



## Editorial

Welcome to another edition of Top Paddock, the Top End's primary industry newsletter. Already we're in May and it has been quite a busy year:

- The annual DDRF Field Day on March 14 day was very well attended with some high profile presentations. A more detailed article is included in this edition. Well done to Jed, Sean, Tracey and staff.
- The NTCA AGM on March 28 was a huge success with many national and international delegates attending. The announcement at the AGM of Stuart Kenny's intention to leave the NT to take up a senior management role with AACo based in Queensland is a big loss to the Territory. I am sure however that Stuart will maintain a close relationship with the NT pastoral industry.
- A workshop to introduce the National Agricultural Monitoring System (NAMS) has been arranged for Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June in Winnellie. A factsheet on NAMS has been included in this newsletter. Please see page 13 for details.
- Greg Owens, senior extension officer with Crops Forestry and Horticulture section, has left DPIFM to take up a senior teaching position at Taminmin High School. I would like to take the opportunity to wish Greg all the best in his new role. Greg established and fostered some very good relationships with NT horticulturalists; one of his major achievements was being instrumental in establishing a mango crop forecasting model across northern Australia.

## Calendar of Events

DATE	EVENT	CONTACT
May 16-18	Fred's Pass Show	
May 17	Pine Creek Cup	Pine Creek Turf Club
May 30	Ponderosa Brahman Sale, Katherine	Paul Herod
June 1	Adelaide River Show	
June 8	Seafood Festival, Darwin	
June 14	Adelaide River Races & Gymkhana	
June 17	National Agricultural Monitoring Systems (NAMS) information workshop (Katherine)	Neil MacDonald neil.macdonald@nt.gov.au
June 19	NAMS workshop - Darwin	Phil Hausler phil.hausler@nt.gov.au
June 18-20	Grazing Land Management Course, Katherine Rural College	Trudi Oxley trudi.oxley@nt.gov.au
July 18	Katherine Show day	
July 25	Darwin Show day	
August 6	Kidman Springs field day and BeefUp Forum	Simone White simone.white@nt.gov.au
August 8	Adelaide River BeefUp forum	Phil Hausler phil.hausler@nt.gov.au

Cheers from the Editorial team:

*Phil Hausler & Doriane Rout*

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## Biofibre Farming in the Northern Territory

Did you know that biofibre crops such as Hemp, Flax and Kenaf can be used to create recyclable composite materials such as interiors in cars, buses and aircraft, and have potential uses in textiles, furniture, wood and plastics manufacturing and the gardening industry?

From the late 1980's through to the early 1990's, detailed research on the agronomic aspects of growing Kenaf as a fibre crop was undertaken by DPIFM. The project demonstrated that viable commercial yields can be achieved in the Katherine and Douglas Daly districts. The problem at the time was that there was no market for Kenaf.

With the focus on recycling, carbon sequestration, and the high cost of fossil fuels, factories in countries such as the UK, Canada and the US are now producing these materials from biofibres. Effectively, carbon is being sequestered into everyday products. Virtually anything can be made – mobile phone cases, dashboards, skateboards, motorbike fenders, even super yachts.

The president of the international super yacht society is personally interested in biofibres. He firmly believes that the international super yacht industry must be involved by manufacturing luxury yachts made out of this composite material.

The Department of Business, Economic and Regional Development has recently become part of an international collaboration to create an Australian biofibre industry. Currently, investors are looking for suitable land in the NT to produce, among other things, Kenaf as a fibre crop.



*Motorbike fender made from hemp fibres and resin*



*A skateboard made using hemp and flax fibres*

*By Phil Hausler  
DPIFM, Darwin*

### **Acknowledgements:**

*Biobits newsletter issue #6 April 2008-04-24,  
DBERD.*

*Murray Hird, DBERD*

## Very Successful DDRF Field Day

On Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2008, the annual Douglas Daly Research Farm (DDRf) field day was held. The day started at 0930 with around 110 people attending, and they were treated to some high quality presenters:

- Trisha Cowley (DPIFM): preparing cattle for transport.
- David Ffoulkes (DPIFM): Changes to live export demand patterns
- Matt Ahern (Qld): Ruminant nutrition with a Top End focus
- Steve Livesley (Melbourne Uni): Carbon sequestration properties of Douglas Daly Land types/uses.
- Dick Williams (CDU): carbon sequestration, abatement and trading.
- Geoff Niethe (Qld): breeder herd management and calf wastage.

