



Future Beef

CQ Beef

Information for rural business in Central Queensland

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Issue 24 AUTUMN 2015



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— COVER IMAGE by SARAH COULTON. Photos were taken at the McCamley family's Red and Grey Brahman stud at Palmal Brahmans, Dingo.

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Foetal ageing: A tool in variable seasons

Getting ready for another season of management

AS the wet season fades many operations are gearing up for another season of management – for some that has already started.

One thing is for sure, the beef game is busier than it has ever been and in the face of variable seasons, management of breeders in the extensive parts of Queensland needs to be well-planned and precise.

In this article we discuss foetal ageing as a useful tool, providing information producers need to manage cattle in variable years.

PREGNANCY DIAGNOSIS - A BENCHMARK OF PERFORMANCE

The utilisation of a foetal age provides a reasonably accurate description of the productivity of the mob by identifying the proportion of cows which can be expected to achieve a 'return' pregnancy within four months of calving.

This measure is variable across businesses and significant to business performance. It can also identify peak calving periods in relation to seasonal conditions and how this may be affecting rebreed rate.

Monitoring of pregnancy to calving rates can also identify where losses may be occurring.

This information is of particular use in continuously mated systems where there is a continuous flow of calves.

MANAGING NUTRITION FOR LACTATION

At the onset of the dry season, breeders that have been segregated by foetal age can be better managed for nutrition. Cows calving in optimal periods can be identified and managed to reduce their weight loss from calving to weaning.

Later calving cows have a reduced level of nutritional stress so therefore may be managed with limited supplementation through to the wet season.

This further reduces the numbers targeted for nutritional support driving down feed costs per adult equivalent.

MANAGING LATE PREGNANCIES

Late pregnancies cost beef business. In variable seasons, breeders need to be prioritised by their contribution to the business. As well as empties, late calvers can be seen as a target turn-off group when numbers



Breeders can be paint marked to indicate foetal age if they can't be segregated initially. This heifer is marked "early" or 7-9 months' pregnant.

need to be reduced in response to a poorer season.

PLANNING FOR WEANING

By keeping a record of calving numbers by month this information can be extrapolated to an accurate schedule for weaning. A more informed understanding of calf numbers by age and therefore weight can help businesses plan more effective weaning strategies so that cows can be relieved of lactation stress before they decline too much in condition.

INFLUENCING THE MATING PERIOD

In extensive grazing situations, one of the largest barriers to uptake of control mating is keeping bulls away from females. The primary group at risk of out of season mating are those cows that have calved at the optimal time and are rearing calves in good body condition.

The ease of management of bulls generally varies by paddock on-property. Once early calvers are identified through a foetal age they can be assigned to a paddock that is more secure.

SOME REALITIES TO USING FOETAL AGEING

Integration of foetal ageing into the management of breeding groups is not easy, as it changes the dynamic of cows grouped traditionally by age groups to their time of calf drop. This can be a management conundrum in the first few years when smaller groups may need to be held nearby until additional numbers are identified to 'fill' a paddock.

As well as this, segregation of late calvers by foetal age can be a headache for mothering up, although the number of pregnant from this group is normally limited. Weaning lighter calves can reduce this number to mother up further and in most years is advisable.

Editorial

IT'S almost April; we'll be weaning calves before you know it! Unfortunately it is also coming up to the end of our wet season, which means it's time to do some pasture budgeting to make sure we have enough feed ahead of us for the stock we plan to carry.

Bronwyn Roberts from Fitzroy Basin Association (FBA) has contributed an article on the Stocktake App. If you want some help with the App or pasture budgeting please contact Bronwyn or your nearest Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) extension officer.

For many producers in Central Queensland, the aftermath of Cyclone Marcia is presenting significant challenges.

Assistance measures have been activated and producers can call DAF on 13 25 23 for further information. Information is also available at Community Recovery Hubs in Biloela, Rockhampton and Yeppoon.

QRAA have officers available to assist in applying for recovery funding, including grants and concessional loans.

Their contact number is 1800 623 946. Other useful sources for updated recovery information are www.daff.qld.gov.au; Facebook at Queensland Agriculture and Twitter @QldAgriculture.

Jim Fletcher's 'Have you tried foetal ageing' article is a must read before you plan for your weaning and pregnancy testing musters.

