AZRI Rangeland scientists visit South Africa

Chris Materne – Pastoral Production Officer

Chris Materne and Pieter Conradie recently undertook a study tour to South Africa, which included a presentation by Chris at the 49th Annual Congress of the Grassland Society of Southern Africa (GSSA). In addition, visits to various research institutes and universities to discuss issues pertinent to rangeland research in an arid environment were undertaken.

The prestigious Howard Memorial Trust awarded Chris a grant to complete this study tour, while Pieter accompanied Chris with support from the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research. There are a number of positive outcomes for the Northern Territory from this study tour.

As a large area of Southern Africa faces similar challenges applying extensive farming systems in an arid environment, Chris’s presentation on research to produce quality beef sustainably in central Australia was well received. The use of remote technology, such as the Remote Livestock Management System used in the Quality Graze: Producer Steer Challenge project also evoked much interest as this level of technology is not currently available in Southern Africa.

Leading South African research organisations were visited to exchange ideas on long term grazing and fire trials that have relevance to similar research in Alice Springs. Methodologies were discussed with South African specialists regarding setting up, monitoring and analysis of these trials. One of the highlights of the tour was attending the fire symposium hosted by Professor Winston Trolley, a world-renowned fire ecologist who has dedicated his life to a study of all aspects of fire in rangelands. (cont. page 3)
Editorial

Dear Reader

The Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries has undertaken a restructuring process to increase the focus on food industry development and better align with the Industry Development Plan 2013–2017 and priorities set by government, including a focus on developing Northern Australia.

While the traditional research, development and biosecurity focus will remain, market and enterprise development will form an increasingly important part of strategic direction to ensure the department addresses the needs of producers under the diversification initiative underpinned by changes in lease agreement legislation.

These changes were explained by Directors from the Departments of Primary Industry and Fisheries and Land Resource Management at a recent Alice Springs branch NTCA meeting. Both NT departments will work together to ensure that producers are supported to unlock opportunities.

In line with the new direction, an experienced economist has been employed to increase economic decision making support to producers. One of Francis Bright’s first tasks will be to do an economic assessment of the Old Man Plains Research Station production system which will be used to determine how best this resource can contribute to support the pastoral industry as a research, extension and training facility. A profile of Francis is included on page 4 of this edition.

We have also been travelling, and during the previous quarter, two scientists from AZRI presented research findings at international forums. Jocelyn Coventry attended the World Buiatrics Congress in Cairns where she presented on remote technologies to improve records of reproductive performance for extensively-grazed beef cows. At the Grassland Society Conference of Southern Africa, Chris Materne presented the preliminary findings of the quality graze trial. Both presentations were well received and Jocelyn and Chris returned to the NT motivated by innovative ideas that can benefit the local pastoral industry.

According to the seasonal update the Plenty District has experienced two consecutive below average years and the seasonal indicators are not favourable for the short term outlook. The seasonal update for the remainder of the region indicates average to above average seasonal conditions have been experienced. Predictions indicate a chance of exceeding the median rainfall in the Southern Alice Springs region over October–November with the expected El Niño phenomenon becoming slightly weaker over summer.

I want to use this opportunity to welcome Jane Tincknell as the new editor of the Rural Review. Jane has lots of great ideas and will welcome suggestions from you to continually improve this newsletter. In conclusion, I’d like to invite you to a mini field day at Old Man Plains Research Station on 22 October, where preliminary steer performance results from a group of participating stations will be compared to those of the department’s Droughtmasters. This is an opportunity not to be missed.

Enjoy the read,

Pieter Conradie
Team Leader
AZRI Rangeland scientists visit South Africa
(from front page)

After touring this area in the late 1980s, Winston has a good understanding of the challenges and opportunities of the use of fire as a management tool in central Australia. His visit was later instrumental in the establishment of the ‘Shrub Burn Trial’ which is still being maintained at Kidman Springs Research Station.

At the Dohne Research Institute, Pieter gave a presentation on the benefits of introducing low input pasture legumes on abandoned arable lands in communal areas. Chris followed up on the use of Modus imagery and the conversion of cover images into grass, shrub and tree biomass with the potential to utilise spatial monitoring of grazing impact in central Australia and help set safe carrying capacity estimates.

There was also ample opportunity to promote the Australian Rangeland Conference to be hosted in Alice Springs in April 2015. Interest for a visit to Alice Springs was shown by senior scientists from South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe.