A tour of the farm commenced around 4:00pm after the presentations. The tour included:

- Breeder assessment: Brahman vs Composite (Gehan Jayawardhana)
- Leaucaena establishment (Peter O'Brien)
- Understanding and Improving heifer fertility (Tim Schatz)
- Pasture species evaluation (Peter Shotton, Barry Lemcke)

Notes from the field day will soon be available on the DPIFM website.

The Douglas Daly School Association sold hamburgers and hotdogs at the conclusion of the day where guests adjourned to the social club. A tremendous effort from DDRF staff and project officers to attract such a big crowd.



Steven Livesley presenting



A big crowd listening to presentations in the fertiliser shed.

## Taking the Hot Air Out of Global Warming

There's an enormous amount of information on climate change and global warming and a lot of it is hot air and green gobbledegook. The fact is that cattle operations contribute to more than 50% of the Territory's total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and managing these emissions is part and parcel of sustainable economic development of the pastoral industry.

Pastoral Production will be producing a series of information sheets about GHGs and practical ways of managing GHG emissions to save money. The first Factsheet provides an overview of climate change in relation to the NT pastoral industry and the series will cover sources of greenhouse gases, practical ways of reducing emissions, auditing and accreditation, and carbon trading opportunities. These Factsheets can be

accessed from the Climate Change link at the DPIFM website [www.nt.gov.au/dpifm](http://www.nt.gov.au/dpifm) or at the Pastoral Production website (via the Primary Industry link).

[http://www.nt.gov.au/dpifm/Content/File/p/Climate\\_Change/CCFS01.pdf](http://www.nt.gov.au/dpifm/Content/File/p/Climate_Change/CCFS01.pdf)

The first factsheet, which provides an overview of the potential implications to the Northern Territory pastoral industry, can be found in this newsletter.

David Ffoulkes  
NT DPIFM

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## Multibreed Composite Assessment and Brahman Improvement

### Project Officers:

G. Jayawardhana, P. O'Brien, S. Reed, C. Hazel, S. Izod, R. Muirhead, T. Moran, M. Hoskins, A. Haines, D. Dutton .

### Location:

Douglas Daly Research Farm, Victoria River Research Station

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### Objective:

*To measure the relative growth, reproductive performance and carcass characteristics of the interbred progeny of some tropically adapted multi-breed crossbred bulls mated to Brahman cows, compared with the progeny of Brahman bulls mated to Brahman cows. To maximise Brahman performance for reproduction and growth while minimising mature weight.*

### Background:

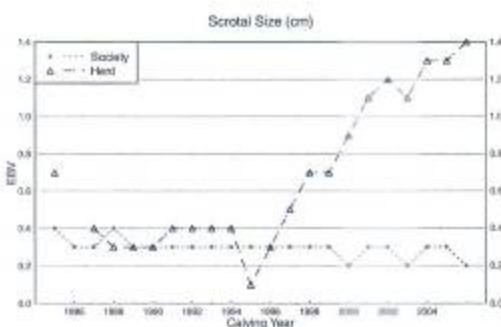
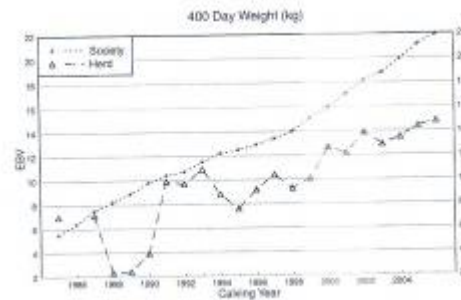
Multi-breed composites retain larger amounts of heterosis (hybrid vigour) in future generations than do the old style two-breed animals such as Droughtmasters, Brafordts and Charbrays. They also combine the good points of the more different cattle types. They are also more suitable for meat quality based markets than the Brahman and are being explored as a possible alternative to Brahman in case of a downturn in live exports. Most of the large cattle companies such as NAPCo and AA Company are shifting to multi-breed composites. This project aims to compare a composite suitable for the Top End with Brahmans that are being improved by selection for growth and reproduction.

### Method:

A composite of 56.3% Brahman, 12.5% Africander, 12.5% Tuli, 6.3% Shorthorn, 6.3% Hereford and 6.3% Charolais is being compared with the Brahman. This cross gives a mix that is 81% tropically adapted and 19% unadapted *Bos taurus* and can be expected to retain about 64% of heterosis in the second generation onwards. Crossing half Belmont Red, quarter Tuli, and quarter Charbray bulls (from Geoff Maynard's "Mt Eugene" stud in Queensland) to the Brahman cows created the composite. The cows are run at Victoria River Research Station (VRRS) and steers and heifers up to 3 years of age are being run at Douglas Daly Research Farm (DDRF). None of the animals are treated for worms, ticks or fly. Both the composites and comparison Brahman bulls are selected on weight, testicle size and percentage normal sperm at yearling and are used for a maximum of three years. The females are selected on pregnancy and rearing a calf (empties are culled except, if necessary, as yearlings or lactating 2 year olds). They are all multiple sire mated with DNA typing being used to identify sires to enable recording in Group Breedplan, which is the Australia wide genetic evaluation system. Breedplan is used to assess genetic progress, rather than as a within herd selection tool, which allows this program to be replicated in more extensive herds.