FutureBeef has been running lots of activities, Grazing Best Management Practice workshops, CashCow information days, and EDGE workshops to name a few.

The High Output Forages project is running field days in the first week of June. Clermont June 2, Moura June 3 and Taroom June 4.

Rockhampton is hosting a Nutrition EDGE (May 26-28) and a Breeding EDGE (June 16-18). For more information on these contact Kylie Hopkins on (07) 4923 6215 or myself on (07) 4983 7464.

Matt Brown tells you why you would want to do a Breedcow Dynama workshop in this edition. If you are inspired by the article, register for the Breedcow Dynama workshop to be held in Emerald on April 8 and 9.

● For a list of more upcoming events please visit www.futurebeef.com.au/events

Byrony Daniels
Extension Officer (FutureBeef) Emerald
07 49 837 467



These additions to management certainly don't work without some smaller management paddocks nearby and plenty of grass.

The underlying premise to using foetal ageing will always be as a tool to better manage nutrition and lactation. The alignment of pregnancies to correlate calving with periods of better pasture quality and stringent weaning policies help to maximise cow body condition.

This in turn creates a cycle effect of faster reconceptions. As stated previously this concept of measuring reconception efficiency is the litmus test to profitability in a beef business because like all things unless we measure it we can't manage it.

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Breedcow workshop learning experience for Fitzroy growers

Breedcow Dynama analyses economics of livestock management strategies

A GROUP of producers from throughout the Fitzroy basin attended Breedcow Dynama training in Rockhampton 21-22 January.

The group consisted of 10 participants from six businesses. Participants came from Wandoan, St Lawrence and Marlborough. The workshop was developed through interest generated from the Grazing BMP People and Business module.

Breedcow Dynama is a decision management tool to analyse the economics of livestock management strategies. It was developed in 1988 by Townsville-based Queensland Government economist Bill Holmes.

The program was developed to improve an individual's beef business. Economic scenarios are able to be addressed within the program that enables the participant to ask themselves the following questions:

- Are we heading down the 'right track'?
- Is there a more profitable way to manage the herd?
- What happens if I run less?
- Change as an investment - is it profitable?
- Forced sales and opportunity trading - what is the best decision?

There is a suite of programs within the Breedcow Dynama model. Breedcowplus and Dynamaplus have the following functions:

- Adult Equivalent calculation
- Prices received for cattle that are sold off the property
- Husbandry costs involved in the production of livestock on the property
- Breedcow Dynama summary, analysis of the data that has been inputted into the program

Other programs include:

- Bullocks - Trading dry cattle
- Cowtrade - Trading cows and calves, PTIC cows
- Investan:
 - Investment analysis for property purchase and development
 - Evaluating research outcomes and management strategies

Breedcowplus enables the participant to analyse the most profitable age of male turn off, which enables them to review alternative markets.

It also enables them to look at their female culling



The group who did the sums at the Rockhampton Breedcow Dynama workshop.

strategies (something that has been lacking within the beef industry). Changes in management practices such as supplementation programs can be costed in the program.

Cattle trading and forced sales can be economically analysed in Bullocks and Cowtrade sections of the program.

These spreadsheets enable the participant to determine the prices and classes of cattle that they can buy and the margin that they need to achieve to make it economically viable.

Forced sales of stock can also be analysed, with the economic implications of raising cash by selling the stock or reducing numbers and subsequent cash flow outcomes.

Dynamaplus enables the participant to plan herd structure, sales, cash-flow, net income, assets and liabilities for a 10 year projection. This enables partici-

pants to analyse property purchase, business restructuring and drought recovery. Investan enables the participant to analyse the implications of property purchasing or the expected return on a property development investment.

Breedcow Dynama can be used as a tool for evaluating change as it analysis a producers current herd and financial situation (this is classed as Year 1). It then can map pathways into the future by implementing improved management for up to 10 years, or predicting the future situation of the property with no management change for up to 10 years.

