


NORTHERN MUSTER

Information for rural business in North Queensland



Stakeholder strength in collaboration

United front on disease risks

THE Queensland Government's recent announcement of \$22 million over five years, followed by an ongoing annual investment of \$2.4 million, will boost prevention and preparedness for biosecurity emergencies to ensure the protection of Queensland livestock and supply chain industries.

Activities will further strengthen prevention and preparedness efforts in response to the threat of emergency animal diseases including Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD), Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and African Swine Fever (ASF).

Queensland and Australia remain free from Foot and Mouth Disease, Lumpy Skin Disease and African Swine Fever.

An incursion would have the potential to cause significant and far-reaching impacts to Australia's livestock industries, including considerable economic losses and restrictions.

Queensland's Chief Veterinary Officer Dr Allison Crook said the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries was working with other government departments and



LUMPY SKIN DISEASE CAUSES SWELLING OF LYMPH NODES ACROSS THE ANIMAL'S BODY. PHOTO: AW Coetzer, E Tupparainen, S Babiuk and DB Wallace.

key livestock industry and supply chain stakeholders to ensure emergency animal disease preparations were timely, informed and united.

"We know the key to Australia's defence is vigi-

lance, early reporting and ensuring every livestock supply chain enterprise has adequate biosecurity measures in place," Dr Crook said.

"We continue to collaborate with our livestock

industry networks and are encouraging everyone along the supply chain to look, report and protect."

Livestock owners know their animals best. Key actions you can take now are:

■ **LOOK** - for and know the signs of emergency animal disease such as Foot and Mouth Disease, Lumpy Skin Disease and African Swine Fever

■ **REPORT** - suspect cases of

Foot and Mouth Disease, Lumpy Skin Disease and African Swine Fever to your veterinarian and the Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline on 1800 675 888 immediately

■ **PROTECT** - your livestock and livelihood

■ Have a biosecurity management plan that it is being followed by everyone who visits your property. To create a farm biosecurity management plan or for more information visit farmbiosecurity.com.au

■ Ensure your Biosecurity Entity registration is up to date. Registration helps to quickly locate animals and contact livestock owners in the event of an animal disease emergency in Queensland. Visit qld.gov.au/BiosecurityRegistration

Keep up to date with the latest developments about emergency animal diseases at daf.qld.gov.au.

You can also check out our emergency animal disease preparedness eHub.

This brings together resources at daf.engagemen-thub.com.au/animal-disease-preparedness.

Valuable leaders forum a success for sector

MORE than 40 people attended the Advancing Beef Leaders (ABL) Forum in Townsville from July 12 to 14 this year.

Developed by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) and private training and facilitation specialists three years ago, ABL is a well-regarded leadership

and professional development program for Queensland's beef industry.

The forum brought together past and present ABL participants from North Queensland, Central Queensland, North-West Queensland, Maranoa and Far North Queensland.

Focusing on "The chal-

lenge of leadership: Vision, Adversity and Vulnerability", the forum incorporated workshop sessions and guest speakers, including Senator Susan McDonald, Camm Agriculture chief executive officer Bryce Camm, Meridian Agriculture director Dr Mike Stephens and DAF beef and sheep regional manager

(North) Brigid Nelson.

Participants had a guided tour of the Queensland Country Bank Stadium and Cowboys Centre of Excellence, learning about the great community leadership of the Cowboys Community Foundation.

They also attended a formal dinner and graduation

ceremony for the first three ABL cohorts.

ABL is a tailored program that aims to skill and enthuse those who wish to become more involved in community and industry organisations.

It overlays relevant technical skills and industry-issue awareness with appropriate self-development, encour-

aging participants to build stronger networks and spark the confidence needed to contribute and influence.

ABL is jointly funded through the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund and the Queensland Government's Drought and Climate Adaptation and Reef Water Quality Programs.

Rockhampton

BRAHMAN WEEK SALE

3RD, 4TH AND 5TH OCTOBER 2022 - CQLX GRACEMERE

884

Red & Grey Bulls

A POMPE'S TESTED FREE SALE
INCLUDING 388 POLLED AND SCURRED

180 studs selling the best of their bulls

CATALOGUE AND PHOTOS ONLINE | WEBCAST AND ONLINE BIDDING
www.brahman.com.au | www.stocklive.com.au

2021 - 51% OF BULLS
SOLD FOR \$10,000 OR LESS

MONDAY & TUESDAY
Greys
TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY
Reds



NORTHERN MUSTER

Information for rural business in North Queensland



Genetics a key driver of success

Search was on for best steers for the 100-day grain fed market

JAMES and Aleisha Pisaturo, from Inga Downs, took home the title of Clermont Cattle King and Queen for the second year in the 2021/22 Clermont Cattlemen's Challenge.