**Results:**

The success of the Brahman improvement program is shown by the average days to calving and scrotal circumference (reproduction trait) EBV's (estimated breeding values) for the DDRF Brahmans (Herd 4299), being the best of all the herds on Brahman Group Breedplan.



The 400-day weight EBV's are slightly lower than the breed average (a consequence of the high level of selection for reproductive traits), while mature cow weight is being kept relatively low, as large cows require more feed. The Brahman Breed Average has significantly improved for weight figures but at the expense of increased mature cow weight and days to calving and no improvement in scrotal circumference. This is a worrying trend for the Brahman breed as reproduction has been shown to be more economically important than growth and large mature cows will not rebreed in harsh environments.

The success of this program in a small herd (250 females) over a twelve year period shows that very rapid improvement will be possible in the large NT herds if these methods are followed. Work done in Brazil, by Eler et al. 2004, is indicating that the heritability of reproduction is a lot higher than has been generally accepted in Australia (69% heritability for yearling pregnancy in Nellore cattle versus past Australian estimates of 7 to 15%). Current data from the Beef Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) in Queensland is indicating a heritability of 50% for age at puberty and hence yearling pregnancy (Johnston 2007).



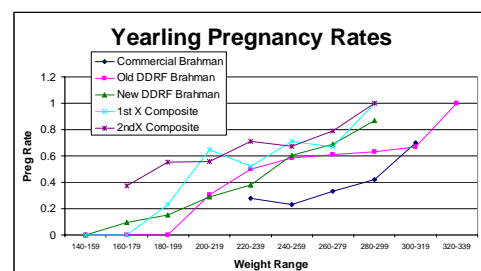
**Table 1. Results on Average Production of Brahmans and Composites**

	<b>Brahmans (no.)</b>	<b>Composites (no.)</b>	<b>Difference</b>
<b>Birth Weight</b>	28.4 kg (259)	1 <sup>st</sup> Cross - 27.9kg (233)	-0.5 kg
	26.4 kg (113)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Cross - 27.0kg (173)	0.6 kg
<b>Weaning Weight</b>	188.1 kg (316)	1 <sup>st</sup> Cross - 195.8 kg (329)	7.7 kg
	185.9 kg (241)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Cross - 192.1kg (258)	6.2 kg
<b>Yearling (400D) Weight</b>	199.0 kg (317)	1 <sup>st</sup> Cross - 208.1 kg (327)	9.1 kg
	219.3 kg (245)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Cross - 228.2 kg (219)	8.9 kg
<b>Yearling (400D) Testicle Size</b>	23.1 cm (107)	1 <sup>st</sup> Cross - 26.1 cm (109)	3.0 cm
	22.3 cm (65)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Cross - 24.6 cm (54)	2.2 cm
<b>% Normal Sperm at Yearling</b>	7.7 % (107)	1 <sup>st</sup> Cross - 25.2 % (109)	17.5 % (3 X Brahmans)
	8.6%(83)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Cross - 23.4% (74)	14.8% (3 X Brahmans)
<b>Yearling Pregnancy</b>	29.9 % (40/134)	1 <sup>st</sup> Cross - 57.0 % (86/151)	27.1%(almost2XBrahmans)
	47.6% (70/147)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Cross - 65.4% (106/162)	17.8%
<b>Av. Joining Weight</b>	223.6 kg (134)	1 <sup>st</sup> Cross - 231.5 kg (151)	7.9 kg
	224.4 kg (89)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Cross - 222.2 kg (92)	-2.4 kg
<b>Av. Joining Weight Pregnants (range)</b>	240.0 kg (163 to 293kg)	1 <sup>st</sup> Cross-240.5kg (186-306kg)	0.5 kg
	249.1 kg (191 to 297kg)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Cross-237 kg (166-285 kg)	- 12.1 kg
<b>Av. Joining Weight Empties (range)</b>	216.7 kg (153 to 279kg)	1 <sup>st</sup> Cross-219.7kg (144-281kg)	3 kg
	206.1 kg (151 to 288kg)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Cross-210.6kg (164-254kg)	4.5 kg
<b>Pregnancy Rate of Lactating 2yr Olds</b>	30.6 % (11/36)	1 <sup>st</sup> Cross - 61.5 % (48/78)	31.7 % (2 X Brahmans)
	58.8% (20/34)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Cross - 67.3% (33/49)	8.5%
<b>Pregnancy Rate of Lactating 3yr Olds*</b>	74.5 % (76/102)	1 <sup>st</sup> Cross - 79.5 % (89/112)	5.0%
	100% (11/11)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Cross- 88.9% (24/27)	-11.1%
<b>Pregnancy Rate of Lactating Adults</b>	78.8% (112/142)	1 <sup>st</sup> Cross - 90.2% (130/144)	11.4%
	nil	2 <sup>nd</sup> Cross - 77.8% (7/9)	-
<b>2 Year Steer Weight</b>	390.0 kg (54)	415.9 kg (51)	25.9 kg
<b>Carcase Weight</b>	227.8 kg (27)	237.2 kg (25)	9.4 kg
<b>Eye Muscle Area</b>	73.3 cm <sup>2</sup> (27)	78.4 cm <sup>2</sup> (25)	5.1 cm <sup>2</sup>

