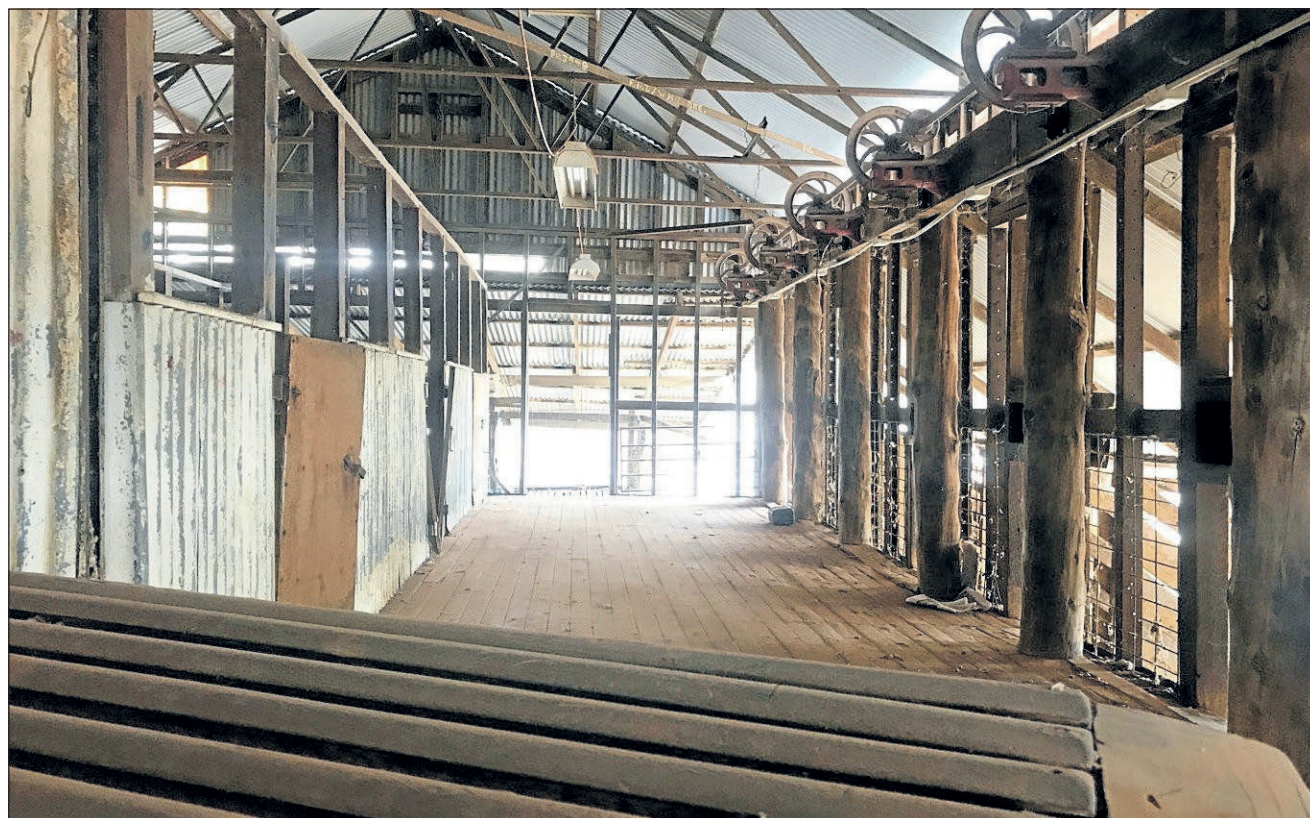
That was the key tip for the 40 attendees of the Leading Sheep shearing shed efficiency and design workshop, held in Longreach in December.

The workshop gave attendees the opportunity to hear from experienced wool growers and industry professionals, including builders, shearing contractors, and representatives from the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Leading Sheep project coordinator, Jed Sommerfield, presented various design approaches to new sheds and shed upgrades, and said feedback from the workshop was very positive.

"Nearly 80 per cent of attendees rated the workshop as highly satisfactory, with many indicating their intention to make changes to their own sheds," he said.