Fifteen exhibitors each entered five steers, which were judged on their suitability to grow for the 100-day grain fed beef market.

Points were awarded for first to fifth place, with a bonus point for every steer under the 320 kilogram optimum weight.

They were agisted at Wall-ton Downs from May 25, 2021, to February 2, 2022, then completed 100 days of grain feeding at Paringa Feedlot.

On the sunny - but muddy - morning of May 13, exhibitors met at Paringa to select their best steers to compete in the Beef Show as a pen of three suitable for the 100-day grain fed market.

Another steer was selected to be processed at JBS Rockhampton and judged as a carcass, with a cube roll returning to Clermont for judging in the annual Taste Test Competition.

The Pisaturos snuck home with 15 points - one ahead of

Paringa and Bendemeer.

Their steers placed fifth, fourth, second and third in various classes, all starting the competition at less than 320kg.

The winners of each section contributing points to the final score were:

- Charlton Park: Pen of 5 Steers Most Suitable to Grow for the 100-day Grain-fed Market (2021), sponsored by The Hall Family Pty Ltd, Brennan Mayne Agribusiness, Westpac Agribusiness, Elanco and Zoetis.

- Paringa: Pen of 3 Steers with Highest Overall Weight Gain, sponsored by Suncorp and FMC.

- Paringa: Pen of 3 Steers Suitable for the 100-day Grain-fed Market, sponsored by ANZ Agribusiness.

- Mt Douglas: Carcass Competition, sponsored by Mick and Amanda Clark.

- NIX Cattle: Taste Test Judges Choice, sponsored by Jan and Vic Appleton and FMC.

- Inga Downs: 2022 Cattle King and Queen, sponsored by Apiam Clermont Veterinary

Services and Jaxonbilt Hats.

Three additional prizes awarded were:

- Paringa: Highest Weight Gain on Grass

- St Omer: Highest Weight Gain on Grain

- Nix Cattle: Consumers' Choice Taste Test.

The Wilkinson Family hosted exhibitors and the wider community at Wall-ton Downs on November 5, with competition steers on display.

Simon Kensit, of Goonoo Feedlot, shared practical tips about selecting cattle to lot feed.

Lara Landsberg, of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF), reviewed the performance of the 2020/21 steers and provided forward projections for current steers.

John Burnett, director of The Burnett Group of Companies, hosted a "where to from here?" session, inviting attendees to share ideas about future directions and topics of interest for the challenge.

The day finished with a barbecue sponsored by FMC.



Keely Potts, of Apiam Clermont Veterinary Surgery, with 2021/2022 Clermont Cattlemen's Challenge King winner James Pistauro.

The competition steers averaged just over 0.5 kilograms per day during their grass phase.

There was more than 500 millimetres of rain occurring consistently from mid-June 2021 until January 2022.

The steers had an average feedlot performance of 1.7kg/day.

Some hot weather mid-way through, and a few days of rain just before the finish, may have reduced intakes.

As with previous years, the variation in performance within some pens remained broader than the variation between pens.

The range between aver-

age pen weights in May 2021 was 83kg, with 15 individual steers starting heavier than the recommended 320kg.

The biggest variation within pens was 80kg.

By May 2022, the variation between pens had spread to 138kg.

But the variation within pens was up to 168kg.

Given these steers were all run under the same environmental conditions for 354 days, genetics within properties must be playing a significant role in performance.

The Taste Test competition was held on Monday May 23, following the Beef Cattle judging.

The official judging panel was: Central Highlands Showgirl 2021, Meg Grogan; Maccalyn Langtry, a student at Capella Senior High School; James Warren, from East Coast Drones; Pat Luck, from Elders Clermont; and ANZ's Jamie Walker.

A unanimous decision was made by the judges and consumers that Clermont pharmacist Grant Oswald's Gelbvieh-cross steer produced the best tasting steak.

The top-placed cube rolls from the Taste Test were auctioned

This raised \$40,400 for the Royal Flying Doctor Service and CQ Rescue.



FAECAL SEEDING

Sustain your pastures and boost your productivity

Progardes® Desmanthus hard seed is well suited to dispersal by cattle and horses.