The first cross composites were born lighter than the Brahmans but gained weight faster. Their weight and reproduction figures have been consistently superior to those of the Brahmans. Initial carcass figures indicate that eye muscle area per kg carcass weight is superior in the composites. The composites also have good resistance to ticks and fly.

The second-generation data to date is presented here with second cross composites consistently heavier too. They are mostly showing superior reproduction, particularly an ability to get in calf at lighter weights. This could be due to gene segregation bringing out some of the characteristics of the light African breeds. Some of the heavier empties could be for the same reason (character of later maturing European). This second-generation performance is more important than that of the first cross as the heterosis loss in a composite occurs between first and second generations. The graph shows a comparison between pregnancy by joining weight for the original DDRF Brahmans (1994 to 1996 drops), the current DDRF Brahmans (2001 to 2006 drops), and the first and second generation

Composites and Brahmans from commercial properties.



The Composites (especially second generation) show high pregnancies at very light weight ranges. The newer Brahmans also seem capable of becoming pregnant at lighter weights than the original Brahmans as a result of selection for fertility. The Brahmans from commercial properties appear the least fertile. This is probably due to the emphasis on weight gain rather than fertility in most Brahman studs.

We also sent a group of Composite and Brahman steers to the AustAsia feedlot in Lampung, Indonesia with the following results.

Breed (no.)	Induction Weight	Feedlot Gain	Average Daily Gain	Feed Conversion	Slaughter Weight	Dressing Percentage	Carcase Weight
Brahman (23)	291kg	155.6 kg	1.57 kg	6.08kgDM/kg	446.6 kg	50.4%	225 kg
Composite (27)	316 kg	155.3 kg	1.58 kg	6.52kgDM/kg	471.3 kg	50.1%	237 kg
Difference	25 kg	-0.3 kg	0.01 kg	0.44kgDM/kg	24.7 kg	-0.3%	12 kg

The feedlot performance was relatively similar. The striking difference is that the Composites had a worse feed conversion than the Brahmans. Some of this could be due to the heavier weight, and hence heavier demand for maintenance, of the composites. The causes will be presented when the data is fully analysed.

#### References:

Eler, J.P., Silva, J.A.II V., Evans, J.L., Ferraz, J.B.S., Dias, F. and Golden, B.L. (2004) Additive genetic relationships between heifer pregnancy and scrotal circumference in Nellore cattle. *J. Anim. Sci.* 82: 2519-2527.

Johnston, D.J. (2007) Beef CRC- Links between genetics of beef quality and components of herd profitability in northern Australia – genetics results update. Proceedings, Northern Beef Research Update Conference.

## Improved Pasture Performance at DDRF: Rainfall and Seasonal Variations

The improved pasture species trial work at DDRF seeks to hone our pasture management skills by monitoring the performance of cattle on an annual basis, and linking it with pasture composition, availability and longevity.

We have found that there are various levels of cattle productivity which are available to the producer, with varying degrees of complexity of management.

Over a number of years of observation it is becoming plain that the base level production is provided by the grass species. These improved species out produce the native species in production and carrying capacity by at least 20-40 fold due to quantity and quality of feed produced. In the Douglas-Daly area a large number of species are suitable including Pangola, Jarra, Strickland, Buffel, Sabi being the most productive.