Second round of Farm Finance Concessional Loans Scheme

Producers in the Northern Territory are now able to access the second round of the Australian Government’s Farm Finance: Concessional Loans Scheme.

Eligible producers in the agricultural, pastoral, livestock, horticultural, aquacultural or apicultural (beekeeping) industries can submit their applications between 1 July 2014 and 30 April 2015 for the 2014–15 program.

Loans are for less than 50 percent of eligible commercial debt and this year the minimum loan amount has been reduced from $250 000 to $100 000 to enable smaller enterprises to access the scheme. The maximum loan amount remains at $1 million.

The Farm Finance Scheme in the Northern Territory will continue to be delivered by Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority (QRAA) in Brisbane. QRAA is a specialist administrator of government financial assistance programs to the rural sector. All application forms are available from the NT Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries.

Advice and support regarding scheme guidelines is provided through the department’s Farm Finance Promotions Officer, David Collinson, at david.collinson@nt.gov.au or phone 8936 4089.

Further information, including scheme guidelines and application forms, is available from the DPIF website: www.nt.gov.au/d/Primary_Industry or email: industry.programs@nt.gov.au
Remote technologies for cattle recording – international conference report
By Jocelyn Coventry
Pastoral Production Officer – NT DPIF Alice Springs

In July 2014, a poster was presented at the XXVIII World Buiatrics (Ruminants) Congress in Cairns Queensland on the use of remote technologies to record calving dates\(^1\). Accurate calving (birth) dates are required to enrol calves on BREEDPLAN—the national breed performance database\(^2\)—but these dates can be difficult to record in extensive situations. The poster detailed work done by Alice Springs NT DPIF officers on Old Man Plains Research Station (OMP), using automatically collected weights from a ‘walk-over-weighing’ system, together with field observations to record calving dates.

The weights of cows were collected using radio-frequency identification (RFID) ear-tags and ‘walk-over-weighing’ (WOW!) technology\(^3\), the latter being incorporated into a WOW! prototype unit\(^4\) (see Figure 1).

RFID-linked WOW! weight data were processed by a Remote Livestock Management System (RLMS)\(^5\) in order to calculate calving dates (‘WOW! calving dates’). These were based on a patented algorithm with an assumed liveweight drop at calving. The ‘WOW! calving dates’ were compared to calving dates that had been extrapolated from field observations (‘field calving dates’). For cows that had accurately recorded ‘WOW! calving dates and ‘field calving dates’, the dates from the two different techniques were similar for 84% of cows.

At the World Buiatrics Congress, it was interesting to note that there was a presentation on the improved detection of oestrus in dairy cows\(^4\), using RFID-linked WOW! weight data as well as oestrus detection strips over the tailhead. This concluded that accuracy was highest when the WOW! data was used in conjunction with observations.

Demonstration of remote technologies to assist with management and research for extensively-grazed beef cattle is an ongoing part of the work undertaken by NT DPIF officers on OMP and other project locations across northern Australia.

![Figure 1: WOW! prototype unit in use on OMP.](image)

Footnotes

a. Tru-Test Pty Ltd, Sunnybank, Qld
b. Precision Pastoral Pty Ltd, Alice Springs NT

References

Department's new economics leader kicks the dirt at Old Man Plains

The department has a new Economics Leader. Based at Berrimah Farm, Francis Bright has the Territory-wide responsibility of delivering practical economic analysis to industry and government.

For the 12 years prior to making the move to the Territory, Francis was based in Kununurra in the Kimberley as a regional economist for the Government of Western Australia. He has also put his hand to the economics of irrigated agriculture development and diversification in the Pilbara and Kimberley beef industries. In 2005 he co-authored the Pastoral Stock Water Workbook, a publication which continues to add value to the cattle industry in the north.

At DPIF, Francis’ first major task is to conduct an economic analysis of the department’s Old Man Plains research station, which he visited recently.

“It was important for me to talk to the people involved, look around, and kick the dirt so I can deliver relevant analysis. While I’m familiar with the cattle industry in northern WA, the NT’s arid zone industry has different profit drivers, sends cattle to different markets, and does not experience a wet season or monsoonal rain depressions.

Businesses can generate profit based on resources, rainfall, management, and knowing the drivers of prices in the target market. In the arid zone, grass, water and soil management all contribute to kilograms of beef turned off.

