



Update

Your latest news from the FutureBeef program

Hi <<First name>>

Applications are now open for Nuffield Australia's 2024 Scholarship program, which for the first time, includes scholarships aimed at drought resilience study topics. Nuffield Scholars are presented with a \$35,000 scholarship and the opportunity to travel overseas to study their area of interest. Applications close 9 June 2023. [Find out more, here.](#)

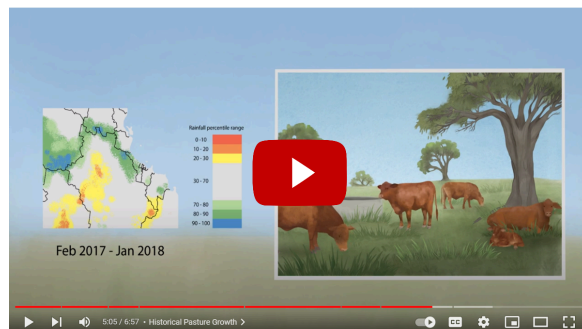
We welcome feedback on the FutureBeef eBulletin via [email](#), call us on 13 25 23 (for the cost of a local call in Queensland), connect with us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#), or check us out on [YouTube](#). We'd love to hear from you...

Thanks for reading!

Kind regards,
Jodie, on behalf of the FutureBeef team

Terciles for Climate and Pasture Growth – more than just a median value

Have you ever wondered what terciles are? Well, they are similar to percentiles, but instead of data being split into 100 parts, the data is only split into three groups: upper, lower and middle. This animation produced by the Department of Environment and Science explains how terciles can be used to help explain climate and pasture growth information.



[Watch it here.](#)

Four ways producer groups can prepare for the PDS open call



The annual call for Producer Demonstration Site projects is opening on 3 April. To help producer groups to prepare, Meat & Livestock Australia, Project Manager, Alana McEwan, shares her top tips for preparing a high-quality application.

[Maximise your chances of success →](#)

Crossbred heifers outperform Brahman cohorts in NT trial



Results of a nine-year study comparing the reproductive performance of Senepol-Brahman crossbred females with commercial Brahman females have recently been released.

“Across four year-groups, the average pregnancy rate of crossbred maiden heifers was 19% higher than their Brahman cohorts,” said Principal Livestock Research Officer, Tim Schatz.

[Read more of the research findings →](#)

Good listening: How to manage pasture dieback



Pasture dieback stunts the growth and kills productive tropical pastures. So what is it and how can pastoralists manage and prevent it? This episode covers all the tricky questions with sown pasture senior agronomist, Stuart Buck and extension officer Kylie Hopkins, with some tremendous insights from Injune beef producer, Owen Price.

[Listen on Spotify →](#)

Advancing Beef Leaders: Applications are open



Are you a Queensland beef producer or agribusiness professional? The Advancing Beef Leaders program is a unique and inspiring 12 month program designed to position you to contribute meaningfully to industry and improve your business. Learn from key industry leaders, mentors and private sector facilitators.

[Find out more →](#)

Trichomoniasis vaccine not far away



A recent study found that more than one in ten bulls slaughtered at abattoirs in northern Australia harboured bovine trichomoniasis, a disease known to cause infertility in cows. Although vaccines for this disease have been available internationally for some time, importing vaccines poses significant risk to Australia's beef industry. With this in mind, Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation has developed a vaccine using local trichomoniasis strains.

[Read about the vaccine candidate development →](#)

Abattoir feedback drives predator control producer demonstration site



When members of the Barfield Road Producer Group received abattoir feedback stating that up to 80% of the consigned slaughter cattle had hydatid damaged livers, they started questioning what other production losses they could unknowingly be incurring due to the impact of the hydatid-hosting wild dogs. As a result, the *Improved beef productivity through predator control producer demonstration site* was established.

[Here's what they've been up to →](#)

Methane reducing biotechnology project needs volunteers for panel

What if one simple treatment could significantly reduce your cattle's methane emissions for 6 or 12 months?



Researchers from the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and University of Queensland are developing biopolymer technology that can deliver a continuous low dose of methane-reducing bioactive to cattle rumens. They're looking for six producers to help ensure this treatment is practical on-farm. If you'd like to join the volunteer expert panel, please fill out the expression of interest form by Friday 31 March.

