NBRUC 2026

NORTHERN BEEF RESEARCH UPDATE CONFERENCE

FROM RESEARCH TO RESULTS: DRIVING PADDOCK PERFORMANCE

10–13 MARCH 2026
VOCO BRISBANE CITY CENTRE, QLD
www.nbruc.com.au

PROGRAM	
TUESDAY 10 MARCH 2026	
4.00pm – 6.00pm	**Conference registration** *Grand Chelsea Lobby*
6.00pm – 8.00pm	**Welcome Reception** *Chelsea Lane* *Sponsored by* LALLEMAND ANIMAL NUTRITION
WEDNESDAY 11 MARCH 2026	
6.15am for a 6.30am start	**Meat & Livestock Australia Beef Industry Breakfast** *The Grand Palms* mla MEAT & LIVESTOCK AUSTRALIA
7.30am	**Conference registration** *Grand Chelsea Lobby*
8.30am – 9.00am	Arrival tea and coffee – *Grand Chelsea Lobby*
9.00am – 10.30am	**Session 1 – Welcome to the 8th Northern Beef Research Update Conference**
9.00am 9.25am 9.55am	**Conference welcome and opening** *Richard Cox, NBRUC Chair* *The Honourable Tony Perrett MP, Minister for Primary Industries, Queensland Government* **Keynote presentation: Research to results – using data and technology** *Derek Bailey, Director of Research and Outreach, Deep Well Ranch (Arizona, USA)* **Keynote presentation: Lessons learnt - how the north can keep winning** *David Foote, DF Agrifood Advisory* **Q&A**
10.30am – 11.00am	Morning tea – *Grand Chelsea Lobby*

11.00am – 12.30pm	**Session 2 – Stretching the research dollar**		
11.00am	**Framing the future of R&D investment: The MLA strategic plan 2030** Sarah Strachan – *General Manager - Research Development and Adoption, Meat & Livestock Australia*		*Sponsored by*
11.20am	**Moving the dial for northern beef research in a cost price dilemma** Ian McLean – Managing Director, Bush Agribusiness Pty Ltd Kieren McCosker – Senior Research Fellow, QAAFI, The University of Queensland Geoff Murrell – Pastoral Partners Australia		
12.00pm	**Table talk: Does "leaner have to be meaner" for meaningful research to have impact for northern beef herds?** Moderated by Jayne Cuddihy *Industry and representatives for state agencies reflect on the cost of applied research and challenges in making budgets deliver meaningful outcomes that move the dial for northern beef production systems.*		
12.30pm – 1.30pm	Lunch – *Grand Chelsea Lobby*		
1.30pm – 3.00pm	**Session 3 – Concurrent sessions: Animal health, reproduction and herds on the move**		
Session	**3A - Ticked off: vaccines, vectors and disease detection** *Sponsored by*	**3B - Crush to cradle: optimising reproductive performance** *Sponsored by*	**3C - Environmental stewardship: pastures on the radar**
Room	Daintree	Topaz	Sundown
	- Paul Stewart – Remote surveillance for emergency animal disease using artificial intelligence (10) - Lida Omaleki – Pasturella multocida and Bovine Respiratory Disease: What does the diversity of Lipopolysaccharide tell us? (10) - Jess Morgan – Update on synthetic pyrethroid insecticide resistance in buffalo fly (10) - Hannah Siddle – Safe guarding beef production with rapid chemical resistance tests in ticks (3) - Guilherme Klafke - RaTexT® as a rapid field alternative to laboratory bioassays for detecting acaricide resistance in cattle ticks - Tim Schatz – Assessing the effectiveness of a new type of insecticidal cattle ear tag (3) - Zheto Zhang – Pilot trial of a whole-cell killed Bovine Genital Campylobacteriosis vaccine (3)	- Elsie Vincent – Validation genomic breeding values for beef female fertility (10) - Benjamin Wood – Incidence of Trichomonas foetus increases with bull age indicating culling for age may be a suitable control option (10) - Ella Watkins – Pawsitive pregnancy: Investigating detection dogs for cattle pregnancy diagnosis (10) - Antonio Reverter – Enhanced multi-breed genomic prediction for bull fertility using breed-adjusted genomic relationship matrices (10) - Gretel Bailey-Preston – Observations of early calving history on a cow's third and fourth mating outcomes in a high fertility Brahman herd (3) - Matt Wolcott – Genomic benchmarking in commercial beef herds to inform bull selection decisions in extensive, northern production systems (3)	- Robyn Cowley – Finding the Sweet Spot: Pasture utilisation that maintains land condition is the most profitable over the long term (10) - Baisen Zhang – Seasonal pasture budgeting at property scale – a FORAGE online tool (prototype) for assessing stocking rates for Queensland grazing lands (10) - Jason Barnetson – Mapping Pasture Quality: Using Remote Sensing to Address Northern Australia's Fodder Gap (10) - Luis Woodrow – Adjusting the Seasonal Persistent Green Product for Green Grass Signal (10) - James Dougherty – Cottonseed supplementation of Rhodes grass hay improves growth of Brahman cross steers in the Northeast Kimberley (10) - Georgia Anderson – What drives cattle landscape use in Central Australia? (3) - Luis Prada e Silva/Tamara Freitas-Kirk – Bluetooth ear tags can help track supplement intake in grazing cattle (3)

