

# Northern Territory Agriculture: Pathways to Potential

Katherine Research Station  
Field Day Program

**Tuesday 9 April 2019**

Please confirm attendance and find out more by contacting  
**Joy Sherlock, Senior Extension Agronomist**  
Email: [joy.sherlock@nt.gov.au](mailto:joy.sherlock@nt.gov.au)  
Phone: 0436 425 441



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## WHY YOU SHOULD COME

This field day will have a strong focus on industry development and highlight the potential of diversified farming systems in the Northern Territory (NT).

Meet local pastoralists and producers, industry members and stakeholders. Hear about their experiences with diversification and learn about new emerging industries.

Interstate pastoralists, producers and industry members will be in attendance to share their experiences with diversification and background to developed industries in other locations.

Find out about current Department of Primary Industry and Resources (DPIR) trials and demonstrations, industry development options, market opportunities across a broad spectrum of crops, forage, hay, alternative products and more.

Treat yourself to a day out, meet like-minded people and be immersed in a day of informative presentations, hands on farm paddock tours, trade displays and machinery galore. This promises to be a great day; one not to be missed.

Find out what is happening in the domains of cropping, pasture, horticulture and livestock and the unique opportunity to preview DPIR's select Brahman and composite bulls prior to the annual bull sale in June.

There is a second field day at Douglas Daly Research Farm on Wednesday 10 April offering further opportunity to visit trade displays, get your fix of farm machinery and interact in a vastly different afternoon of farm tours.



**Join us at Katherine Research Station for the NT Agriculture: Pathways to Potential Field Day.**

**9:00am - 9 April 2019**

# PROGRAM

<b>9:00-9:10am</b>	<p>Welcome - Phil Hausler, Executive Director of Agriculture, Department of Primary Industry and Resources.</p> <p>Many thanks to the sponsors of the day, GRDC, Vanderfield, Louie Dreyfus Company, Cotton Seed Distributors, Landmark, Air Power, Bayer, Thinkwater, Micronised Mineral Solutions, Elders, Katherine Coaches, Water Dynamics, Farm World and Territory Rural.</p>
<b>9:10-9:25am</b>	<p>Talk 1 - David Connelly, General Manager Tipperary Group of Stations.</p> <p>A producer's perspective of diversification and integrating cropping and horticulture into an existing pastoral business.</p>
<b>9:25-9:40am</b>	<p>Talk 2 - Adam Kay, Chief Executive Officer Cotton Australia.</p> <p>Overview of the southern Cotton Industry – addressing misinformation</p>
<b>9:40-9:55am</b>	<p>Talk 3 - Jason Hill, Director Land Assessment Branch Rangelands Division, Department of Environment and Natural Resources.</p> <p>Getting my project off the ground: What new knowledge have we gained from the soil and water investigations conducted between 2014 and 2018? How does this new information benefit landholders considering development? Update on the Mapping the Future program from 2018-2022.</p>
<b>9:55-10:10am</b>	<p>Talk 4 - Peter Dummett, General Manager Port Development, Darwin Port.</p> <p>An overview of how the shipping industry works including considerations for potential exporters and importers.</p>
<b>10:10-10:25am</b>	<p>Talk 5 - Tony Geitz, Managing Director Cotton, Louie Dreyfus Company Australia.</p> <p>Cotton market opportunities – the Australian position in the global market place – introduction to the pricing of Australian cotton.</p>
<b>10:25-11:40am</b>	<p>Morning tea, compliments of the Louie Dreyfus Company. All day liquid refreshments compliments of Micronised Mineral Solutions.</p> <p>Trade display opportunities: attendees can visit trade displays in this time.</p>
<b>11:40-11:55am</b>	<p>Talk 6 - Damian Bradford, National Accumulation Manager, Archer Daniels Midland (ADM).</p> <p>Grain market opportunities from Northern Australia - ADM buys grain direct from Australian farmers and markets to domestic and international customers</p>
<b>11:55-12:10pm</b>	<p>Talk 7 - Cieran Maxwell, Feed Central.</p> <p>National Hay market and opportunities for hay in the Territory.</p>
<b>12:10-12:20pm</b>	<p>Talk 8 - Honourable Paul Kirby, Minister for Primary Industry and Resources.</p>
<b>12:20-1:30pm</b>	<p>Lunch, sponsored by Cotton Seed Distributors and Vanderfield.</p> <p>Attendees can visit trade displays in this time.</p>
<b>1:30-4:30pm</b>	<p>Farm/paddock/bus tours:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Livestock/pasture/cropping - TOUR 1.</li> <li>• Livestock/pasture/cropping - TOUR 2.</li> </ul>
<b>1:30-2:30pm</b>	<p>Farm/paddock/bus tours:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Horticulture – TOUR 3.</li> </ul>
<b>4:30pm</b>	<p>Closing address - Philip Hausler, Executive Director of Agriculture, Department of Primary Industry and Resources.</p>
<b>4:30-5:30pm</b>	<p>Dinner/nibbles compliments of Landmark, GRDC and FarmWorld, beverages compliments of Elders, Water Dynamics, Heritage Seeds and FMC.</p>

# MAP AND TRADE DISPLAYS



Site locations and program subject to change at the discretion of the organising committee.

