

Farm Business Resilience Program

Farming from your phone—AgTech collaboration

The Farming from your phone workshop series was delivered with the aim of enabling producers to 'Save time, sleep better, and achieve higher productivity with technology that works together and gives you insights in the palm of your hand.' ConnectAg brought together a range of presenters to provide producers with a forum to consider technology suitable for their enterprises.

These workshops were hosted by ConnectAg in St George and Roma in April 2022. Another workshop was planned for Miles but was cancelled due to low registrations.

The goal was to include complimentary service providers within the AgTech field including primary partners of:

- Agriwebb (John Fargher)
- Cibo Labs (Phil Tickle)
- Gallagher (Mike Hemsley)
- Farmbot (Nick Bradley).

There were also several additional service providers complimenting livestock AgTech including:

- MLA and Integrity Systems
- Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
- Online apps and tools (i.e. Avenza Maps, Stocktake GLM app, Grain & Graze online tools and calculators etc).

Each partnering AgTech business gave a 30 min presentation followed by 15 min question time. Presentations were mostly in person; however, Integrity Systems (Joanna Gangemi) was virtual. After lunch producers had the option to talk 'one-on-one' with any of the presenters to follow up any questions or issues they have as current users, or to work through discussions of best linkages and set up for their enterprise.



Nancy Gray and Cameron Ward from ACC at the Roma workshop.



Workshop introduction by Rhonda Toms-Morgan at Roma Saleyards (photo courtesy of ConnectAg).

Promotion of the events occurred via ConnectAg's networks and AgriWebb, as well as through social media in the region and posting of flyers.

The landholders

The primary target audience were cattle producers, however most of the technologies presented were also applicable for sheep and goat producers.

The workshops had aimed for 30 to 50 registrations per location, however final numbers including service providers were just under 30 for both events. Another goal which proved successful, in some cases, was to get the full decision-making team to attend (e.g. husband and wife, father and daughter/son, etc).

These workshops also brought producers into the room which have not previously been to a GrazingFutures LBR/ConnectAg event. Therefore, broadening the knowledge of the GrazingFutures LBR project across the livestock/grazier population in the Balonne region.

What has changed as a result?

Feedback from all participants at the workshops was very positive. Satisfaction with the workshops was overall rated 9 out of 10 and all participants indicated they had more information with which to make management decisions. Most participants indicated they intended to implement changes to their business because of what they had learned at the workshops.

Some of these planned changes included:

- use more technology for monitoring and collaborating
- use of AgriWebb for recording information
- improve pasture monitoring
- utilise MyMLA
- review current practices and investigate suitable technologies to save time and handling.

As a result of small workshop groups, there was an opportunity for producers to share experiences regarding technology implementation and the benefits/challenges with this.

Other benefits or costs

There was a 'Farming from your phone' webinar run prior to the roadshow due to COVID19 and flooding delays earlier in the planning stages. This attracted producers from all over the country. Being able to send links to the recording of this webinar was valuable for producers across Australia.

Harvest and road closures due to flooding had an impact on attendance numbers for the St George and Roma workshops and caused the cancellation of the Miles workshop.



The AgriWebb Team at the Roma Saleyards.



AgriWebb presenting at the St George workshop.

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