After a week of warm, pleasant weather, the Barkly Breeze was in full swing at this year’s 8th biennial Barkly Herd Management Forum. The Forum, held over the 28th and 29th of July saw 13 eager participants from stations right across the Barkly and the Queensland Gulf descend on Australian Agricultural Company’s (AACo) Avon Downs and Brunette Downs. Presenters travelled from all over the country to give these young minds the information they need to equip themselves to be leaders in the beef industry.

Matt Barrett, manager of Avon Downs, our first host for the forum, took the floor first up and gave an overview of the production system on Avon, including the Wagyu operation. Geoff Stanhope from Personis spoke about communication, trust and the qualities that make a good leader.

Matt Callaghan from Ridley AgriProducts presented two sessions and gave a detailed insight into strategic supplementation of the breeder herd and weaner nutrition.

Fred and Sarah Hughes from the neighbouring Lake Nash Station were kind enough to donate their time and spoke of their journey to become an organic Wagyu producer. They told of the favourable weather conditions that allow Lake Nash to be in prime position to produce organic beef, but also spoke of the challenges and processes they have been
through to get to where they are today. You can read more about Lake Nash Station in ‘Station Profiles’.

Geoff Niethe from Meat & Livestock Australia Ltd (MLA), a veteran of the Barkly Herd Management Forums and no stranger to the Barkly, gave presentations on reproduction, junior development of the breeder herd and risk management of cattle diseases.

Phil Holmes, Principal of Holmes and Company, challenged the participants with their critical thinking skills and had them thinking outside the box.

The Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries (DPIF) team from Tennant Creek, Jane Douglas and Helen McMillan took the floor and gave a summary of the various rangeland and animal production projects currently underway across the NT and Barkly.

As with any event held on station, participants were eager to get out and have a squiz of their host station and Matt was kind enough to lead us on a tour of Avon Downs, first visiting the Wagyu bulls and then heading a bit further out to see the F1 Wagyu cross weaners.

After a delicious lunch, it was time to hit the road and head on up to Brunette Downs, the second host for the forum.

Once participants had settled into the accommodation and had a feed, Phil Holmes took the floor for a night session focusing on planning for financial independence.

After a good night sleep, it was straight back into sessions with another jam-packed day learning about rational bull selection, communication, trust in the workplace and allocating capital using discipline. A quick tour out to see some Brunette bulls again had the participants using their critical thinking and evaluation to select which bulls they would use and which they would cull.

The Tennant Creek DPIF would like to extend a huge thankyou to the two AACo properties, Avon Downs and Brunette Downs for hosting this year’s forum. Without your support we would not be able to encourage the youth of the Barkly and beyond to stay within the beef industry. We would also like to thank this year’s participants for attending; there were some great discussions and questions coming through after each session. Finally we would like to thank our presenters for the vital information they provided to the next generation of pastoralists and the generous sponsorship that MLA, Elanco, Northern Territory Government and AACo provided.

Tennant Creek Show

Jane Douglas, Livestock Industry Development, Tennant Creek

The 2015 Cattle Section of the Tennant Creek Show had an excellent turn out with a total of 39 pens of top quality cattle which is the second highest number in the past 10 years. Competition was fierce with entries coming from all over the Barkly Tablelands and once again, Charles Darwin University brought cattle down from Katherine.

A huge thank you goes to our judge for this year, young William Weir from Ammaroo Station. The keen 15 year old has had a long active interest in showing cattle alongside his family, particularly at the Alice Springs Show. Earlier in the year, he was invited to the 2015 Beef Week in Rockhampton to be the Associate Judge. Despite Tennant Creek being on a much smaller scale, William did feel a little under the pressure and said “There were a lot of very good quality cattle from around the district and I found some of the bigger classes really hard to judge.”

The high calibre of cattle is a testament to the beef being produced in the region. As a result, there were whispers overheard after the judging had finished about planning for a better selection of cattle for next year’s show.
Thank you to all of our competitors and our sponsors, without you all this event wouldn’t be able to happen. See you again next year.

Cattle Section Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Sponsor</th>
<th>Winner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pen of 2 Bulls (2013 year)</td>
<td>Landmark</td>
<td>Helen Springs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pen of 2 Heifers 180-250kg</td>
<td>Elanco</td>
<td>Brunette Downs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pen of 2 Heifers 250-350kg</td>
<td>Emmerson Resources</td>
<td>Charles Darwin University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pen of 2 Heifers 350-450kg</td>
<td>Tennant Creek Tyre Centre</td>
<td>Charles Darwin University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pen of 2 Steers 180-250kg</td>
<td>Elders</td>
<td>Brunette Downs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pen of 2 Steers 250-350kg</td>
<td>Heli-muster NT</td>
<td>Brunette Downs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pen of 2 Mickeys 180-250kg</td>
<td>BJ Trading</td>
<td>Anthony Lagoon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Led Calf</td>
<td>Lions Park</td>
<td>Helen Springs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aggregate</td>
<td>Emmerson Resources</td>
<td>Charles Darwin University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supreme Champion</td>
<td>Tennant Creek Tyre Centre</td>
<td>Charles Darwin University</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Supreme Champion heifers (Pen of 2 Heifers 350-450kg)