There are a number of figures that are needed for the Breedcow Dynama interpretation, these include:

- Stock numbers by sex and age, for example No 3 heifers, No 2 steers
- Live weights of animals by sex and age class
- Sale weights, prices, freight and selling costs

- Weaning/branding rates
- Husbandry costs i.e. vaccines, supplements, drenches

In addition Dynama requires extra figures such as:

- Overheads i.e. power, fuel, rates, labour etc
- Borrowings
- Finance costs
- Asset values

Overall, Breedcow Dynama has the potential to provide economic pathways for cattle producers looking to explore marketing alternatives for their stock. The participants at the workshop commented that they found the workshop useful and a catch up workshop was proposed for later on in the year.

Matt Brown
Extension Officer (FutureBeef)
DAF Rockhampton
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App facilitates land database

Now's the time to plan for the dry season – Stocktake Plus is just the tool to use

"If you put your land first, your animals will come first." That's what a landholder told me when I first started out as an extension officer and I've never forgotten it.

Having a plan at the end of the growing season about your pastures and cattle management for the coming dry season, will allow you to take advantage of opportunities for adjusting your stocking rates, while maintaining or improving your land condition for long-term sustainability – thus putting your land and your cattle first.

One way to do this is to draw up a forage budget, and one tool to use is the Stocktake Plus app.

Forage budgeting is a process for objectively estimating safe stocking rates based on available pasture and animal intake over a period of days, weeks or months.

It lets you balance forage supply (existing and anticipated pasture yield) and forage demand (the amount the animals will consume) over a defined period.

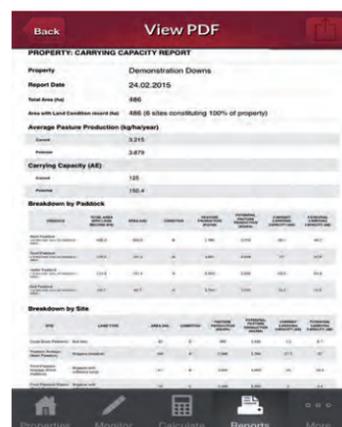
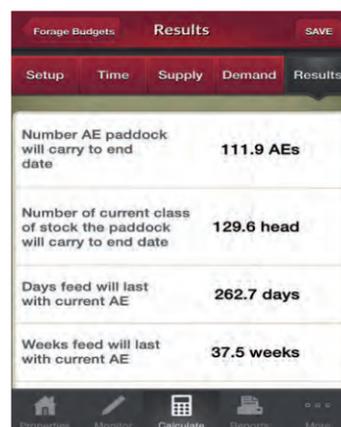
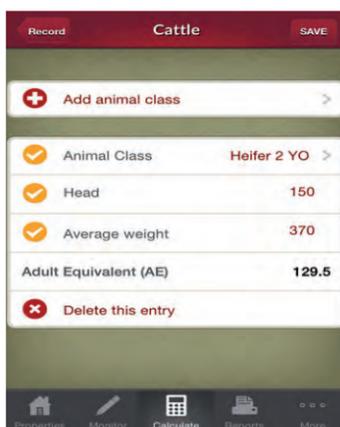
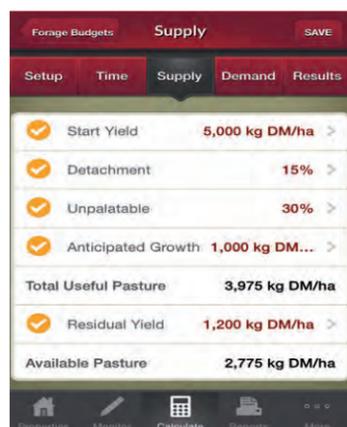
Stocktake Plus represents the next generation in FutureBeef decision support tools.

It is based on the previous, well-respected Queensland Government Stocktake monitoring software but allows the user to complete their monitoring and calculations in the paddock on their mobile device for an immediate response.

Importantly, Stocktake Plus will work without the need for mobile phone reception. You can store information and get results while you are in the paddock.

This means your monitoring and feed budget data as well as your stock and rainfall records are with you at all times.

All the reports on your device can be printed



Follow the screenshots.

COMING WORKSHOP DATES, LOCATIONS

March	April
24 – Lower Boyne	1 – Wandoan
25 – Rockhampton	2 – Injune
26 – Middlemount	11 – Yeppoon
30 – Daringa	15 – Arcadia Valley
31 – Biloela	16 – Lochington

and/or backed up when you return to your office.

The app was designed to be visual, logical and prompted for ease of use, and importantly to work in remote areas without 3G/4G phone reception.

Stocktake Plus:

- Assists in monitoring grazing land condition by logically guiding the user through the process.
- Stores monitoring information and produces reports, including long-term carrying capacity calculations, based on user input.

Guides the user through a basic or detailed forage budget.

- Stores rainfall records.
- Stores stock numbers (converts to Adult Equivalents, displays current stock on Land Condition reports, and can import figures to demand section of a forage budget)
- Directs users to their monitoring sites using GPS functions
- Helps the user identify their land type(s), using the land type mapping of Queensland.
- Backs up all information securely on the internet, only accessible by the user.

The app is more than a digital log, it has many in-built support tools including:

- Land type factsheets
- Pasture growth tables
- Ground cover photo standards
- Accessible yield calculation sheets

Pasture photo standards

- Dendrometer for measuring tree densities.

Everything you need to do your monitoring in the paddock is now within your device. There's no more need to carry around your pasture photo standards, your GPS, or camera to complete your assessment.

The app can be downloaded and installed on multiple devices and is compatible with Apple and Android.

If you would like someone else to help with your Stocktake Plus monitoring, calculations and reports, such as a family or staff member, they can access and add to the property information from their own device using the same username and password.

Stocktake Plus is the first production decision support app for FutureBeef and Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA), developed using funding from MLA and the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF), Queensland.

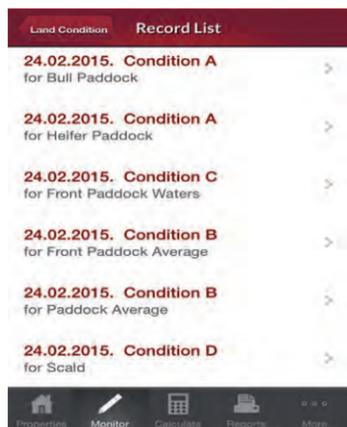
For more information, support and resources please visit the website – www.stocktakeplus.com.au.

In preparation for the coming dry season, the Fitzroy Basin Association is running a series of workshops across the region.

The normal workshop cost is \$330, but with generous funding provided by the FBA, we are able to offer the workshop free of charge.

For information on the Stocktake Plus app or an upcoming Stocktake workshop near you, contact Bronwyn Roberts, FBA Bronwyn.roberts@fba.org.au or phone 0429 992 810.

Bronwyn Roberts
Grazing land management officer
Fitzroy Basin Association
0429 992 810



Follow the screenshots.

How can worker's compensation insurance help you?

If you own a business in Queensland you're responsible for keeping a safe work place and if you employ workers and one of them is injured at work, they can apply for workers' compensation.

In Queensland, workers' compensation insurance is compulsory if you employ workers who meet the definition of 'a worker'.

Holding an accident insurance policy gives the employer peace of mind knowing their business will be covered should a worker sustain a work-related injury and require medical treatment or time off work.

Employers may not be aware of their obligations to insure or they may not realise that not only full-time workers on a wage or salary need to be covered, but also part-time, casual, seasonal and in some cases, contractors and sub-contractors, may require coverage.

In 2013-2014 WorkCover received 500 claims for the beef industry, amounting to approximately \$7.6 million in statutory costs.

Serious injuries can result in claims costing hun-

dreds of thousands of dollars and significant premium increases, and being uninsured or underinsured exposes both the employer and worker to unnecessary risk.

With more than 42 per cent of injuries in the beef industry sustained by 20-30 year olds, employers face a significant challenge to comply with workers' compensation obligations given the large number of seasonal and overseas workers engaged under a variety of employment conditions.

YOU'RE COVERED

A WorkCover accident insurance policy covers your business against the cost of work-related injuries including weekly compensation and rehabilitation costs.

If in any doubt about your obligations, or understanding of who is defined as a worker, please phone 1300 362 128 or visit the website www.worksafe.qld.gov.au.

On the website you can apply for a policy online, or read more about your rights and responsibilities and

further details on who you should cover for workers' compensation. You can also check if your contractors are 'workers' and should be covered by their WorkCover policy by using the ATO employee/contractor decision tool.

HEALTH BENEFITS OF WORK AND MINIMISING YOUR PREMIUM

Improving workplace safety and having good injury management processes that help injured workers rehabilitate and get back into their jobs quickly and safely, is not only good for business but has positive effects for the worker too.

A research paper from the Australasian Faculty of Occupational and Environmental Medicine and the Royal Australasian College of Physicians, 'Realising the health benefits of work', indicates that if a person is off work for 20 days the likelihood of returning back to work is 70 per cent, reducing to 50 per cent at 45 days and at 70 days off work the chance of ever getting back to work is 35 per cent.

Work is an important part of the worker's rehabilita-

tion process because 'doing' promotes recovery. Being off work for long periods of time can significantly reduce the likelihood of the worker ever returning to their original job and can have a negative effect on the worker, their family and disruption to the business.

The average number of days off work due to a work-related injury for the beef industry was over 43 days during 2013-2014.

Injury management in the workplace does not have to be complex.

By focusing on early reporting of workplace injuries, seeking early medical attention and encouraging injured workers to participate in work-related rehabilitation, employers not only help their injured workers make an early and safe return to work, they also help reduce the cost of the claim thereby minimising the impact on the employer's premium.

● If you have any questions about your obligations to keep a safe workplace or how to implement good injury management practices, please call us on 1300 362 128.

Kylie Maras, Industry Manager
WorkCover Queensland



THEORIES AND REALITIES

FOR decades dry-season urea supplementation has been used to reduce weight loss in cattle during the dry season.

However there have been debates about whether feeding urea can reduce fertility and pregnancy rates. In order to get the best perspective on this it is essential to understand both the science and practical application of urea supplementation.

Research on dry-season urea supplementation began at the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries' Swans Lagoon Research Station in the mid-1960s.

This work clearly demonstrated the major benefits of urea supplementation for growing cattle and led to the development of supplementation systems with roller drums, blocks and dry licks.

Later research at Swans Lagoon, along with research at other locations in the 1990s, showed that the benefit of dry season urea supplementation also applied to breeders.

Urea supplements can reduce weight loss in the dry season by up to 40 kilograms.

In breeders with a lower body condition at mating, this can mean an increase in pregnancy rates by up to 14 per cent (from 50pc up to 64pc). Mortalities are lower in breeders in better body condition.

THE ROLE OF UREA IN RUMINANTS

Urea is not a foreign compound in ruminants. It is an integral part of protein metabolism in all ruminants and is normally present in blood irrespective of any supplements. Cattle urine usually contains urea as this is the way cattle excrete excess nitrogen not required for protein production.

Ruminants have the ability to use two types of protein: rumen-degradable protein (RDP) and rumen undegradable protein (RUP).

Rumen fermentation breaks the RDP in the diet into ammonia, and this ammonia is used by rumen bacteria to form microbial protein.

Rumen microbes are digested in the abomasum (true stomach) and small intestine and the resulting amino acids are absorbed from the small intestine into the blood.

In a grazing situation, most protein consumed in forage is broken down in the rumen and used by rumen microbes producing microbial protein. So, microbial protein is the animal's principal source of protein excluding any RUP present in the diet.

Ammonia not incorporated into microbial protein enters the blood and is converted to urea in the liver, and most of this urea is excreted in urine.

Amino acids not utilised in body processes are converted in the liver to urea for excretion in the urine and energy substrates.

RUP in the diet is digested in the abomasum and small intestine and the resulting amino acids absorbed from the small intestine contribute to the pool of amino acids in the blood.

Cattle saliva normally contains urea at 2-8mg per 100mL. The 100-200L of saliva produced daily by cows equates to about 5-10g of urea entering the rumen daily in the absence of any urea supplementation.

Salivary urea plays an important role in maintaining rumen function.

The truth about urea

A guide to urea supplementation in northern herds



RIGHT: Table 1 – Comparison of pasture and supplement, crude protein levels, pasture and protein intakes for beef and dairy.

LEFT: Lick blocks are just one method of feeding urea to cattle.

BELOW: Table 2 – Comparison of intakes and feeding costs for cottonseed meal, 15pc and 30pc urea dry licks.

