



BEEFTALK

Taking stock of your future

13 25 23 futurebeef.com.au



Time to prepare for risk

IT HAS been a disruptive start to the year, with drought and flooding.

While a large proportion of the state is still drought declared, other regions have been inundated by flood waters.

These events highlight the need for planning to prepare for and manage risks.

To help graziers better prepare for and manage risk, adapt to a changing climate and become more resilient, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) has partnered with the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund.

The aim of this partnership is to promote strategies that improve the endurance of rural business through the delivery of holistic farm business resilience planning support.

Led by DAF, the Grazing-Futures Livestock Business Resilience Project has partnered with rural financial counselling services and natural resource management groups to provide a comprehensive extension program which is flexible to producers' individual needs.

Applying for drought assistance

If you are applying for the new drought assistance grants or loans offered through the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority, you will need to submit a comprehensive farm business resilience plan.

DAF has created a self-assessment checklist and Farm Business Resilience Plan template which aims to help producers identify activities to improve their drought resilience.

DAF beef extension officer Jodie Ward said the tem-



Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) is promoting strategies that improve the resilience of rural business through the delivery of holistic farm business resilience planning support.

plate encouraged producers to consider all aspects of their business.

This includes aspects such as the roles of each person and financial, climate and biosecurity risk-mitigation strategies.

"There is a helpful video to step you through the process," Ms Ward said.

"Producers can apply for drought preparedness co-contribution grants of up to \$50,000 for new on-farm permanent capital improvements identified in their Farm Business Resilience Plan.

"They can also apply for low interest rate Drought Ready and Recovery Finance



The instructional video on DAF's Drought Assist website is extremely helpful when working through the Farm Business Resilience Plan Template. I recommend you take your time and make the most of it. The whole thing did take a while but was worth it. We are now much clearer of our current position and where we are headed.

Producer, Somerset region

loans of up to \$250,000 for preparedness measures consistent with their Farm Business Resilience Plan."

For more information about Queensland's new drought assistance program, the Grazing Futures Livestock Business Resilience Project and the Rural Financial Counselling Business Resilience Planning Services, visit:

- www.daf.qld.gov.au/drought-assist
- www.futurebeef.com.au
- www.rfcssq.org.au

The Grazing Futures Livestock Business Resilience Project is jointly funded through the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund and the Queensland Government's Drought and Climate Adaptation Program.

Monitor your land with help of app

WHEN monitoring land condition, the best technique is repeat photography accompanied by detailed notes. The Stocktake GLM app can help you achieve this and more.

"When selecting a monitoring site, the most important thing is to select a location that best represents the area you want to monitor," Department of Agriculture and Fisheries senior beef extension officer Greg Bath said. "Pick a spot that is typical of the pasture species, tree density and slope in your paddock. If you have multiple land types in a paddock, you might like to choose several monitoring sites."

"The Stocktake GLM app has been designed to take out the guesswork of what to record each year. Once the site is set up, the templates prompt the user to record key information such as pasture and soil condition, and ground cover and tree coverage. There is also the opportunity to record pasture species, weeds or other anomalies (e.g. fire)."

Stocktake GLM also features a forage budgeting tool for all grazing systems. The app does not require internet connectivity and is compatible with Android and iOS devices. Download it for free by searching for 'Stocktake GLM' in your app store or visiting www.stocktakeglm.com.au.

■ DAF hosts regular Stocktake workshops. Email info@futurebeef.com.au to register or for help creating monitoring sites or forage budgets.

Maximise your productivity with Australia's #1 Desmanthus



Hard seed suitable for faecal seeding



Add to your dry lick or molasses



Extend your pasture season

Progardes® Desmanthus
Persistent | Palatable | Productive | Perennial



Deep tap rooted legume
Nutritious, high protein
Drought tolerant
Good water use efficiency



Summer growing
High biomass production
Adds pasture diversity
Neutral to alkaline soil pH

www.agrimix.com.au



BEEFTALK

Taking stock of your future

13 25 23 futurebeef.com.au



Faecal seeding is tested

IN SOME areas of Queensland, graziers feed seed to livestock to establish tropical legumes in pastures. But how effective is it compared to conventional pasture sowing methods?

Field research by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) shows conventional pasture sowing is likely to be more effective in buffel grass pasture.

Pasture agronomist Louise Walker said desmanthus seed was fed to cattle grazing a grass paddock on a property near Wandoan, Central Queensland, during the trial, which began in 2018.

"We found faecal seeding resulted in low legume numbers, especially in areas where there was strong competition from established grass tussocks," Ms Walker said. "In this situation, conventional pasture sowing methods would have likely been a better choice."

How does it work?

Seed is mixed with loose lick or concentrate supplement that is consumed by livestock and undigested seed passes through the animal into cowpats on the ground - spread over the paddock wherever cattle travel and camp.

Putting it to the test

A 50-hectare paddock, which was mostly cleared with buffel grass-dominant pastures on Brigalow clay, was selected as a trial area for faecal seeding. The pasture was grazed over the summer and autumn of 2017-18 before the trial began.

"In August 2018, when the pasture was hayed off, a loose lick supplement was blended with uncoated and unscarified desmanthus seed (cv. 'Progardes')," Ms Walker said. "The mixture



A water trough in the 50-hectare faecal seeding trial paddock with low grass competition and higher legume population. The pastures in this photo were being spelled at the time.

went into five troughs, which were shifted around the paddock and refilled every three days. A small scoop of bare seed was added at each refill, which equated to a three kilograms per hectare seeding rate over six weeks.

"Desmanthus seed is naturally hard seeded to allow for unreliable rainfall conditions. Spreading via the rumen of livestock places seed around a grazed paddock to slowly soften and eventually germinate when rain falls."

Results

After four years, there was not enough desmanthus to provide a production benefit in the immediate future.

"A legume population

of at least four adult plants per square metre is needed in the long term, and legumes need to contribute more than 10 per cent of total pasture biomass before measurable production benefits occur," Ms Walker said. "In summer 2021, the plant population peaked at 0.12/m² plants over the whole paddock (roughly one plant every 10m). The highest density was near the water trough (0.48 plants/m²), where there was little-to-no pasture to compete with. Across the paddock where there was strong buffel grass competition, the desmanthus seedlings were much sparser. After four years, the

established population was about 2pc of the target needed across the whole paddock for production benefits."

In summary

The seed and loose lick supplement used in this trial cost about \$5000. While it is a cheap way of distributing seed, faecal seeding creates uneven seed distribution (mostly around stock camps and water) and seeds may have to compete with established grass for moisture.

The method potentially has more likelihood of success in less competitive pasture and in locations with more reliable rainfall.

How does it compare?

Paddock preparation -

such as seedbed cultivation to remove existing plants and store moisture in a fallow for a few months before being sown using a planter - has resulted in very good desmanthus establishment (as many as 35 plants/m²) in other trials on this property.

Preparing the paddock and conventional sowing is more expensive than faecal seeding, however, it can establish 200 times more legume plants.

■ This project is jointly funded by Meat & Livestock Australia and DAF and supported by Agrimix. Visit www.futurebeef.com.au and search for 'faecal seeding'.

Legumes are ideal during dieback

DEPARTMENT of Agriculture and Fisheries researchers have been testing tropical grass and legume species to see how tolerant they are to pasture dieback. DAF senior agronomist Stuart Buck said findings from these trials - along with observations from researchers and graziers across Queensland - were used to compile a list of species and their relative tolerance to pasture dieback.

"Grass species like Biloela buffel, purple pigeon, panics and the native grasses, black speargrass and forest bluegrass are generally at the more tolerant end of the scale," Mr Buck said. "Gayndah and American buffel, bisset bluegrass, pangola, paspalum and sabi grass are consistently heavily affected by dieback. This list is a generalisation - and we do see exceptions - however, the more tolerant species tend to be the last affected."

He said species diversity in a pasture was critical when it came to dieback.

"The impact of dieback can be severe in monoculture pastures as total paddock productivity can be lost."

"We are seeing the importance of legumes in a pasture. When grasses are killed off by dieback, legumes provide high quality feed for cattle. When establishing a new pasture - irrespective of a dieback situation or not - legumes should always be included in the seed mix."

■ Kylie Hopkins, beef extension officer, DAF Rockhampton, 0467 726 349.

Australia's Favourite Tags

Easy application, reliable readability and excellent retention, identifying more Australian cattle than any other tag.

When you need to know it's "All Right", it's "All Good" with Allflex®.



www.allflex.com.au
1300 138 247

® Registered trademarks. Copyright© 2022 Allflex Australia Pty. Ltd, subsidiary of Merck & Co., Inc., Kenilworth, New Jersey, U.S.A. All rights reserved.





BEEFTALK
Taking stock of your future

13 25 23 futurebeef.com.au



FutureBeef video gives advice for producers

Vaccination for healthy herds

FUTUREBEEF recently released a video for producers who want a refresher on best-practice vaccination.

Department of Agriculture and Fisheries extension officer, grazier and veterinarian Andrea McKenzie said in the video that vaccination was important to keep cattle herds healthy and productive.

"Vaccination is usually low cost and there is a quick pay-back if you vaccinate for the right diseases," Ms McKenzie said.

"Here are some of our top tips for effective vaccination."

- Treat your vaccines like you treat your milk. Heat, light and freezing will cause the vaccine to break down, impacting its effectiveness.
- Some vaccines need to be used within a day of opening, while others can be used up to 30 days after opening. Check the label to make sure your vaccine is still effective.
- Check expiry dates. Expired vaccines are likely to be ineffective.
- Use clean vaccine guns. Reusable guns should be



DAF extension officer, veterinarian and grazier Andrea McKenzie gives some good advice in the Vaccination Best Practice for Healthy Herds video, which can be found on FutureBeef's YouTube channel.

- disassembled, cleaned, sterilised, reassembled and calibrated between uses. Disposable guns should be discarded after use.
- Use clean, sharp needles.

- Replace them often to keep them sharp.
- Use 16-gauge half-inch needles for adult cattle and 18-gauge needles for calves.
- Always have spare guns

- and needles on hand.
- Avoid vaccinating cattle in the rain or in extreme dust. These conditions will increase infections and abscesses.
- Never inject two vaccines

- in the same spot. Try to keep them at least a hand span apart.
- Read and follow the instructions for storage, handling and use of vaccines. The instructions

will give you important information about the timing of vaccinations and the need for and timing of booster shots.

Ms McKenzie said cattle vaccines - such as botulism, leptospirosis, vibriosis, 5 in 1 and 7 in 1 - should be given under the skin in the neck.

Keeping the needle at 45 degrees and the bevel parallel to the skin allowed the needle to rest under the skin but above the muscle, she said.

"Remember you need to keep good vaccine records for your Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) accreditation," she said.

"Records to be kept include vaccine name, date, number of doses used, batch number, dose rate, withholding period, expiry date and who administered the vaccine."

- Templates for vaccine record keeping can be found online at www.mla.com.au/lpa
- Head to FutureBeef's YouTube channel to watch the video. For further advice, contact your local veterinarian or beef extension officer.

Preconditioning feedlot cattle is important

WHAT do feedlots look for in backgrounded cattle? Sarah Donovan, of Donovan Cattle Co, shares some advice with FutureBeef.

We maintain a commercial breeding operation and buy in weaners to fully stock our backgrounding block. We operate a small feedlot which allows the finishing

of our cattle, the buying in of feeders when the market allows, and the custom feeding of outside cattle.

The preconditioning of feedlot cattle is paramount to good performance. Early vaccinations and follow up boosters, tick/worm control, and a low stress weaning program prove highly favour-

able to good average daily gains (ADGs). Maintaining good rumen health via solid nutrition is also important. Feedlots obviously chase consistency in performance and will pay a premium to acquire cattle from proven suppliers.

We get a variety of animals into the feedlot and those

that are drought affected have a much slower start than those that have had good nutrition. It can take these animals two to three times longer to move on to a finisher ration - therefore, overall ADG can be greatly impacted. We've seen variances in ADGs from 0.4 to 0.8+ kilograms and higher

mortality rates, mainly due to impacts of prior nutrition and lack of handling. Genetics play a role as well.

Thorough mob socialisation well in advance of feedlot entry is also important. The mixing of mobs on entry increases stress and in turn the instances of bovine respiratory disease (BRD),

which is the most common cause of death in feedlots.

Where possible, feedlot cattle should receive all treatments in advance of feedlot arrival - including vaccinations, tick/worm control and HGP.

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

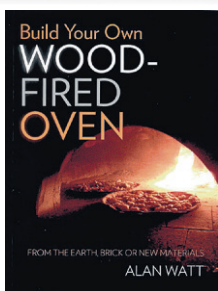
*Warm Up
This Winter*

BUILD YOUR OWN WOOD-FIRED OVEN

Alan Watt

From the historical development of ovens, how to build the chimney and dampers, casting an arch and finally a selection of recipes, this book truly displays the diversity of wood-fired ovens.

\$32.95



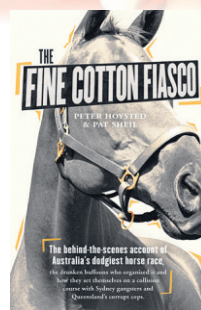
ruralbookshop.com.au

THE FINE COTTON FIASCO

Peter Hoysted & Pat Shell

Brisbane, 1984. It all started with a simple plan to secretly swap a mediocre horse with a faster one, and rake in the cash with a few well-placed bets. What could possibly go wrong?

\$43.99

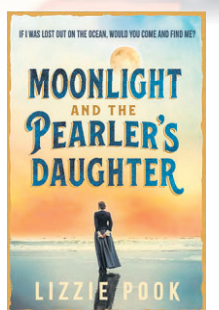


MOONLIGHT AND THE PEARLER'S DAUGHTER

Lizzie Pook

Western Australia, 1886: As the pearling ships return to Bannin Bay after a long diving season, twenty-year-old Eliza Brightwell nervously awaits the arrival of her father's boat. But when his lugger finally limps in, it brings with it a tale of tragedy: Charles Brightwell, master pearler, has gone missing at sea.

\$40.99



How to order

ONLINE www.ruralbookshop.com.au **EMAIL** ruralbookshop@theland.com.au
PHONE 1800 025 308 **POST** Rural Bookshop, PO Box 399, North Richmond, NSW, 2754.
(Money order or cheque made payable to Rural Bookshop) All prices include GST, postage and handling.

rural
bookshop





BEEFTALK

Taking stock of your future

13 25 23 futurebeef.com.au



Self herding hits jackpot

DURING the dry conditions of 2019, Lyndavale and Mount Ebenezer station owners Ross and Joanne Stanes opened up previously ungrazed areas and installed a lot of new watering points.

Located 260 kilometres south-west of Alice Springs, the properties carry 7000 cattle over 5300 square kilometres. A major challenge of grazing this country is cattle spend most time within 3km of the watering points.

The Stanes decided to try self herding using attractant stations to encourage cattle to graze pasture around the new watering points rather than returning to familiar watering points.

Attractant stations use visual, sound and scent cues associated with variable food rewards to attract cattle. The stations are placed in a familiar location until the cattle learn to associate an attractant with a food reward.

The food rewards vary and are offered semi-randomly so they do not become predictable for the cattle.

They use a wind chime made out of an old metal road sign with a chain and piece of poly pipe attached.

"The sign provides a visual cue and the poly pipe works as a wind-catcher so the chain bangs against the steel to create a sound cue," Mr Stanes said. "Raspberry cordial is sprayed around the attractant station to create a scent cue. We have achieved good results using two drums containing food rewards - one with a supplement (usually phosphorous) and the other a jackpot."

Jackpots are highly desirable rewards that are paired with their own unique sound cue and intermittently provided to the cattle. This varia-



Lyndavale and Mount Ebenezer station owner Ross Stanes says his cattle are so drawn to the attractant stations that they run towards them while they are being set up.

bility encourages a high level of anticipation.

"A splash of molasses attracts a strong response," Mr Stanes said. "One of the keys of self herding is to regularly change the reward and to offer it sparingly so it retains its novelty value. Once they are familiar with attractant station, they will follow it to new locations, making it easier to manage grazing pressure."

Mr Stanes sets up an attractant station in an area with no cattle activity and returns several days later.

"Using attractant stations has decreased the time involved in familiarising cattle with a new watering point," he said. "Previously, once

Cattle learn to associate the attractant station with the food reward and regularly visit.

the cattle were moved to new water, they would often head back to the old watering point. It could take up to a week to familiarise cattle with a new watering point but now it takes one day.

"We have integrated self herding techniques into our current supplementation program, so there has been no significant increase in

workload - and we save time and money associated with moving cattle back to new watering points."

Mr Stanes believes self herding techniques are an investment in the future.

"I understood how using the attractant stations could work but I wasn't expecting the response. It has amazed me how well it has worked."

The Stanes plan to make more wind chimes for the supplement drums near each of their watering points and turn them into static attractant stations. They believe their cattle have a better response to a mixture of reliable and predictable stationary placements and dynamic stations that are moved around the property.

■ For more information about Central Australian Self Herding project, visit futurebeef.com.au and search for 'self herding' or contact Northern Territory Government pastoral technical officer Lakota Taber on 08 8951 8144 or lakota.taber@nt.gov.au.

Record pasture dieback with app

THE Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) has created a new app that allows graziers to record pasture dieback from the paddock.

Landholders are encouraged to keep an eye out for pasture dieback, which has been reported in parts of southern, central and northern Queensland in recent months.

By taking a few minutes to upload information and photos to the Pasture Dieback Survey app, Queensland landholders can help researchers learn more about the spread of pasture dieback.

In areas with poor reception, data can be saved and uploaded later to the app.

Pasture dieback is a condition that stunts growth and kills productive pastures.

Once affected, pastures can die within one season.

Research indicates the pasture mealy bug is often a primary factor in pasture dieback.

But a range of pathogenic organisms and environmental factors are likely to be involved in pasture dieback cases.

Diagnosis of pasture dieback is complicated due to similarities with other conditions.

If you suspect you have pasture dieback, please report it by using the app or calling DAF on 13 25 23.

Meat & Livestock Australia contracted DAF to create the app, which can be downloaded for free from the App Store or Google Play.

Say Kia Ora to a land cruise **Explore New Zealand Carefree**

5 Day Queenstown Winter Adventure

SAVE
\$220
PER COUPLE

9 Day Southern Dream

SAVE
\$1228
PER COUPLE

16 Day Ultimate NZ

SAVE
\$2228
PER COUPLE

explore

book.exploretravel.com.au

Your one stop travel destination. With exclusive offers you won't find anywhere else.

BOOK
NOW



*Terms and conditions apply: Prices are correct as at 1 June 2022 and are subject to availability and change without notice. Visit our website for full terms and conditions <https://book.exploretravel.com.au/>. Prices are on sale until 30 July 2022 unless otherwise stated or sold out prior. Price stated is per person twin share. Travel dates vary for each offer. Seasonal surcharges and blackout dates may apply depending on the date of travel. Airfares are additional.



FLOCK TALK

13 25 23 leadingsheep.com.au



Wool is so much more than just winter wear

AS THE temperatures drop and we find ourselves reaching for warm clothes, it's worth considering how much of our wardrobes contain wool and how technology has changed the way we wear it.