Driving Pasture Productivity

- ✓ Palatable
- ✓ Excellent seed recruitment
- ✓ Natural hard seed coat
- ✓ Untreated

Progardes® is Australia's #1 Desmanthus

1300 979 395 | www.agrimix.com.au



NORTHERN MUSTER

Information for rural business in North Queensland



The secrets to supplementing

MANY producers in north and north-west Queensland are supplementing cattle.

But how can they tell if they are getting the most from this investment?

Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) senior beef extension officer Bernie English said to be cost-effective, supplementation programs must address the primary limiting nutrient first.

"Animal performance will be limited by the availability of the most limiting nutrient and supply of other nutrients will have no effect until this is corrected," he said.

In the dry season, the primary limiting nutrients are typically protein, then energy, then phosphorus.

"Protein levels in pasture drop off as the dry season progresses, so protein becomes limiting first," Mr English said.

"Energy becomes limiting when there isn't enough feed, or the feed is of very low quality.

"Low-quality feed becomes indigestible and provides low amounts of energy in the diet.



It is important to know how cost-effective a supplement is, given expected cattle performance.

"Compounding this is the resulting low intakes of pasture.

"Both the quantity and quality of feed are important."

Mr English said phospho-

rus could be the limiting nutrient in acutely-deficient country, with demand for phosphorus higher during lactation and growth.

During the wet season, phosphorus becomes the

primary limiting nutrient on phosphorus-deficient country, he said.

"Responses to phosphorus supplementation will be greater during the growing season," he said.

"On certain areas of 'ba-salt' country, phosphorus will be adequate, but levels of salt and sulphur may limit production."

Mr English said mature, dry pasture was usually low

in protein. This results in reduced activity of rumen microbes, prolonging digestion and reducing intake of pasture.

"Providing a small amount of protein - 150 grams per day for dry pregnant breeders or 75g per day for weaners - may reduce weight loss and, in the very early dry season, may allow dry stock to make slight weight gains," he said.

"Correcting protein deficiencies for lactating cows in the dry season is much more difficult.

"Urea dry licks may not supply enough protein to correct the shortfall, due to the high requirements of lactation."

For more information about supplementation of northern cattle herds, search 'Nutritional management of breeders' at www.futurebeef.com.au.

There is a host of information available online at www.futurebeef.com.au, including the recently-updated 'Dry season management of a beef business' guide. You can also access DAF guides for feeding and supplementing weaners.

GETTING TO THE HEART OF BEEF GRAZING ESSENTIALS AT DAF WORKSHOP



WANT a better understanding of the components of the grazing production system and scientifically-backed principles behind optimising grazing land productivity?

Join Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) senior beef extension officer Megan Willis for the Grazing Fundamentals EDGE workshop in Townsville on 13 October.

Personalised to your business, this workshop

will help you develop a climate profile for your property and identify key areas for grazing management.

You will learn key concepts such as:

- conditions that drive pasture growth
- how to better align herd management with seasonal changes in pasture condition
- how to assess land condition and its impact on carrying capacity.

Ms Willis has been delivering GLM EDGE in the Townsville region for more than 10 years, with participants giving positive feedback such as "great workshop - informative and practical" and "very beneficial and well presented".

Discounted workshop prices are possible thanks to the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Reef Grazing Extension Services through the Queensland Government Reef Water

Quality Program. Tickets cost \$250 per person (inc GST) for the first person from a business (usually \$825) and \$165 for each additional participant from a business.

Tickets include the workshop, workshop notes, a workbook and catering. To register, go to www.eventbrite.com.au/e/grazing-fundamentals-edge-tickets-394110504127 or email megan.willis@daf.qld.gov.au.

EDGE WORKSHOP

Attending this workshop will help you:

- Better understand the connection between land condition, pasture growth and animal production
- Allow for climate variability when planning livestock management
- Recognise the dominant land types in your region and on your property.

Access to all our newspapers from across the nation - online

Digital subscribers have access to digital version of each of our weekly agricultural print editions: **The Land, Queensland Country Life, Stock & Land, Stock Journal, Farm Weekly and North Queensland Register.** This Week's Paper lets you flip through and zoom in on every page. We suggest tablet, laptop or desktop for the best reading experience.



Unlock unlimited access now for only **\$4.40/week***

*Billed monthly at \$19.00



northqueenslandregister.com.au/subscribe

NORTH QUEENSLAND
REGISTER
part of the **ACM** Agriculture network



NORTHERN MUSTER

Information for rural business in North Queensland



Prepare for wet season

PREPARED northern pastures and cattle for the wet season is a key tactic to boost productivity in beef businesses.

As the end of the dry season approaches, northern beef producers will be trying to maintain as much ground cover as possible going into the 2022/2023 wet season.

As plants can only use water when it becomes available as soil moisture, maximising rainfall infiltration through ground cover is critical.

Producers are advised to maintain ground cover of more than 50 per cent in the lead-up to the wet season.

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) Western Australia development officer Matthew Fletcher said now was an extremely good time to start planning for the upcoming wet season.

"At the start of the wet season, grasses produce green leaf from energy stored in roots," he said.

"If new shoots are continuously grazed and plants don't have an opportunity to replenish energy reserves, the reserves will run out and grasses die.

"This is an example of how desirable perennial grasses, such as Mitchell grass (*Asprella species*), ribbon grass (*Chrysopogon fallax*) and curly blue/bundle-bundle grass (*Dichanthium fecundum*) can be removed from a grazing system.

"Experience suggests once these plants are removed it is very difficult to get them back."

There are several things producers can do to get the best out of the wet season

opportunity.

"Aligning stock numbers with available feed is the number one thing to do," Mr Fletcher said.

"There is little benefit emptying paddock A into paddock B to achieve a wet season spell when paddock B is already stocked to capacity.

"The benefit gained from spelling one paddock comes at the expense of overgrazing the other.

"This leads to bare ground, erosion, reduced infiltration and reduced desirable grasses in the overgrazed paddock."

Managing stock and having control over grazing is also essential in the lead up to the wet season, according to Mr Fletcher.

"Cattle preferentially graze the more productive, palatable pastures and if the opportunity presents, they will find their way back to these areas every time," he said.

"Keeping cattle out of preferentially-grazed areas over the wet season will enable palatable grasses to grow biomass (ground cover), set seed and replenish root reserves ready for grazing the next dry season.

"Fire is also a useful tool for encouraging stock onto underutilised areas."

Dr Kevin Bell is the technical innovations manager at Pardoo station in WA's Pilbara region.

He said there were several key management decisions Pardoo made to prepare the cattle and land for the wet season, including spelling pastures and undertaking a controlled burning regime.

"Our usual program would aim to spell approx-



DPIRD WA development officer Matthew Fletcher, centre, says rotationally spelling pastures during the wet season is key to achieving good pasture growth.

“

Cattle preferentially graze the more productive, palatable pastures and if the opportunity presents, they will find their way back to these areas every time. Keeping cattle out of preferentially-grazed areas over the wet season will enable palatable grasses to grow biomass (ground cover), set seed and replenish root reserves ready for grazing the next dry season.

DPIRD development officer Matthew Fletcher

imately 30 per cent of our country in the wet season," he said.

"But this is dependent on the type of wet season we have.

"Where indicated, we incorporate spelling pastures with a controlled cool burn on an as-needed basis.

"Much of Pardoo is spinifex pasture, and so usually every four to five years we would anticipate burning designated areas.

"As spinifex pasture becomes of low value and difficult - or impossible - to graze the older it is, a cool burn removes accumulated dead and "stemmy" plant

material and restores fresh high-quality leaf.

"It also provides an opportunity for new plants to germinate."

Dr Bell said burning was achieved close to the wet season when humid conditions commenced and weather conditions were favourable.

There are other useful things a cool fire can achieve on the northern rangelands.

"Burning also helps to remove some of the unwanted plants such as wattle and poverty bush," Dr Bell said.

"Burning this helps to open up more ground for spinifex pastures."

At Pardoo station, heifers are prioritised in management decisions and paddocks are stocked at an appropriate rate matched to feed availability.

"We try and place heifers into the paddocks spelled over the previous wet season," Dr Bell said.

"The fresh plant growth is of good quality and, if cattle numbers are conservative, the spinifex provides excellent nutrition.

"An appropriate stocking rate is required to meet a happy medium."

To enable spelling, cattle have to graze somewhere over the wet season in the northern rangelands.

Producers should look for a paddock in good to fair condition (A-B condition).

Mr Fletcher said these paddocks would have the resilience to maintain ground cover with grasses able to tolerate grazing.

"Once the wet season starts, cattle will generally spread out," he said.

"This will minimise overgrazing."



DOUBLE THE VALUE!

Australia's Leading Equestrian Magazine **PLUS** Stallions Showcase & Breeding

Horse Deals

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



ON SALE NOW!