A decade ago, Alice Springs vet Peter Saville asked Francis whether he would be interested in moving there to deliver economic analysis. Francis’ economic analysis of the proposal was that fishing the Todd would be unrewarding in terms of fish caught per trip. Besides, where would he launch a boat? Now, based near the ocean, Francis looks forward to bringing his considerable experience in agricultural economics to the development of the Territory.

Animal Biosecurity Branch
Selling or Purchasing Cattle in the NT - Brands, Waybills and NLIS implications

Do you know what your legal obligations are under the Livestock Act and Regulations?

Brands in the NT: Under Livestock Regulations 60(1) A person must not sell, give away, exchange or receive travelling livestock that are unbranded cattle. Unbranded cattle are cattle of at least eight months of age that have not previously been branded. It is therefore compulsory to brand cattle before they are moved off a property or are sold, unless they are less than eight months of age. You may apply to the Registrar for Special Permission to move Unbranded Cattle.

Waybills: It is mandatory for cattle, buffalo, sheep, goats, camels, alpacas, llamas, deer and pig owners to complete a waybill whenever stock is moved outside the boundaries of a property. PICs are required for both origin and destination properties. Pink copies must be sent to the Registrar within 28 days of livestock being moved.

National Livestock Identification System (NLIS): NLIS devices (RFIDs) need to be attached to cattle before they leave the property. It is the responsibility of the owner of the property receiving cattle to ensure that the NLIS devices are read then transferred to the NLIS database within 48 hours of cattle arriving at the property.

For more information, check out our web pages at www.dpif.nt.gov.au/animalhealth or contact your RLBO for assistance.

Darwin Region
Ian Doddrell (RLBO)
Ph: 08 8999 2030

Katherine Region
Greg Scott (RLBO)
Ph: 08 8973 9754

Tennant Creek Region
Tom Haines (RLBO)
Ph: 08 8962 4458

Alice Springs Region
Greg Crawford (RLBO)
Ph: 08 8951 8125
Below average seasons—two in a row for the Plenty district!
Chris Materne, Pastoral Production, Alice Springs

**AussieGRASS, September 2014 update**

2013/14 Summer Pasture Growth

**Northern Alice Springs district**

![Median line chart for Northern Alice Springs district]

**Plenty district**

![Median line chart for Plenty district]

**Southern Alice Springs district**

![Median line chart for Southern Alice Springs district]

**Figure 1:** Previous 12 months pasture growth relative to historical records since 1957 (1 September 2013 to 31 August 2014)

Neutral conditions predicted for all (September to November 2014)

**Figure 2:** Chances of exceeding median growth over the next three months (September to November 2013)

**Figure 3:** Median district pasture growth (kg/ha), running total

**What is AussieGRASS?**

AussieGRASS is a spatial modelling framework that estimates various pasture characteristics such as growth and total standing dry matter over a given time and compares it with historical records. It does this by using rainfall, climate, soil and pasture type information to estimate average pasture growth (among other parameters) over 5 km x 5 km square grids across Australia. Seasonal benchmarking tools such as this are potentially valuable in assisting pastoralists to make informed land management decisions.

El Niño predicted to establish in 2014
(Sourced from the Australian Bureau of Meteorology)

The national outlook for September 2014 to November 2014 indicates:

- drier than normal conditions across the southern NT in September and across the Top End in October
- a chance of exceeding the median rainfall in the Southern Alice Springs region from October to November.

Climate influences include a weakening negative Indian Ocean Dipole, and near-average to warm temperatures in the tropical Pacific Ocean.

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seasonal indicators</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
- Despite some warming of the tropical Pacific Ocean over the previous month, ENSO remains neutral. Models continue to suggest an El Niño remains possible in 2014 although reduced slightly.
- These model outlooks and current observations mean the Bureau’s ENSO Tracker, though reduced from ALERT, remains at WATCH status, which indicates at least a 50% chance (double the normal likelihood) of an El Niño forming in 2014.
- El Niño is often associated with below-average rainfall over large parts of southern and eastern inland areas of Australia and above-average daytime temperatures over southern Australia. Such impacts can often occur while an event is developing, as experienced in some locations over the previous several months. |
| **Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD)** www.bom.gov.au/climate/enso/ | IOD negative but weakening
- The negative Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) in the tropical Indian Ocean has shown signs of weakening. Waters to the north of Australia and in the Timor Sea have cooled over the previous two weeks. All climate models surveyed by the Bureau indicate the IOD will continue to weaken, with neutral conditions likely to return during the austral spring.
- A negative IOD pattern typically brings wetter conditions to inland southern Australia during winter and spring. |
Conference Brief

Territory Natural Resource Management invites you to our 2014 Conference to be held at the Darwin waterfront from 18 to 20 November.