"Producers left the workshop full of ideas about



The Leading Sheep shearing shed design workshop, held in Longreach, highlighted the numerous considerations for wool growers when contemplating upgrades or changes to their shearing sheds.

ways to upgrade catching pens, review their shed safety, upgrade smoko facilities or improve general shed facilities, like lighting and ventilation."

The workshop highlighted

the numerous considerations for wool growers when contemplating upgrades or changes to their shearing sheds, including the safety impacts of various design aspects, how to finance up-

grades, and the importance of planning thoroughly before starting to build.

"We heard from a Longreach based contractor, Marty Smith, who emphasised the critical importance

of thorough planning before building, and getting out and looking at different shed designs in action before making big decisions," Mr Sommerfield said.

"We also heard from the

owner of a shearing contracting business, Raeleen Bowden, who gave us insight to shed design from a shearer's perspective.

"At the end of the day, it's the shearers and wool handlers who are directly impacted by shed design, so things like safety, comfort and functionality are very important to them.

"With safety such an important element of shed design, it was great to see so many attendees take home a Shearing Shed Safety Signage Kit, supplied by Australian Wool Innovation."

The kit contains 36 safety signs, printed on UV-stabilised material with pre-drilled holes for easy installation.

The signs meet Australian standards and legislative requirements nationally, and are a great tool for woolgrowers wanting to improve and meet their health and safety obligations in the shed.

To view the large selection of resource material and the first Around the Camp podcast visit the Leading Sheep website - leadingsheep.com.au.

## IT'S IMPORTANT TO HAVE A PLAN, BUT EQUALLY IMPORTANT TO BE NIMBLE



MOST people in agriculture will tell you there's no such thing as a perfect plan.

In an industry where things are constantly changing, be it the weather forecast, wool price or fodder availability, it's important to understand that the best plan is a flexible one.

As wool growers, there are numerous opportunities to make and change plans throughout the year.

From shearing, to joining, to lamb marking, weaning,

and buying or selling, it's important to have a plan but equally important to be nimble and able to adapt if you need to.

As we know, the importance of planning is no more obvious than in times of drought.

Navigating decisions about feeding, selling and managing your resources in dry times can be complex; but flexibility, learning from experience, and incorporating these experiences into

your approach next time around is an important skill.

There are numerous tools available to sheep producers to help plan a wide variety of activities for their business.

For tools on planning, everything from drought planning to restocking contact leadingsheep@daf.qld.gov.au. To hear more from the Leading Sheep project, subscribe to our monthly *Around the Camp* e-newsletter, follow us on Face-

book @LeadingSheep, and tune into the bi-monthly *Around the Camp* Podcast by visiting leadingsheep.com.au.

Leading the way for a more profitable Queensland sheep and wool industry through new technology knowledge and skills, Leading Sheep is a joint initiative of Australian Wool Innovation and the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, with support from AgForce.

### Four tools for planning

■ Four tools that are free, easy to use and provide accurate information are The Lambing Planner, Feed cost calculator, automatic text message wool market report and WoolCheque. For more information and links to these four tools visit the Leading Sheep website leadingsheep.com.au or their Facebook page.

**Fast FENCER**  
Manufactured in Australia by Warwick Gates

**SAVE ON**

- Time • Labour
- Physical stress
- Reduces fatigue

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
Exclusion fencing increases the value of property? **Call for details!**

**FastFencer, taking the hard work out of fencing!**  
FastFencer, to produce a superior fence from the seat of your tractor!

**FENCEPRO**  
Professional Post Drivers

**YOU CAN RENT ME FOR ALL YOUR FENCING**

**NOW AT BARCADDINE AVAILABLE TO WORK!**

Fast Fencer models from \$5,600 Ex GST

Fence Pro models from \$10,900 Ex GST

**Fast FENCER**  
Manufactured in Australia by Warwick Gates

Ph 1800 062 723 | www.quikfence.com.au

WARWICK GATES PTY LTD | 449 East Street, Warwick

Prices may vary per parent machine due to quick hitch configuration, more models are available depending on job requirements and needs. Call us for more information

HIRE THE COMPLETE FENCING UNIT AND OPERATE IT YOURSELF. SAVE TIME AND BUILD A BETTER FENCE.

• Post driver • 140HP tractor • Fast Fencer  
Suitable for fencing up to 1800 high

**0467 030 390**  
www.quikfence.com.au

**quikfence**

AV3552/75