	- Caity Kelly – The occurrence of vaccine injection site reactions in a northern beef herd (3) - Harvey Santos – Efficacy and safety of an Australian whole-cell killed Tritrichomonas foetus vaccine in T. foetus naïve young bulls (3) - James Copley – Using a test and cull strategy reduces Trichomoniasis prevalence in northern Australia beef bulls (3) - Mark Trotter – The case for on-animal sensors as a tool for endemic and exotic disease surveillance (3) Q&A	- Mel Wooderson – Improving the fertility of a Brahman herd through the use of high fertility bulls in the Northern Territory (3) - Piper Smith – Mooternal: Investigating relationships between maternal investment, calf loss and productivity in Northern Australia (3) - Rebecca Burnham – 'Beefing Up Genomics' - A producer driven approach to reference populations (3) - Samantha Rudd - Topical wound treatments targeting haemorrhage and infection in amputation dehorned calves (3) - Kim Hubbard – The effect of lactation anoestrous of first-calf cows on weaning weight (3) Q&A	Gretel Bailey-Preston – FireGraze: Using strategic patch burning to influence cattle grazing behaviour and improve land condition (3) Q&A
3.00pm – 3.30pm	Afternoon tea – *Grand Chelsea Lobby*		
3.30pm – 4.30pm	**Session 4 – Concurrent sessions: Methane, practice change and the R&D legacy**		
Session	**4A - The "not the methane" session?**	**4B - Good projects, good results: delivering the R&D legacy for northern systems**	**4C - Drivers of practice change**
Room	Daintree	Topaz	Sundown
	- Richard Heath - Zero Net Emissions from a thriving Australian agriculture sector (20) - Melissah Dayman – From weaning to research ready: Enhancing Greenfeed Emissions Monitoring (GEM) unit interaction in extensive grazing systems (3) - Melissa Matthews – Methane emissions from cattle grazing Desmanthus pastures on property (3) - Hayley Norman – Advancing faecal NIRS for predicting intake and methane emissions from Northern cattle herds (3) - Marina Fortes – Measuring methane emissions under grazing conditions in Brahman heifers (3)	- Steven Bray – Sixty-year experiments, hidden in the Mulga, informing today's issues (10) - Robyn Cowley – Why are woody plants increasing? The value of long term studies – lessons from a 30+ year burning experiment and 50+ year grazing exclosures (10) - Stuart Buck – Sowing seeds of legume success in central Queensland (10) - Gavin Peck – Old evaluation trials delivering a legacy of new persistent legume varieties (10) - Mary Williams – Augmenting native pastures with legumes as a pathway to	- Harry Evans – Understanding herd performance requires clarity in classifications (10) - Sampath Dissanayake – Unveiling the performance drivers of northern Australian beef systems: A time series analysis (1990-2022) (10) - Kieren McCosker – Key Drivers of Profitability within North Australian Beef Breeding Businesses (10) - Sampath Dissanayake – Bioeconomic evaluation of prepartum nutritional supplementation in northern Australian beef production systems (10) - Matt Thompson/Harry Milbank – Economic evaluation of establishing pasture legumes in the Brigalow Belt (10)

• Diane Ouwerkerk – Discovering Northern Australia's low methane feedbase potential (3) • Lachlan Godson/Zac Geldof – Legume-enhanced pastures with fertiliser inputs improve productivity and reduce net GHG emissions in a Central Queensland beef system (3) • Céline Chaléat – Controlled-release technology for methane mitigation in grazing beef cattle: 3-nitrooxypropanol (3-NOP) release profiles in water (3) • Gonzalo Martinez-Fernandez – Use of Bovaer in drinking water for Northern Australian cattle (3) • Cameron Whistler – Genomic prediction to select for lower methane production in purebred, crossbreed and composite cattle in northern Australia (3) • Elaine Mitchell – Evidence for enhanced soil carbon and nitrogen stocks under time-controlled grazing in the Australian subtropics (3) • Tien Chinh Nguyen – Biodiversity and carbon storage in a Corymbia hybrid silvopastoral system in northern Australia (3) • Julia Waite – Wrap up and discussion	resilience and increased productivity in the Victoria River District of the NT (3) • Michael Finey – Demonstrating the challenges of augmenting native pastures with legume cultivars on cracking clay soils in the victoria River District (VRD), NT (3) • Jaidyn Eastaughffe – Long-term dynamics of species composition in the Northern Territory Rangelands: a 50-year perspective (3) • Juan Guerschman – Improved monitoring of pastoral landscape productivity and trends in the Rangelands (3) • Bernie English – Legume production paddocks improve dry season diet quality and animal performance on fertile soils in north Queensland (3) • Greta Dunne – Species proportion trends on the Richmond Downs post 2019 flood (3)	• Tim Schatz – Crops for Cattle – Increasing the efficiency of north Australian cattle production systems through strategies to improve dry season weight gain (3) • Carrie-Ann Wilson – BeefVantage: Collaborative intelligence for better beef decisions (3)

6.30pm – 10.30pm	**Conference Dinner and NABRC Medals Awards Night** *Grand Chelsea Ballroom*
	THURSDAY 12 MARCH 2026
7.30am	**Conference registration** *Grand Chelsea Lobby*
7.30am – 8.00am	Arrival tea and coffee – *Grand Chelsea Lobby*
8.00am – 10.00am	**Session 5 – Plenary session: Industry led research – Innovation, partnerships and extension**
	Facilitated by Jean Kittson **Capture, engage and keep valuable people** Barb Bishop **Driving adoption of innovation at scale through experiential learning**

	Claire Mahony, IRDA Foundation **Campfire Chat – the use of VR and AI technology in an Indigenous Peer to Peer Learning Group** Ian Perkins **Delivering outcomes for the Kimberly-Pilbara** Bron Christensen **Extension and adoption across Gascoyne** Krystie Bremer Q&A
	Pilbara Voices: Rethinking Research from the Ground Up *Sponsored by Pilbara Innovation Partnership* Pilbara producers are reshaping how research happens across northern WA. This session brings together pastoralists to share what producer-led research looks like in practice — the opportunities, barriers, and lessons learned from working directly with scientists and funders. Facilitated by Dr Kelsey Pool (UWA), the panel will explore how producers identify research-able issues within their own stations and regions, what makes research relevant and scalable, and how stronger producer involvement can drive greater adoption and long-term impact across the rangelands.
10.00am – 11.00am	Morning tea – *Grand Chelsea Lobby*
11.00am – 12.00pm	**Session 6 – Concurrent sessions: Decision tools, legumes and reproduction**

Session	6A - Decision tools & technology for improved management *Sponsored by* CERES TAG	6B - Legumes, trees, rangelands and carbon *Sponsored by* AUSTRALIAN COUNTRY Choice	6C - Improved reproduction and resilience
Room	Daintree	Topaz	Sundown
	- Ian Dunbar – Spatial survey to assess legume adoption in Queensland (3) - Roger Sneath – Excel dry season pasture budget soon to be available on FutureBeef (3) - Mehrnush Forutan – Genetic tools to support fertile and productive cattle (3) - Tim Emery – Using smart collars to help keep an eye on your bull team 24/7 (3) - Greg Campbell – Automated, Remote Detection of Oestrus in Grazing Cattle Using CERES TAG Sensors (3) - Christie Pearson – Virtually fencing cattle onto new water points in Northern Australia (3)	- Jane Evans – Production potential of improved pastures on northwest Queensland downs (3) - Dana Walkington – Testing pasture establishment techniques in the Desert Uplands (3) - Vanessa Macdonald – Spatial Analysis of Legume Suitability in Queensland (3) - Saranika Talukder – In vitro total gas production and nutritional evaluation of tropical legumes (3) - Ajay Augustin – Evaluating seed yields of Stylosanthes seabrana and Stylosanthes scabra in southern Queensland Compared to northern Queensland (3)	- Kirsty Moore – Managing myostatin mutations (double muscling) in northern Australian tropically adapted beef breeds (10) - Elizabeth Ross – Solving the discordance between poll genotypes and phenotypes in Northern Beef Cattle (10) - Dana Walkington – On-property research and strong relationships result in practice change that increases land condition and carrying capacity in Western Queensland (10) - Mark Peart – Water-Based vs. Traditional Supplementation in Cattle: A Case Study (3) - Tim Schatz – Easy P – evaluation of a Phosphorus supplementation strategy that is easy to implement in areas that are difficult to access during the wet season (3)

	• Stephen Wiedemann – Updating the life cycle carbon assessment of Australian livestock exports (3) • Kate Holzapfel – Developing sustainable carrying capacities in the Victoria River District of the Northern Territory (3) • Thomas Williams – Tracking reveals cattle group into spatial and social clusters, but performance does not differ between groups (3) • Tony Cavallaro – Field prototype for oral sample collection in grazing ruminants (3) • Grant Stone – The FORAGE system – the 'track record' (10) • Kara-glenn Worth – Reducing barriers to agriculture technology adoption through innovation-readiness assessments (10) • Mark Peart – Unlocking a new source income in livestock production: Literature Review (3)	• Kendrick Cox – Cultivated strips fast-track legume establishment in red basalt woodland (3) • Kerry Goodwin – Silvopastoral establishment provides insight into animal production (3) • Joe O'Reagain – Vegetative propagation of putatively sterile Leucaena genotypes (3) • Stuart Buck – Feed availability in mature leucaena paddocks (3) • Kate McCullough – Urea Boosts Biomass but Reduces Litter Cover in Gully Remediation (3) • Gavin Peck – New stylo varieties for frosty locations (3) • Elaine Mitchell – Soil carbon sequestration under tropical perennial legume Desmanthus in northern Australian grasslands (10) • Nahuel Pachas – Steak n Wood project: Silvopastoral systems research in Queensland and northern New South Wales (10) (53)	• Harry Milbank – Breedcow Lite – streamlined for dynamic use by graziers and advisors (3) • Luis Prada e Silva – Pre-calving nutrition improves reproductive efficiency in northern beef herds (3) • Niilo Gobius – Breedcow+ provides northern producers with options to improve gross margins and improve land condition (3) (51)
12.00pm – 1.00pm	**Session 7 – Concurrent sessions: Tools and tech, building capacity and managing for improved productivity**		
Session	**7A - Decision tools & technology for improved management (continued)**	**7B - Extension, building capacity & regional capability**	**7C - Managing stressors for improved productivity and sustainability**
Room	Daintree	Topaz	Sundown
	• Christie Warburton – How many SNPs are required to perform multi-breed genomic predictions in Australian cattle populations? (10) • John Carter – Seasonal forecasting: A simple analysis of various statistical and weather model forecasts for Queensland (10) • Dianne Mayberry – National Climate Risk Assessment – key messages for the Australian northern beef herd (10)	• Liz Moss – Pilbara Extension Network: Producer-led research and extension for resilient northern beef systems (10) • Beth Penrose – Building research capacity and capability in the north: the new Research Institute for Northern Agriculture at Charles Darwin University (10) • Ted Callanan – Ramping up extension delivery as pasture dieback spreads south (10)	• Ben Allen – Novel animal welfare assessment tools for mass euthanasia of intensive livestock (3) • Michele Tree – Impact of long-distance transport on cross-bred Bos indicus beef cows (3) • Harriet Dunne – Livestock refuge mounds in northwest Queensland (3) • Ethan Ryan – Evaluation of Post-Dehorning Wound Treatments in Extensive Australian Beef Systems to Improve Performance and Wound Healing (3)

- Fiona McCartney – Understanding FORAGE report user experience to improve its usefulness for grazing land management decision-making (10) - Ana Carla Leite De Almeida – Biodiversity into focus: ESG metrics and reporting in the beef sector (10) - Laercio Porto-Neto – Combining reproductive and genomic biotechnologies to further improve beef production (10)	- Nicole Sallur – FutureBeef—widely valued, driving practice change (3) - Kylie Hopkins – Queensland Pastures e-newsletter increases beef industry engagement (3) - Marcia Smith – The value of knowledge diversity - what if I am wrong (3) - Natalie Hughes – Strengthening the beef industry's drought, business, and financial resilience through the Advancing Beef Leaders program (3) - Stacey Holzapfel – Research to reality: investigating barriers to on-station practice change (3) - Ryan Honor – The Northern Breeding Business program – Peer to peer learning fostering the adoption of improved cattle grazing business management practices and technologies in the Fitzroy River catchment (3) - Greta Dunne – Producer-focused demonstration site increases engagement in north west Queensland (3) - Megan Willis – Developing a formal staff induction and mentoring program for the Department of Primary Industries Extensive Livestock Systems RD&E work group (3)	- Samantha Rudd – Evaluating novel and existing wound treatments for cattle (3) - Samantha Rudd – Attitudes and practice on pain relief for dehorning cattle in Northern Australia (3) - Angela Lees – Influence of heat tolerance classification on rumen temperature regulation (10) - Vicki Mayne – Thriving through change: Integrating climate science into livestock thermal stress management in northern Australia (10) - Jill Fernandes – Is there a return on cattle welfare investment? (10) - Vitor Mercadante – Unravelling the reproductive, hormonal and metabolic differences between Bos indicus and Bos taurus cows while under nutritional restriction (10)

Time	
1.00pm – 2.00pm	Lunch – *Grand Chelsea Lobby*
2.00pm – 3.00pm	**Session 8 – Plenary session: Getting results & adoption**
	Facilitated by Kylie Hopkins **Adoption: The journey that delivers industry impact** Sally Leigo (15) **Typology of Australian beef producers and the sustainability challenges** Bradd Witt (10) **The role of CRC in translating results to adoption** Richard Heath (10) **Catchment collaboration – facilitating NRM groups to succeed** Amanda Roughan (10) **Panel session Q&A**
3.00pm – 3.30pm	Afternoon tea – *Grand Chelsea Lobby*

3.30pm – 4.30pm	**Session 9 – Closing plenary session**
	Facilitated by Tim Schatz
	Research, results & reflection – why the 3 Rs still matter
	Wayne Hall
	Eating that elephant in my paddock
	Jayne Cuddihy
	Concluding remarks and farewells from NBRUC2026
	Paul Burke
5.30pm – 8.30pm	**Closing drinks - Northern Beef Olympics: After-Hours**
	Limber up for Brisbane 2032 and enjoy a podium-worthy wind-down.
	Come solo or rally a team — and show us your best Olympic-themed outfits!
	Chelsea Lane

FRIDAY 13 MARCH 2026	
7.00am – 5.30pm (approx.)	**Field Trip (optional)**
	Limited numbers, please purchase your ticket via the online registration form.
	Depart voco Brisbane City Centre.
	Site visit: Aroona Station (a Queensland Trust for Nature property)
	including morning tea and lunch.
	Site visit: Queensland Animal Science Precinct, The University of Queensland, Gatton
	for a tour within the non-containment area.
	Led by Milou Dekkers, the theme for the visit will be 'Research Capabilities'.
	Refreshments to served at UQ, Gatton prior to departure.
	Return to voco Brisbane City Centre.