The conference will explore the innovative and collaborative ways in which people are working towards a sustainable future for all Territorians. With an expected attendance of 250 delegates from across the NT, this event offers a unique opportunity to learn about natural resource management from a community, primary industry, indigenous, research, conservation and government perspective.

The FREE conference includes presentations, workshops and training opportunities and supports natural resource managers from across the NT to meet with peers, share information, and build their knowledge and skills.

Conference themes:

- Addressing threats: fire, feral animals and weed management
- Managing significant environmental assets/places: biodiversity and conservation management
- Sustainable industry: sustainable pastoral and farming initiatives, carbon farming and Indigenous enterprises
- Sharing our stories: natural resource management success stories, stories of on-ground action

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tuesday, 18 November</th>
<th>Wednesday, 19 November</th>
<th>Thursday, 20 November</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Day</strong></td>
<td><strong>Day</strong></td>
<td><strong>Day</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>Workshop sessions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshops</td>
<td>Conference opening</td>
<td>Discussion sessions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field trip</td>
<td>Presentation sessions</td>
<td>Networking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TNRM Annual</td>
<td>Poster viewing</td>
<td>Morning tea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General meeting</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Evening</strong></td>
<td><strong>Evening</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welcome function</td>
<td>NT NRM Award</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gala dinner</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The NT Natural Resource Management Awards gala dinner on 19 November will recognise and celebrate the remarkable work undertaken by Territorians to protect our special places and to manage our land, water, soils, plants and animals.

Hope to see you there!

To register for the conference or for details on how to nominate someone for an award visit [www.territorynrm.org.au](http://www.territorynrm.org.au) or contact us on 08 8999 3783 or email [events@territorynrm.org.au](mailto:events@territorynrm.org.au)
Benefits of HGP use and MSA grading

Pilot cattle study in Alice Springs district, part 2

by J. Coventry, Pastoral Production Officer, NT DPIF Alice Springs

This is the second of two articles on a pilot cattle study by NT DPIF, which in 2012-13 investigated the financial benefit to carcase value from combined use of hormonal growth promotants (HGPs) and Meat Standards Australia (MSA) grading at abattoirs. The final study outcome—recommendations for improved profitability of steer turnoff to abattoirs—are described in this article.

Background

As described in the previous edition of Alice Springs Rural Review (Coventry, 2014), a group of 30 to 36-month-old Droughtmaster and Droughtmaster cross steers in a NT DPIF (HGP/MSA) study were turned off to abattoirs from the department’s Old Man Plains Research Station (OMP).

Recommendations based on abattoir grid specifications and feedback

At the conclusion of the study, recommendations were made for improved profitability of steer turnoff, based on factors that may have influenced the carcase quality or value at abattoirs. Where the target market(s) for cattle production includes turnoff to abattoirs, a review of management decisions to maximise profit can be guided by:

- abattoir grid specifications, including price paid per kilogram
- abattoir feedback sheets with indicators of meat quality.

For the study, the relevant abattoir grid specification that had a premium is given along with its criteria in Figure 1. Consideration of these and the abattoir feedback sheets gave rise to the following management recommendations:

a) Check that the steers meet the required age criteria — mouth them if necessary to better target the time of turnoff. In the subsequent year on OMP, steers were turned off ten weeks earlier in the year to increase the percentage that met the 2-tooth criterion.

b) Ensure good quantity and quality of feed, in order to promote growth and subcutaneous fat deposition. In northern Australia, average liveweight gain equivalent to at least 0.5 kg per day (180 to 220 kg per year) is required to meet prime beef market specifications (Partridge, 2011). In the subsequent year on OMP, the growth of steers was monitored (as liveweight and P8 {rump} fat) as a part of an ongoing grazing trial.

c) Limit management events, such as mustering and ‘time off feed’, during the month before trucking. Those events can impact negatively on growth during this critical time. In the subsequent year on OMP, steers were held on fresh feed in a single paddock for the final month.