	Beef cow on dry season pastures with no supplement	Beef cow on dry season pastures supplemented with 30% urea dry lick	Dairy cow on improved pastures and grain ration
Cow liveweight (kg)	420	420	600
Pasture crude protein (%)	4	4	22
Pasture intake (% of liveweight)	1.5	1.88	1.7
Pasture intake (kg/day)	6	8	10
Supplementary feed crude protein (%)	nil	96.7	14
Supplementary feed intake (kg/day)	nil	0.16	7
Protein intake from pasture (g/day)	252	316	2,244
Protein intake from supplementary feed (g/day)	nil	155	980
Total protein intake (g/day)	252	471	3,224

Supplement	Cost GST exc (\$/t)	Protein (%)	Protein cost (\$/kg protein)	Intake to supply 150g protein/day (g/hd/day)	Urea intake (g/hd/day)	Feeding cost (\$/hd/month)
Cottonseed meal	\$850	43.0	\$1.98	349	nil	8.90
15% Urea lick	\$591	52.7	\$1.12	285	43	5.05
30% Urea lick	\$622	96.7	\$0.64	155	47	2.89

KEY POINTS

- Urea supplements are a cost-effective means of reducing weight loss in both growing and breeder cattle grazing poor quality dry-season pastures low in crude protein.
- Breeders in better body condition have lower mortality and better pregnancy rates.
- Protein intake of northern beef cattle, even when fed high urea supplements, is very low compared with the protein intake of dairy cows grazing high-quality temperate pastures.
- There is no scientific evidence that high urea supplements reduce reproductive rates in northern beef breeders.
- Urea supplements with higher levels of urea generally reduce the supplementation costs per breeder.

Australia are usually 4-6pc crude protein. Table 1 shows the very low protein intakes typical of beef cows grazing poor quality dry-season pastures.

Feeding a 30pc urea lick at 160g/head/day does substantially increase protein intake, but this intake is still only 15pc of the protein intake of a dairy cow grazing high quality temperate pastures and also being fed dairy supplements.

Hence, it is extremely unlikely that feeding beef breeder cattle high urea supplements causes reproductive problems or affects pregnancy rates.

SUPPLEMENT COSTS AND PALATABILITY

The reason to use urea as the primary source of protein instead of a protein meal such as cottonseed meal in dry season supplements is about cost. The lower protein content of low-urea supplements results in higher cost per unit of protein and higher feeding costs (Table 2).

Because urea is an intake-limiter, reducing the urea content invariably leads to higher supplement intakes and feeding costs. The situation is commonly compounded by urea being replaced with protein meal and/or grain, which adds to supplement palatability.

Jim Fletcher extension officer (FutureBeef) Mackay (07) 4967 0731 or jim.fletcher@daf.qld.gov.au



fertilised pastures) affecting the female reproductive tract and reproductive processes, have arisen from overseas work on dairy cows grazing high-quality, improved pastures and being fed large amounts of concentrate.

The diet and metabolism of dairy cows grazing temperate improved pastures (especially in Europe and North America) is vastly different to that of beef cattle grazing poor quality dry season pastures in northern Australia.

While dairy pastures will commonly have 18-25pc crude protein, dry season pastures in northern

As grasses mature and the protein content declines, less RDP is available to rumen microbes. This results in a lower microbe population and less microbial protein production to provide the animal's protein intake. The situation is compounded by lower feed intake due to the lower rumen microbial densities and activity and lower digestibility of the mature feed.

When urea and sulphate of ammonia are fed in supplements they are broken down in the rumen and supply ammonia to the microbes. With an increased microbe population, microbial protein production and feed intake increase.

UREA TOXICITY

Urea supplementation increases both rumen and blood ammonia levels. However, this only becomes a problem when the liver cannot convert the blood ammonia to urea quickly enough. If this happens, the high blood ammonia levels cause toxicity.

This situation most commonly occurs when animals eat a large amount of urea quickly i.e. it can occur when cattle are new to supplements or have a deprived appetite due to lack of feed and/or are deficient in protein, phosphorus or salt.

How much protein are we feeding in urea supplements?