The next level is gained by feeding block supplements year round with the greatest weight response in cattle occurring during the wet season. Dry season supplement tends to reduce the dry season weight losses, but can be swallowed up by compensatory growth over the next wet season. The advantages of supplementation are usually best gained by achieving turnoff weight during the following wet, without having to wait another 6-9 months to achieve it. This may allow the carrying of higher breeder nos. because of more rapid turnover of growing stock. Generally all-year supplementation yields around 30kg/head/yr extra live weight gain at consumption rates of 80-150 grams/head/day.

The next level is attained by adding a legume to the grass sward which improves the protein content of the available feed when it is most limiting, in the Dry. This can equate to 20-30kg higher weight gain per head per year. One of the minuses may be the loss of the opportunity for cheaply controlling broad leaf weeds in the grass pasture. The addition of a legume to a grass pasture post-establishment is now well tried and possible, but the proviso of weed-free status for the paddock is a necessity for getting maximum profit for the seed outlay. The best legume species here are Ooloo, Verano, Wynn, and Milgara.

The next level possible is the planting of rows of leucaena into an existing grass sward. These rows take a full wet season to establish and are enhanced by NPK side dressings to boost the height in year 1. An important pre-requisite for this advancement is the exclusion of wallabies from the areas during leucaena establishment. Leucaena is not a possibility for all Top End soils, only those with good water holding capacity such as the Blain. There is also a problem in controlling weeds along the rows that needs to be vigilantly monitored and sprayed at the right times. Leucaena tends to raise animal performance by another 30-40 kg/head/year over that of the grass alone. Another factor is that the microbial "bug" for detoxifying the mimosine content of leucaena is probably a worthwhile insurance policy to employ.

However no signs of this toxicity have been seen at DDRF over many years of leucaena

consumption, so it is assumed that toxic consumption level percentage of the diet is not achieved. Best results from leucaena have so far been achieved through splitting the paddock in two and moving the stock to the other half of the paddock on a monthly basis; ie by allowing the leucaena a regular rest from grazing. There are a number of different varieties of leucaena, however Cunningham, Peru and Taramba all grow well with Taramba having the least amount of seed

produced and better leaf-holding capacity in the early dry.

### Seasonal Variation in stock live-weight Gains.

It has been very interesting to monitor the changes in live-weight gain between years and to record the best ever performance of weaner cattle in 2005-06.

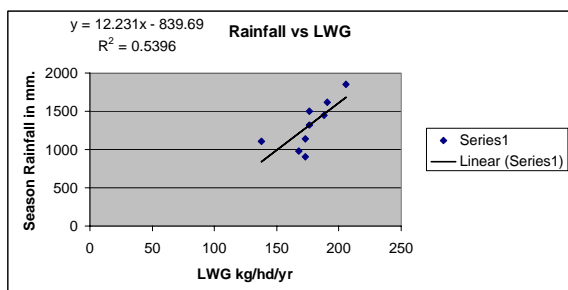
Year	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Mean LW gain kg / hd	190.4 kg	187.7 kg	176.1 kg	173.0 kg	173.1 kg	176.5 kg	168.0 kg	205.9 kg	137.6
Rainfall in mm	1620	1451	1315	1143	906	1495	984	1846	1127
Rain Days	110	126	106	76	83	113	70	119	76
Stocking Rate hd/ha	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.5

Basically the better the rainfall, the higher the cattle annual performance per head is achieved. The other factor causing this latest years decline was the 20% increase in stocking rates of the pastures in changing from 5 to 6 head/ paddock. The one paddock that remained at the same stocking rate as the year before had a 27% decrease in production. This compared with a mean 33.4% decrease in the paddocks with increased stocking rates.

This equates to approximately 80% of the reduction in 06-07 production from the year prior was due to seasonal variation and 20% to increased stocking rates.

When weights are compared closely between the last 2 years, this year had 2 months of weight loss during the dry and a month later start to the wet than the previous year.

Previous data has shown that the timing of the start of significant rainfall for the wet has a huge impact on the overall production for the year, as does an early cessation to the wet. So the length of the green season has probably the greatest effect on cattle weight gain.



Barry Lemcke  
NT DPIFM

**This article is sourced from Feedback magazine.....**

**Meat and Livestock Australia** is funding a four-year project to address variation in liveweight gain within herds of cattle in northern Australia.

Identifying and treating the problems causing poor performance would have an immediate impact on producers' profits.

Project leader Sarah Streeter, of the Northern Territory Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines, said desktop modelling has suggested that improving liveweight gain by 13 per cent across a herd, by narrowing variability in weight performance, would potentially increase profit by \$22 a head.

"The most efficient way to do this is to improve the worst performers, rather than try to improve the performance of the top percentile" she said.