d) Plan the muster, drafting and yard management for trucking so that stress and bruising is minimised. Stressors can range from environmental extremes to mixing with unfamiliar or poor-temperament cattle. Assessment of abattoir feedback sheets in the study showed that there was a trend for steers that were loaded last onto the truck to have a higher level of carcase bruising. It is assumed that extra effort to ‘push’ the last cattle onto the truck contributed to this bruising. In the subsequent year on OMP, attention to potential stressors and use of ‘low stress stock handling’ helped eliminate all carcase bruising.
The final three recommendations are consistent with the MSA requirements for handling cattle (MLA 2014). These recommendations help to maximise storage and retention of muscle glycogen, which converts to lactic acid after slaughter and maintains good meat quality (low pH and good colour).

Conclusions

At the end of the pilot cattle study, two questions remained for further investigation.

- What regionally-specific management is required to optimise the meat colour and pH for cattle trucked from the Alice Springs district to abattoirs in South Australia?
  
  Investigation into aspects of meat quality will be undertaken with future steer consignments from OMP.

- Under what conditions would use of HGPs in combination with MSA grading be most profitable?
  
  The study findings had insufficient statistical significance to demonstrate the effect of HGP use on profitability. Based on modelling, however, profitability was shown to be affected by not only the degree of improvement in liveweight gain from HGP-use, but also by:
  
  - the proportion of carcasses that comply with MSA grading requirements
  - the value of the financial premium for a MSA-graded carcase
  - the penalties incurred in the MSA grading as a result of HGP-use.

In summary, the profitability of using HGPs, while trying to get MSA grading and a financial premium is affected by the amount of extra weight gain from HGP-use, balanced against the proportion of HGP-treated carcasses that miss out on a MSA financial premium.

References


Teys Australia 2013, ‘Teys Australia Grading System’, Grid No.9, Naracoorte (MSA Grass, MSA Angus, EU Grass), 09/05/13 (information sheet), Teys Australia, A Cargill Joint Venture.

FutureBeef website focus: multimedia

The FutureBeef Program for Northern Australia is an exciting partnership of four organisations working together for profitable and sustainable northern beef production. The aim of the FutureBeef program is to support sustainable and profitable productivity gains for northern beef producers.

The FutureBeef website (www.futurebeef.com.au) is just one of many products produced by the program. In this issue the multimedia section is in the spotlight. Located under the Resources tab, the multimedia page contains all the links to videos, slidecasts and webinar recordings. So if you have heard or seen something lately which could be a benefit to your business, there is likely to be presentation here that you can have a look at.

![Figure 1. FutureBeef website home page](image1)

![Figure 2. Multimedia page on the FutureBeef website](image2)
Pestivirus: what is all the fuss?

by J. Tincknell and J. Coventry
NT DPIF Alice Springs

Bovine viral diarrhoea virus (BVDV), or ‘pestivirus’ as it is commonly known, is widespread throughout the Australian cattle population. This article gives a general overview of the disease complex and adverse production outcomes from BVDV infection. This is followed by a more specific overview of management options for BVDV in northern Australia.

The Disease Complex

BVDV can cause economic loss through reduced weaning rates and secondary infections that contribute to bovine respiratory disease in feedlots.

In a recent article on Beef Central¹, it was noted that awareness and prioritisation of BVDV in Australia was not high, whereas other countries not impacted by Foot and Mouth consider BVDV as the most significant cattle disease in terms of impact on production. This was highlighted at the 2014 World Buiatrics (ruminant) Congress where more than 20 scientific papers were delivered directly relating to BVDV. Local Pastoral Production Officer Jocelyn Coventry attended the congress and found that the papers by world experts were able to address current questions on epidemiology, criteria for successful eradication and the payback period for eradication (which can be as quick as 18 months).

Depending upon the timing of infection and the level of herd immunity, BVDV can cause large reductions in herd reproductive rates and individual animal performance. Figure 1 displays the different types of infection and impact on the animal.

Figure 1. The three sources of BVDV infection and impact on the animal².
Acute infection

Acute infection occurs when an animal comes into contact with infected discharge (e.g. saliva) from a herd mate. Herd bulls can transmit the virus through their semen and management practices such as mustering, yarding, or trucking can result in increased infection rates after animals have been in close contact with one another.