The theories about high-protein feeds such as urea (but also other feed sources such as nitrogen-



NT URAPHOS

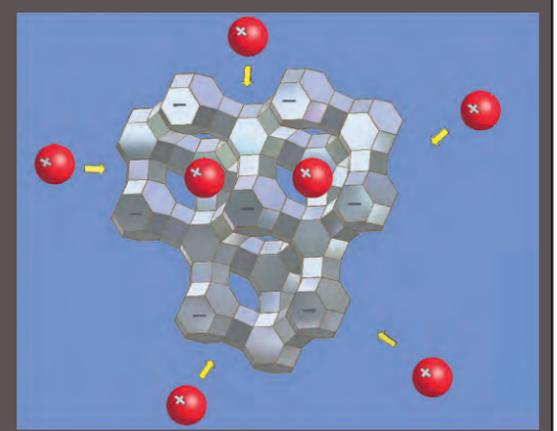
30% urea block, specifically designed for Northern Australia

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Farm figures in focus for DAF economist

Joel crunches the numbers for CQ agriculture

LIFETIME ON THE LAND

MY name is Joel Bentley and I am an agricultural economist for the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, based in Rockhampton.

I am originally from south-west Queensland on a sheep and cattle property near Eulo, and attended boarding school in Warwick for my senior schooling years. Growing up I loved the life on the land, particularly participating and learning about everyday management of a grazing enterprise. For four years after finishing my schooling I worked on a number of cattle stations in northern Queensland and the Northern Territory.

During this time I learnt a broad range of skills, from husbandry through to herd management practices. I thoroughly enjoyed the lifestyle and the people while working in the northern cattle industry.

To gain a better understanding of farm financial management and to develop a greater knowledge of animal science, I decided to go to University. In 2010, I enrolled in a Bachelor of Agribusiness majoring in Rural Science at the University of New England in Armidale, NSW.

While I studied, I worked part time on a fine wool Merino and Angus beef property 30 kilometres south west of Armidale. It was here I learnt about a totally different production system than what I had been previously exposed to.

This broadened my understanding on how factors such as climate, markets, quality of soil and other attributes influence production systems.

After completing my undergraduate studies, I worked for the National Australia Bank as an agribusiness analyst for 12 months, which I really enjoyed and got a lot out of. I was fortunate enough to be appointed as an agricultural economist for DAF in January 2015 and I am very happy to join the economics team in Rockhampton. I look forward to developing my skills and knowledge in all areas of agriculture and hope to have a positive impact on the sustainability of agricultural industries.

Joel Bentley
Agricultural Economist Rockhampton
Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
(07) 4923 6224



Joel Bentley.

FutureBeef and the social media revolution

DID you know that in Australia there are 13.8 million Facebook users and 2.8 million Twitter users? YouTube receives 13.5 million unique Australian visitors per month and worldwide 300 hours of video are uploaded to YouTube every minute!

FutureBeef has joined the Facebook, Twitter and YouTube phenomenon because social media provides great opportunities to reach a very wide audience.

So come on and connect with our 1000+ Facebook likers, our 2000+ Twitter followers and the 18,500 people that have viewed one of our FutureBeefAU YouTube channel videos. Let's help our industry grow through sharing information and creating awareness.

Pop over to the home page of our FutureBeef website (www.FutureBeef.com.au) and click the relevant icons to join the conversation today.



Quad bike dangers under scrutiny

RECOMMENDATIONS from a coronial inquest into recent quad bike fatalities are due to be released later this year. A similar inquest is also being carried out in New South Wales.

Quad bike use is addressed in the new Serious about Farm Safety guide published by Workplace Health and Safety Queensland in collaboration with industry groups.

Quad bikes are responsible for the largest proportion of fatalities and serious injuries on rural properties. Their short wheelbase and high centre of gravity increase the potential for a roll-over or collision when manoeuvring on slopes or rough terrain.

Quad bikes are not all terrain vehicles. They should only be used by trained operators within the scope of the manufacturer's recommendations.

These factors increase the risks:

- insufficient rider training
- children riding adult-sized quad bikes
- excessive speed
- rough terrain, steep slopes and unseen obstacles in long grass
- overloading with after-market attachments or fitting inappropriate accessories
- carrying passengers on bikes that are not designed for them.

Workplace Health and Safety Queensland has a range of short safety films which can be found at worksafe.qld.gov.au. You can also view 'A rush of blood: The Miles Patterson story' about his personal quad bike incident. A list of training providers to help you get the right training for using a quad bike is also available.

● For information to help minimise risk of a quad bike fatality or injury visit the QuadWatch webpage at safeworkaustralia.gov.au or visit worksafe.qld.gov.au.



HAVE YOU HERD?
There's a new home online
for all your beef news

www.queenslandcountrylife.com.au/beef

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