The project will be conducted in three stages:

- The first stage, to be completed this month (April) is a desktop study involving further analysis of Beef CRC and industry data and a review of relevant literature. The desktop study will provide some direction for stage two.
- The second stage involves a field study on commercial weaners from 10 NT properties, drawn from the Barkly and the Katherine regions.
- The third stage is to remove a small number of cattle from the commercial situation and conduct more intensive research trials in a controlled environment.

The Beef CRC research data studied in Stage One of the project focussed on quantifying the impact of genetics on liveweight gain variation. Sarah said this project aims to have a greater focus on environmental factors and give producers a more complete picture of what causes this variation,

“At the end of the day, we’re looking for pieces of the pie of what affects weight gain in this environment.

“We suspect that genetics is a major factor, but there are gaps in knowledge of the effects of disease, parasites, temperament, husbandry procedures etc. in extensive northern cattle production systems”

The research team has also analysed stud herd data from some Northern Territory properties which provide some data which the large-scale field study is unable to measure, for example, birth weight, birth date and maternal effects.

The first intake of weaners for the field study will be assessed over 12 months from April 2008 with assessment of the second intake commencing next year.

The Barkly and Katherine regions were chosen because they represent a large portion of the NT cattle population. A larger percentage of the herds will be drawn from the Katherine region because of the diversity of the production area with the Victoria River, Sturt Plateau, Roper and Gulf districts.

There will be 250 male weaners, aged from 4-8 months, entering the trial from each of ten properties.

“We will attempt good control of the project under extensive conditions, selecting weaners from a single breeder paddock from each property, before randomly selecting progeny from that group,” Sarah said.

Once selected and tagged, the weaners will be run with the main steer herd.

The weaners will be assessed on four occasions – at weaning; 4-6 weeks post-weaning; and pre- and post- wet season - over a 12 month period to coincide with mustering.

Sarah said two herds would then be selected for study in the controlled pen environment. This stage of the project is in collaboration with researchers of the University of Queensland, and will focus on variability in feed conversion efficiency and rumen microflora.

The project will only involve straightbred cattle due to the inability to accurately measure the level of heterosis in crossbreds in the extensive northern herds.

Producer response to the DPIFM’s request for involvement was overwhelming and DPIFM’s Pastoral Research manager Neil MacDonald said this highlighted the need for more information.

“When we look at the performance of animals, the best performers are doing as well on native pasture as nutritional models suggest they could, so we had to look at other ways of improving the system,” Mr MacDonald said.

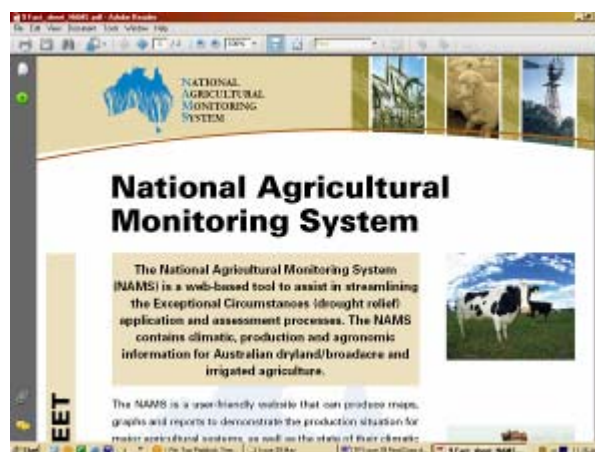
“Some animals are gaining weight at 200kg a year and others are gaining 80kg a year. If we can improve the performance of the ‘poor doers’ we will have much greater average gains.”

Mr MacDonald said a successful project would show producers what areas needed to be addressed, such as genetics or disease problems.

“If poor performance is mostly attributed to genetics, we can confidently say that purchasing higher quality genetics would be valuable in these production systems above other management factors.

“If there is a widespread disease of importance, we can be more confident in recommending certain disease control”.

## National Agricultural Monitoring System



For the full version of NAMS, please go to their website on:

[www.nams.gov.au](http://www.nams.gov.au)



## Opening the FrontGate to information

### FrontGate Website

Information and Resources for Primary Industry businesses

[http://www.nt.gov.au/dpifm/Primary\\_Industry/Front Gate/](http://www.nt.gov.au/dpifm/Primary_Industry/FrontGate/)

The FrontGate website was launched recently at the 2008 Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association Annual Conference and is designed to give NT primary producers access to a range of information and services that will assist them in their business.

The tools and resources available are categorised under three main headings in the business; People, Natural Resource Management and Profitability. You can search by key word or browse the tools listed by subject area to identify those relevant to your needs.