Foetal infection

The single biggest impact of BVDV on extensive beef herds is on fertility. Figure 2 demonstrates the variety of negative impacts an ill-timed infection can have on the foetus. The dam develops natural immunity from the acute infection. There are no reports of infections impacting the calf during the final trimester of pregnancy.

Persistent infection

The primary source of BVDV infections and how BVDV is maintained in beef herds is via persistently infected (PI) animals (see Figure 3). PI animals are recognised as ‘poor-doers’ or sick animals that generally die before 18 months of age. Some PI animals can appear as ‘normal’, however, with high survival rates, and can act as hidden transmitters of BVDV. PI breeding females can successfully breed, creating more PIs through their progeny.
BVDV in Extensive Beef Herds

BVDV becomes endemic in extensive beef herds because infection can be easily sustained in large populations of continuously mated cattle. Serological testing across the Northern Territory between 2005 and 2007 indicated that most groups of tested cattle on all 13 properties had been exposed to BVDV. A recently completed major study across northern Australia (CashCow project) reported that recent exposure to BVDV was correlated with 10% higher foetal or calf loss, and high seroprevalence (>80%) to BVDV was correlated with 23% fewer cows being pregnant within four months of calving.

Current wisdom suggests that under extensive grazing conditions, it is preferable to promote the production of immune-competent cows and heifers that develop protective antibodies to BVDV prior to conception of their calf. In herds known to have BVDV, the presence of natural herd immunity suggests that the required protective antibodies to BVDV can develop with exposure to PI cattle. However, exposure to PI cattle, and thereby transmission of BVDV, may be varied by weaning practices, time of conception and time of muster. This can result in a fluctuating level of natural herd immunity to BVDV in extensive cattle herds, with irregular BVDV infections and fluctuating numbers of PI calves.

To limit the adverse production effects of BVDV in extensive beef herds with known BVDV, it is beneficial for weaner cattle to be exposed to the low number of PI cattle in the herd so that they have had the disease and developed immunity before they reach breeding age. In extensive cattle herds, this may be promoted by periods of close cattle contact while yarding and handling at muster. For extensive beef herds with no indication of BVDV antibodies (determined through testing of blood samples) a vaccination program could be considered and extreme care needs to be exercised to ensure that the disease is not spread when introducing new animals, particularly herd bulls and pregnant cows or heifers. The biggest impact of BVDV is seen when the disease spreads to a previously naive herd.

Conclusion

There are management strategies that can help to limit the negative impact of BVDV on cattle production. For more information about BVDV or to discuss management options for BVDV in extensive beef herds, please contact your local animal health professional.

References

Live Cattle Exports via Darwin Port – August 2014

Please note that the ‘NT CATTLE’ figures are NT cattle exported through the Port of Darwin only—some NT cattle are exported through interstate ports.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Destination</th>
<th>TOTAL CATTLE (including interstate)</th>
<th># NT CATTLE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRUNEI</td>
<td>4,639</td>
<td>4,043</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INDONESIA</td>
<td>201,748</td>
<td>282,022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHILIPPINES</td>
<td>27,324</td>
<td>22,403</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SABAH</td>
<td>460</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SARAWAK</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W-MALAYSIA</td>
<td>10,018</td>
<td>14,952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIETNAM</td>
<td>2,801</td>
<td>35,396</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EGYPT</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>246,990</td>
<td>359,616</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AUGUST at a glance

- 44,768 head of cattle through the Port of Darwin during August, 8,312 less than July and 8,716 more than August last year
- 2014 total cattle figures indicate 89,345 head more than last year. NT cattle 21,262 more than last year.

Live Cattle Exports thru the Port of Darwin (last 10 years)

![Graphs showing live cattle exports for Darwin Port from 2002 to 2013]

PREVIOUS 8 YEARS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Cattle, Port of Darwin</th>
<th>NT Cattle, Port of Darwin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>227,648</td>
<td>283,046</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### OTHER LIVESTOCK EXPORTS VIA DARWIN PORT (includes NT and Interstate Stock)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Destination</th>
<th>Buffalo</th>
<th>Camels</th>
<th>Goats</th>
<th>Horses</th>
<th>Sheep</th>
<th>Pigs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BRUNEI</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INDONESIA</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHILIPPINES</td>
<td>199</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W-MALAYSIA</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SABAH</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SARAWAK</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIETNAM</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2,348</td>
<td>427</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>2,274</td>
<td>427</td>
<td>1080</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### NATIONAL CATTLE PRICES - W/E 29/8/2014