Trade display	Business
1	Mac's Hire
2	The Leucaena Network & Direct Injection Technologies
3	Louie Dreyfus Company
4	Morning tea, lunch and dinner pavilion - closing address here after farm tours - allows trades safe loading after 4.30pm
5	Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)
6	CRC for Developing Northern Australia
7	Landcare NT
8	Landmark
9	GRDC
10	Profitable Grazing Systems (PGS)
11	Pioneer Seeds
12	Charles Darwin University

Trade display	Business
13	OPEN
14	Micronised Mineral Solutions
15	Cotton Seed Distributors & Bayer
16	Sweet Pro – Coodardie Brahmans
17	Air Power
18	Water Dynamics
19	Vanderfield
20	Elders/Heritage Seeds/FMC
21	Farm World
22	RGM Maintenance Pty Ltd
23	Eco Energy
24	Toilets
25	Portaloo's
26	Portaloo's

## FARM TOUR 1

### Pasture/cropping/livestock.

(39 seater plus standing room on bus) approx. 100 people in total between 2 x tours.

DPIR and trades vehicles on hand also for extras if needed.

#### 1:30-1:35pm

Bus/walk to improved pasture, seed production and irrigated cotton area.

#### 1:35-1:55pm (STOP 1)

Have a look at the improved pasture and pasture for seed production including Mulato, Jarra, Kattambora Rhodes, Splenda Setaria, Premier Digit and Megamax.

Have a chat with Greg Forsyth from Heritage Seeds and Arthur Cameron, DPIR Principal Pasture Agronomist.

#### 1:55-2:30pm

View the irrigated cotton. The 2018-2019 research program in the NT is investigating planting cotton

to utilise wet season rainfall to further reduce crop water requirement. The research trials demonstrate best practice agronomy of cotton on a range of Territory soils using our current irrigation systems, and the viability of cotton as part of diversified mixed-cropping system. Dryland cotton viewing will be later in the tour.

Have a chat with Nick Hartley, DPIR Senior Cotton Technical Officer and Ian Biggs, Senior Research Agronomist about the trial.

Talk to Paul Brady from Bayer and James Quinn from Cotton Seed Distributors at the trial site.

#### 2:30-2:35pm

Bus/walk to irrigated soybean and dryland forage and grain sorghum, maize, rice and cotton.

#### 2:35-2:45pm (STOP 2)

View the irrigated soybeans from PB Agrifoods and also the Hayman variety from Seednet which offers benefits to producers such as being utilised for hay and silage or grain. Soy offers valuable soil health

benefits in a cropping system and may potentially be suitable as a rotation crop with rice. It has been grown in the top end in the past and showed potential.

Have a chat with DPIR Senior Research Agronomist Ian Biggs.

**2:45-2:50pm**

Walk back to forage and grazing sorghum area.

**2:50-3:05pm**

Hear from Andrew Dieckmann from Pioneer about their various forage sorghums including Mega Sweet and Graze-N-Sile and the grain sorghums.

**3:05-3:20pm**

View the remaining dryland crops, rice and cotton.

Have a chat with Ian Biggs, DPIR Senior Research Agronomist and Nick Hartley, DPIR Senior Cotton Technical Officer.

**3:20-3:30pm**

Bus to livestock yards.

**3:30-4:20pm (STOP 3)**

Don't miss the opportunity to preview DPIR's sale select Brahman and composite bulls before

the annual bull sale on 18 June via [www.auctionsplus.com.au](http://www.auctionsplus.com.au)

Two key profit drivers for the Live Export market are number of calves produced and kg of beef turned off. In order to breed the most profitable cattle for the NT it is important that breeding females can produce a large number of calves during her breeding life that reach 350kg in 18 months.

Hear from DPIR livestock researcher Whitney Dollemore about the select Brahman females and where the herd is heading next.

Talk to Tim Schatz about the calf watch project.

This project aims to use new birthing sensor technology to develop a method for remotely monitoring calving and finding dead calves, and then to use it to conduct intensive investigations to improve our understanding of the causes of calf loss (and ultimately find ways to reduce it).

**4:20-4:30pm**

Bus back to food/closing pavilion (4).

**4:30-5:30pm**

Closing address, dinner and refreshments.

## FARM TOUR 2

### **Pasture/cropping/livestock.**

(39 seater plus standing room on bus) approx. 100 people in total between 2 x tours.

DPIR and trades vehicles on hand for extras if needed.

**1:30-1:40pm**

Bus to cattle yards.

**1:40-2:30pm (STOP 3)**

Don't miss the opportunity to preview DPIR's sale select Brahman and composite bulls before the annual bull sale on 18 June 2019 via [www.auctionsplus.com.au](http://www.auctionsplus.com.au)

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Bus to irrigated soybean and dryland forage and grain sorghum, maize, rice and cotton.

**2:40-2:55pm (STOP 2)**

View the dryland crops, rice and cotton.

Have a chat with Ian Biggs, DPIR Senior Research Agronomist.

**2:55-3:00pm**

Walk back to forage and grazing sorghum area.

**3:00-3:15pm**

Hear from Andrew Dieckmann from Pioneer about their various forage sorghums including Mega Sweet and Graze-N-Sile and the grain sorghums.

### 3:15-3:20pm

Walk to the irrigated soybean area.

### 3:20-3:30pm

View the irrigated soybeans from PB Agrifoods and the Hayman variety from Seednet which offer benefits to producers such as utilisation for hay and silage or grain. Soy offers valuable soil health benefits in a cropping system and may be suitable as a rotation crop with rice. It has been grown in the top end in the past and showed potential.

Have a chat with Ian Biggs, DPIR Senior Research Agronomist and Nick Hartley, Senior Technical Officer.

### 3:30-3:35pm

Bus/walk to improved pasture, seed production and irrigated cotton area.

### 3:35-4:10pm (STOP 1)

View the irrigated cotton. The 2018-2019 research program in the NT is investigating planting cotton to utilise wet season rainfall to further reduce crop water requirement. The research trials would be used to demonstrate best practice agronomy of cotton on a range of

Territory soils using our current irrigation systems, and the viability of cotton as part of diversified mixed-cropping system. Dryland cotton later in the tour.

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Have a chat with Greg Forsyth from Heritage Seeds and Arthur Cameron, DPIR Principal Pasture Agronomist.

### 4:25-4:30pm

Bus back to food/closing pavilion (4).



Farm tours subject to change at discretion of organising committee.



## FARM TOUR 3

### Horticulture.

**1:30-1:40pm**

Bus to mango area.

**1:40-2:00pm (STOP 4)**

Assessing the National Mango Breeding Program (NMBP) varieties for production; fruit quality and responses to disinfestation; effects of rootstocks; and environmental effects on flowering.

Meet Cameron McConchie, DPIR Research Horticulturalist who will speak about new mango varieties and how to order them. View the various mango varieties in the field.

**2:00-2:05pm**

Bus/walk to melon cover crop area.

**2:05-2:25pm**

Talk to Matt Hall, DPIR Senior Horticultural Extension Officer about assessing the efficacy of different cover crops for improving soil health, including a potential reduction of nematodes and other soil pathogens. View the various treatments with forage sorghum, Pearl millet, Caliente and a mixed treatment with millet, Lab-lab and Caliente.

**2:25-2:35pm**

Bus back to starting point.

Horticultural producers can head to Micronised Mineral Solutions at tent number 13, enter their lucky draw for some soil amelioration/fertiliser products.

Visit the trade displays and head over for the closing address, dinner and drinks at 4:30pm.



## PREVIEW BRAHMAN AND COMPOSITE BULLS

Department of Primary Industry and Resources

# ANNUAL BULL SALE

*18 June 2019*

Quality Brahman and composite bulls  
from the DPIR select herds.

Register with [auctionsplus.com.au](http://auctionsplus.com.au).

Contact Whitney Dollemore Ph: (08) 8973 9749 E: [whitney.dollemore@nt.gov.au](mailto:whitney.dollemore@nt.gov.au)



The KRS field day will provide you with an opportunity to view the Brahman and composite bulls from the department's select research herds.

The breeding program develops cattle that are productive and adapted to the climate and conditions of the Northern Territory.

Bulls will be auctioned on [www.auctionsplus.com.au](http://www.auctionsplus.com.au) on 18 June 2019.

For further information, please contact Whitney Dollemore, Pastoral Research Officer, on (08) 8973 9749 or email [whitney.dollemore@nt.gov.au](mailto:whitney.dollemore@nt.gov.au)

# SPONSORS

Proud sponsors of the Northern Territory Agriculture: Pathways to Potential field days.