Ever wondered what training courses are available in grazing management, where to get information on succession planning, or how to get hold of a map of your property? A browse through this website may help you to find just what you are looking for. It may also open your eyes to a lot more information that is out there.

The development of this website was funded by the Australian Government.

The FrontGate website is designed and managed by the Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines.

Can't find what you are looking for or have some comments on the FrontGate website? Please contact Simone White on 8973 9764.

## Your Guide to Early Detection and Management of Pests and Diseases

For more information please visit the Animal Health Website of the following web addresses:

[www.farmbiosecurity.com.au](http://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au)

[www.honeybee.org.au](http://www.honeybee.org.au)



**NAMS User information and Feedback Session**  
**Katherine 17 June 2008**  
**Darwin 19 June 2008**



## “Date Claimer”

Practical tools and information to beef up your business.

### **Beef-Up forum** *More beef, more money*

Remember these dates!

**Wednesday 6 August 2008**

Victoria River Research Station (Kidman Springs)

Contact **Simone White** on 8973 9764

**Friday 8 August 2008**

Adelaide River

Contact **Phil Hausler** on 8999 2301



more information will be released soon ...



DEPARTMENT OF  
PRIMARY INDUSTRY, FISHERIES AND MINES



# Pastoral Market Update

## Live Cattle Exports via Darwin Port – **APRIL 2008**

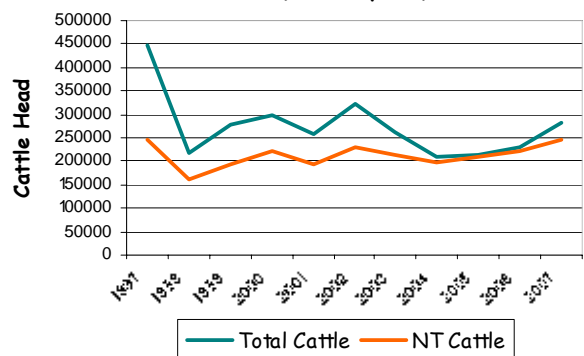
# Please note that the "NT CATTLE" figures are NT cattle exported through the Port of Darwin only, some NT cattle are exported through interstate ports.

Destination	TOTAL CATTLE (including interstate)							# NT CATTLE						
	2006	2007	Last year 30/4/07	YTD 30/4/08	1-30 APRIL	Previous Month	Difference	2006	2007	Last year 30/4/07	YTD 30/4/08	1-30 APRIL	Previous Month	Difference
BRUNEI	7,453	4,916	756	1,725	897	0	+897	7,227	4,160	0	1,725	897	0	+897
INDONESIA	190,297	258,736	52,172	109,123	18,792	43,664	-24,872	188,419	225,177	39,312	75,194	9,592	19,984	-10,392
PHILIPPINES	10,071	12,041	2,667	3,693	0	3,693	-3,693	10,071	10,321	1,217	3,693	0	3,693	-3,693
SABAH	5,758	1,397	0	0	0	0	0	4,944	1,397	0	0	0	0	0
SARAWAK	1,883	2,143	0	1,590	1,590	0	+1,590	1,883	2,143	0	1,590	1,590	0	+1,590
W-MALAYSIA	12,412	3,813	0	0	0	0	0	10,583	3,813	0	0	0	0	0
EAST TIMOR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>227,874</b>	<b>283,046</b>	<b>55,595</b>	<b>116,131</b>	<b>21,279</b>	<b>47,357</b>	<b>-26,078</b>	<b>223,127</b>	<b>247,281</b>	<b>40,529</b>	<b>82,202</b>	<b>12,079</b>	<b>23,677</b>	<b>-11,598</b>
				<b>+60,536</b>							<b>+41,673</b>			

### April at a glance

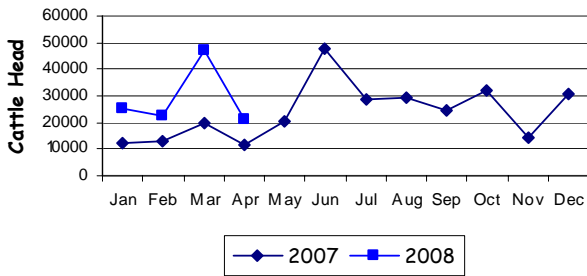
- 21,279 head of cattle through the Port of Darwin during April, 26,078 head less than March and 9,764 more than April last year.
- 2008 figures indicate 60,536 head more than the same time last year.
- 9,200 head of cattle from Qld were exported.

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

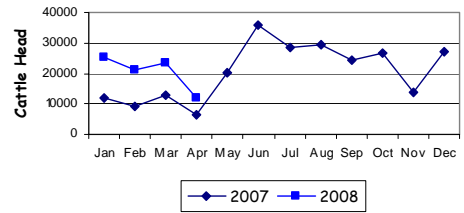


PREVIOUS 8 YEARS																
Total Cattle, Port of Darwin								NT Cattle, Port of Darwin								
2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	
299,179	258,127	322,602	260,618	211,042	212,616	229,654	283,046	222,669	193,172	229,796	212,520	205,204	210,558	225,413	247,281	

**TOTAL Live Cattle Exports thru Port of Darwin  
2007 v 2008**



**NT Live Cattle Exports thru Port of Darwin  
2007 v 2008**



**OTHER LIVESTOCK EXPORTS VIA DARWIN PORT (includes NT and Interstate Stock)**

Destination	Buffalo			Camels			Goats			Horses			Sheep			Pigs		
	2007	2008	1-30 APR	2007	2008	1-30 APR	2007	2008	1-30 APR	2007	2008	1-30 APR	2007	2008	1-30 APR	2007	2008	1-30 APR
BRUNEI	306	56	0	0	0	0	1260	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
INDONESIA	2,865	1,024	92	0	0	0	2,257	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PHILIPPINES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
W-MALAYSIA	582	0	0	0	0	0	2,312	0	0	0	0	0	825	0	0	0	0	0
SABAH	152	0	0	0	0	0	7,349	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SARAWAK	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,358	1,333	1,333	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,905</b>	<b>1,080</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15,131</b>	<b>1,333</b>	<b>1,333</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>825</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**NATIONAL CATTLE PRICES - W/E 2/5/08**

JAPAN OX									MEDIUM STEER										
Estimated dressed weight price (cents/kg)									Estimated dressed weight price (cents/kg)										
SALEYARDS				O.T.HOOKS					SALEYARDS				O.T.HOOKS						
NSW	QLD	SA	AV (Aust)	NSW	QLD	SA	AV (Aust)	NSW	QLD	SA	AV (Aust)	NSW	QLD	SA	AV (Aust)	NSW	QLD	SA	AV (Aust)
This week	293	306	nq	304	302	301	Nq	291	This week	283	303	nq	294	295	299	Nq	295		
Last week	312	312	nq	311	306	302	Nq	291	Last week	294	299	nq	296	295	299	Nq	292		
Year ago	317	304	343	310	305	301	nq	290	Year ago	302	289	344	295	302	301	Nq	282		
US COW									TRADE STEER										
Estimated dressed weight price (cents/kg)									Estimated dressed weight price (cents/kg)										
SALEYARDS				O.T.HOOKS					SALEYARDS				O.T.HOOKS						
NSW	QLD	SA	AV (Aust)	NSW	QLD	SA	AV (Aust)	NSW	QLD	SA	AV (Aust)	NSW	QLD	SA	AV (Aust)	NSW	QLD	SA	AV (Aust)
This week	252	240	282	252	240	225	245	235	This week	323	326	326	325	306	306	nq	316		
Last week	250	247	271	254	238	225	245	235	Last week	313	335	294	317	306	301	nq	315		
Year ago	259	258	263	257	231	223	190	203	Year ago	351	316	342	344	306	281	353	306		
LIVE EXPORT QUOTES									<p align="center"><b>Prices courtesy of Meat &amp; Livestock Australia</b></p>  <p align="center"><a href="http://www.mla.com.au">www.mla.com.au</a></p>										
Estimated <b>live</b> weight price (cents/kg)																			
LIGHT STEERS (280-400 kg)				HEAVY STEERS (400+ kg)															
Darwin			Fremantle	Darwin		Fremantle													
This week	160		nq	150		nq													
Last week	nq		nq	nq		nq													
Year ago	175		nq	160		nq													

Prepared by the NT Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines

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## CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATES

Key Currencies 1AUD =	Current 7.5.2008	Previous month 1.4.2008	4 months ago 1.1.2008	1 Year ago 1.4.2007	Pre-devaluation 01.07.1997
Brunei Dollar	1.29651	1.27670	1.30372	1.25203	1.076
Indonesian Rupiah	8,661.51	8,424.22	8,339.62	7,416.68	1830
Philippine Peso	39.79742	38.19152	37.52550	39.14758	19.84
Malaysian Ringgit	2.97013	2.92597	2.97278	2.81481	1.9
Euro	0.60830	0.57912	0.61142	0.60964	N/A
US Dollar	0.94064	0.91487	0.90471	0.81361	0.752

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