#### HEAVY STEER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SALEYARDS</th>
<th>O.T.HOOKS</th>
<th>Estimated dressed weight price (cents/kg)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NSW</td>
<td>QLD</td>
<td>SA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This week</td>
<td>369</td>
<td>363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last week</td>
<td>361</td>
<td>335</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year ago</td>
<td>341</td>
<td>314</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### MEDIUM STEER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SALEYARDS</th>
<th>O.T.HOOKS</th>
<th>Estimated dressed weight price (cents/kg)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NSW</td>
<td>QLD</td>
<td>SA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This week</td>
<td>325</td>
<td>313</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last week</td>
<td>308</td>
<td>276</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year ago</td>
<td>289</td>
<td>235</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### MEDIUM COW

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SALEYARDS</th>
<th>O.T.HOOKS</th>
<th>Estimated dressed weight price (cents/kg)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NSW</td>
<td>QLD</td>
<td>SA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This week</td>
<td>358</td>
<td>317</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last week</td>
<td>358</td>
<td>317</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year ago</td>
<td>358</td>
<td>317</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### TRADE STEER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SALEYARDS</th>
<th>O.T.HOOKS</th>
<th>Estimated dressed weight price (cents/kg)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NSW</td>
<td>QLD</td>
<td>SA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This week</td>
<td>371</td>
<td>352</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last week</td>
<td>368</td>
<td>354</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year ago</td>
<td>358</td>
<td>317</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### LIVE EXPORT QUOTES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIGHT STEERS (260-360 kg)</th>
<th>LIGHT HEIFERS (290-360 kg)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Darwin</td>
<td>Broome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This week</td>
<td>195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last week</td>
<td>190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year ago</td>
<td>nq</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brunei Dollar</td>
<td>1.15095</td>
<td>1.15218</td>
<td>1.14411</td>
<td>1.11804</td>
<td>1.076</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesian Rupiah</td>
<td>10,921.6</td>
<td>10,926.0</td>
<td>10.897.2</td>
<td>9,676.94</td>
<td>1830</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippine Peso</td>
<td>40.5942</td>
<td>40.6853</td>
<td>40.6007</td>
<td>39.5922</td>
<td>19.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysian Ringgit</td>
<td>2.94996</td>
<td>2.97968</td>
<td>2.98918</td>
<td>2.92041</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Euro</td>
<td>0.71113</td>
<td>0.69437</td>
<td>0.68034</td>
<td>0.67272</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US Dollar</td>
<td>0.93380</td>
<td>0.93619</td>
<td>0.9626</td>
<td>0.88931</td>
<td>0.752</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnam Dong</td>
<td>19,554.4</td>
<td>19,566.4</td>
<td>19,433.5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Prepared by the NT Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries

This publication contains commodity market information prepared for DPIF staff use in strategic research and extension planning. While DPIF exercise care in the compilation and preparation of this information, no responsibility is taken for its accuracy or for the completeness of any information that is reproduced from other sources. DPIF denies any loss or damage to any person whether caused directly or indirectly by the use of any of the information provided.
Save the Date
22 October 2014

Mini Field Day

on
Old Man Plains Research Station
‘Quality Graze:
Producer Steer Challenge’

Topics for discussion

Result to date for the steers *
Animal health
Weaner management

Morning smoko and lunch provided

Want more information? Call Jane on 8951 8100
GLOSSARY

ASPIAC  Alice Springs Pastoral Industry Advisory Committee
CAGLM  Central Australian Grazing Land Management
CLMA  Centralian Land Management Association
CSIRO  Commonwealth Scientific & Industrial Research Organisation
DAFF  Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry
DoE   Department of Education
DK-CRC  Desert Knowledge Cooperative Research Centre
DLRM  Department of Land Resource Management
DPIF  Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries
GRASP  Pasture Growth Model
MLA   Meat & Livestock Australia
NABRC  North Australian Beef Research Council
NBRUC  Northern Beef Research Update Conference
NLIS  National Livestock Identification System
NLP   National Landcare Program
NTCA  Northern Territory Cattlemen’s Association
PIC   Property Identification Code
RFID  Radio Frequency Identification Device
VRD   Victoria River District

Produced by The Northern Territory Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries.