

GRAZINGFUTURES LBR NARRATIVE

Know your herd for sustainable and profitable decision making

Preface

Incorporating breeder management tools into extensive beef enterprises is essential to fine tuning an operation to ensure an efficient and sustainable business. Identifying unproductive breeders, surplus females that may suit other markets, and understanding the nutritional demands of a herd results in better grazing land management and supports proactive future planning and decisions making.

“Hope is not a strategy” IAN BRAITHWAITE

Southern Gulf NRM (SGNRM) has continued to assist and support producers in the region through expanded partnerships to improve business literacy and resilience. The project team continues to support producers to plan for future changes in climate by identifying key business challenges and risks and implementing best management practices to increase resilience to extremes.

Collaborators: Southern Gulf NRM delivered this workshop with the support of Grazing futures LBR, TNQ Drought Hub, Cli-mate and Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF).

Background

Climate extremes are going to happen, how resilient is your business?

Producers navigate uncertainty and complexity every day. Ensuring producers have the tools to empower them to make good decisions is a key focus. A holistic approach to breeder management, including systematically reviewing a herd and their needs in a breeding system is essential to the decision-making process. Informed decision making ensures businesses are more resilient to weather extremes, particularly drought.

The National Drought Agreement (NDA) outlines a joint approach to drought preparedness, responses, and recovery, with a focus on accountability and transparency. It recognizes the need to support farming businesses and farming communities to manage and prepare for climate change and variability; and focuses on enhancing long-term preparedness and resilience.

The individual business risk management plan focuses on improved farm practices, innovative technologies, improved genetics and new varieties and water and energy efficiency. The Drought and Climate Adaption Climate Program supports the individual risk management plans with improved weather forecasting and data, accessible climate information to make better short and medium-term management decisions and improved insurance systems and tools. These are important contributors to improving drought preparedness and business resilience.

This program is jointly funded through the Australian Government’s Future Drought Fund and the Queensland Government’s Drought and Climate Adaptation Program.

Breeder Management Workshop

This workshop provided an opportunity for livestock producers to learn how to improve the productivity of their herd, using pregnancy-testing and fetal aging information to make better decisions, and how to incorporate pregnancy testing as a management tool to balance animal production and pasture use for improved land condition outcomes. Nutritional requirements of livestock at different stages in the production system were highlighted, and what a deficit would mean to production.



Breeder Management Workshop hands on experience

Climate-Mate presented all the most up to date climate tools available to producers, to understand basic forecasting and how to incorporate it into the decision-making process. The impacts of invasive biosecurity matter on land condition were also discussed and the impacts it has on the production system.

Outcome

The producers and their staff who attended all took away key skills and knowledge to implement best practice change in their livestock businesses. These skills and knowledge learnt will support them to further develop their professions in the industry. SGNRM collaborated with project partners to ensure that all livestock businesses engaging in the project are strongly supported.

“Many aspects on how to organize and develop a more beneficial business and improve my herd”

ERIN IMESON, MILLUNGERA STATION

“Evaluate and change Breeder Management Plan in our business.”

LINDSAY BROWN, BOGUNDA STATION

Following the workshop, most participants have seen improvements in their business resilience. The workshop has enabled them to make more informed decisions and plans to help create more opportunities and continue to grow their business in the future. The skills they have taken home have increased their interest in being more involved in the decision-making process and has allowed them to understand the educational reasoning behind the decisions made. Most of the participants expressed that they would recommend the workshop to their peers.

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