[Here's more about the project and how to register →](#)

WA: Coordinated early dry season burns show reduced hot fires



Analysis of North Australia Fire Information fire scar data shows a decrease in late dry season fires in the Kimberley and Pilbara regions over the last 20 years. This trend shows that efforts to coordinate burning and reduce the incidence of large-scale wildfires late in the year are having a significant impact.

[The decrease is remarkable →](#)

Feral pig research debunks fairy tale: more like Goldilocks than 3 Little Pigs



Researchers from the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and SQ Landscapes studied the behavioural patterns 59 GPS-collared feral pigs between 2017 and 2021. Key findings indicate the home-range of feral pigs is influenced by sex, site and body mass, but not by season or year. Sites most often frequented had foliage cover, but not too much, or too little — had to be just right.

[Here's the research findings →](#)

Fond farewells exchanged as both Peter Johnston and Bob Karfs retire

The Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) is saying farewell to two longstanding leaders this month as Peter Johnston and Bob Karfs head off to enjoy retirement.

Peter began his career in the public service in the 1980's in western Queensland where he measured and modelled native pasture growth, estimated carrying capacities and harvested native grass seed. From there, Peter's career progressed rapidly, leaving the department in February as General Manager of Animal Science.

Bob joined the Department in 2005 after a 13 year stint with the Northern Territory Government. Before coming to Brisbane to be the Beef and Sheep Science Director, Bob worked out of the Townsville office where his focus was land condition monitoring with local natural resource management groups.

On behalf of all DAF staff, FutureBeef thanks Peter and Bob for their service and leadership over the years, wishing them both well in their retirement.

Before you go!

Ag Jobs Queensland

The Queensland Farmers' Federation (QFF) presents: Ag Jobs Queensland — an industry job matching platform for the Queensland agricultural sector. Employers can advertise jobs, create a business showcase and create talent pools. Job seekers can search for vacancies by industry or location.

[Information for employers →](#)

[Information for job seekers →](#)

Rural Landholder Recovery Grant Scheme

The Rural Landholder Recovery Grant Scheme provides a rebate to rural landholders to help pay for the costs of clean-up and reinstatement of a primary production enterprise that has suffered direct damage as a result of an eligible disaster.

Grants of up to \$10 000 are available to assist with cleaning and reinstatement activities. To be eligible for assistance the relevant property must be located within a local government area activated for a 2021-2022 storm-flooding event and have not already received other disaster grant or loan assistance from any of these events.

[Find out more →](#)

Upcoming events

Increasing on-farm natural capital
in the Burnett region

[Monto](#), 13 March
[Gayndah](#), 14 March

Pasture dieback field day

[Moura](#), 13 March
[Middlemount](#), 27 March

GRASS and GrazingFutures workshop

[Monto](#), 14 March

Why dung beetles should be on your radar!

[Webinar](#), 14 March at 12pm

What's your plan	Bymount , 15 March Dunkeld , 16 March
AgForce vertebrate pest management: controlling wild dogs, feral pigs and foxes	Toogoolawah , 15 March Boonah , 16 March
Weaning for performance	Longreach , 15 March
Producer demonstration site webinar: your questions answered!	Webinar , 16 March @ 2pm
Business EDGE	Roma , 20-21 March St George , 23-24 March
Lead with certainty	Mount Isa , 20-21 March Cloncurry , 23-24 March
Nutrition EDGE	Katherine , 21-23 March Broome , 3-5 April
Pop up office	Windorah , 21 March Stonehenge , 22 March
BeefUp forum	Broome , 27 March Kununurra , 31 March
Interactive worm workshop	Mitchell , 27 March Augathella , 28 March
Grazing land management EDGE	Katherine , 28-30 March Georgetown , 28-30 March
Grazing fundamentals EDGE	Taroom , 28 March
MeatUp forum	Albany , 28 March
Vegetation management workshop	Charters Towers , 3-4 April Bowen , 5-6 April

If an event is listed here, it does not imply endorsement of the event nor its content by DAF or FutureBeef. Please read our [full disclaimer](#).

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Future

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41 Boggo Road
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