Long gone are the itchy, heavy jumpers we once knew. Modern wool textiles are designed to be worn next to the skin in garments ranging from underwear to baby onesies, knitwear, luxury fashion and high-performance activewear.

Department of Agriculture and Fisheries extension officer Jed Sommerfield said textile and fashion industries were showcasing the benefits of Australian Merino wool in their marketing campaigns to appeal to new generations of consumers.

"The technology used to create modern wool textiles is highly sophisticated, resulting in lightweight, comfortable and soft-to-the-touch wool garments," Mr Sommerfield said.

"Wool is breathable, meaning it changes with your body temperature so you're never too hot or too cold. It is also naturally resistant to odours, stains and wrinkles, so it requires less washing.

"Different garments have different washing methods, however, most wool garments produced today can go in the washing machine and don't need to be hand-washed.

"Wool has a natural ability to absorb and release twice as much moisture vapour as cotton and 30 times as much



Modern Australian wool can be worn next to the skin in a huge range of garments, from underwear to baby onesies, knitwear, luxury fashion and high-performance activewear.

as polyester. Wool is the only natural fibre that is hollow. The fibre is coloured from the inside out during the dyeing process, creating a more vibrant, longer-lasting colour. It is fine enough to go through a custom printer and have an image directly printed onto it."

While wool is perceived by some to be an allergen when worn directly against the skin, several recent scientific studies found no evidence of this. Published by Australian researchers in 2017, the aptly named report *Debunking the Myth of Wool Allergy: Reviewing the Evidence for Immune and Non-immune Cutaneous Reactions* found wearing superfine Merino wool could be beneficial for



eczema sufferers.

Mr Sommerfield said the Australian wool industry's sustainability credentials were another key consideration for consumers and something woolgrowers should champion.

"According to the latest *Pulse of Fashion* report, 75 per cent of consumers sur-

veyed (in China, US, UK, France and Brazil) view sustainability as extremely or very important. Furthermore, 38pc of consumers report actively switching from their preferred brand to another because it credibly stands for positive environmental and/or social practices," he said. "The eco-cre-

dentials of wool are a major asset for the industry. Wool is a natural, renewable and biodegradable fibre and its long lifespan means you can wear it for longer. "As wool is 100pc biodegradable, it does not contribute to microplastic pollution on land or in our oceans - as opposed to polyester, acrylic, nylon and other synthetic fibres which are made from petroleum, oil or basically plastic."

There are a range of online resources explaining how to care for your woollen garments, including how to remove stains and wash, dry and store them to ensure their longevity.

■ Check out these tips at www.woolmark.com/care.



Who wears your wool?

The ability for modern wool garments to be worn all year round makes it the fibre of choice for many sporting teams and organisations.

Most recently, Australian wool was showcased in the formal uniform of the 2022 Australian Olympic Team. The uniform included wool coats, knitwear and scarves created by fashion lifestyle brand Sportscraft, Australia's longest-serving Woolmark licensee.

Australian outdoor clothing brand and Woolmark licensee XTM provided Merino base-layers and accessories to all Australian Winter Olympic Team athletes and team officials at Beijing 2022.

This includes the Merino Woolzy - a one-piece top and bottom base-layer made from 20.5-micron, 100 per cent Australian Merino wool.

The iconic baggy green worn by Australian Test cricketers are also Australian wool.

The Flock to Baggy Green project saw more than 400 woolgrowers from across Australia donate wool to help create the next batch of baggy green caps.

The volume of donated wool was enough to cap the next 100 years of Australian Test cricketers.

The uniforms worn by female members of the Navy, Army and Air Force feature woollen items produced by Australian-based clothing brand and Woolmark licensee - Farage.

Horse Deals

Available at all good newsagents, saddlery and produce stores across Australia

Facebook Instagram Twitter

ON SALE NOW!