On-site Competition Winners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Guess the Weight</th>
<th>Neil MacDonald, Katherine</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Guess the Number of Jellybeans</td>
<td>Brooke Weir, Ammaroo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guess the Number of Eartags</td>
<td>Abbey Haines, Tennant Creek</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Guess the Breed:
- **Cattleman’s**
  - Tom and Kalum, Eva Downs
- **City Slicker’s**
  - Brooke Weir, Ammaroo

(L) Sandy & Benita Bauer (Brunchilly) discuss Animal Welfare with Cookie the poddy calf. (R) Eva Graham, with Dad, Jason Graham and strapper Sandy Bauer (all from Brunchilly) with the winning Led Calf, Cookie.

(L) Judge William Weir (Ammaroo) with Charles Darwin University’s Supreme Champion heifers. (R) Abbey Haines (Tennant Creek) and Casey Collier (Tennant Creek DPIF) getting into the spirit of the DPIF Animal Welfare display.
Selection in Action

Whitney Dollemore, Livestock Industry Development, Katherine

The original aim of the Selected Brahman was to investigate the gains in productivity that can be made through selection for fertility in a Brahman herd. So in 1994 NT DPIF had a Brahman herd selected for fertility traits alone. The herd joined BREEDPLAN in 1994 (incorporating performance data back to 1986). Originally at Douglas Daly Research Farm (DDRF), the breeder herd was moved to Victoria River Research Station (VRRS) located at Kidman Springs in 2002.

How are we selecting animals to meet the breeding objective?

The breeding objective of this herd is to breed animals that are capable of producing a calf every year from 2 years old under standard NT environmental conditions. Selection has involved both sire and dam selection based on the following criteria:

Female:
- Raised 2 weaners by the age of 4 and pregnant
- Raise a weaner every year – Pregnant wet first round each year

Male:
- High 400 day weight
- Large scrotal circumference
- Percent normal sperm at 12 months
- Dam with early puberty and ability to re-conceive after first calf
- Polledness

Semen for artificial insemination (AI) is selected for use in heifers to introduce new genetics to the herd. The semen is sourced from herds that have similar selection and have good estimated breeding values (EBVs) for the fertility traits; scrotal circumference and days to calving.

So, has the selection worked?

A direct comparison of breeder and heifer fertility was conducted from 2004-2009. On average pregnancy rates were 35% higher in heifers from the Selected Herd and the wet cow reconception rates were consistently higher than commercial Brahman as shown in Figure 1. For more information regarding the direct comparison see, Schatz, T. J., et al. (2010), "Selection for fertility traits in Brahman increases heifer pregnancy rates from yearling mating." Animal Production Science, 50(6): 345-348.
Breedplan trends for the Selected Brahmans in comparison to the breed average show a huge increase in desirable fertility traits scrotal circumference and days to calving without moving away from average weight gain increases, see Figure 2.

The increased fertility of this herd is evident when average weaner production is compared to the achievable (75th percentile) average weaner production for this region. Of the properties involved in the Cashcow project from the Northern Forrest 25% of people achieved at least 112.4kg/cow. The live weight production and percent pregnant within 4 months of calving in the Selected Brahman herd are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Average weaner production for selected Brahmans located at VRRS.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weaning year</th>
<th>Average weaner production (kg/cow)</th>
<th>Change in Average cow weight (kg)</th>
<th>Live weight production (kg)</th>
<th>% Pregnant within 4 months of calving</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>149.0</td>
<td>+5.6</td>
<td>154.6</td>
<td>49.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>172.5</td>
<td>-49.4</td>
<td>123.1</td>
<td>87.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>176.6</td>
<td>-30.6</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>84.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>160.2</td>
<td>+4.9</td>
<td>165.1</td>
<td>74.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>165.7</td>
<td>-28.0</td>
<td>137.7</td>
<td>71.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The change in average cow weight is the difference in average weight between pregnancy testing and weaning round the following year allowing the calculation of a total live weight production in kilograms. The live weight production is a useful figure as cows that do not produce a weaner can be included as kilograms of saleable beef.

**What does the future hold?**

Selected Brahman heifers are being monitored for onset of puberty using ovarian scanning and pregnancy diagnosis to record age and weight at puberty (date of first corpus luteum or conception). These animals will then be monitored following a successful calving for the resumption of cycling in order to measure the length of post-partum anoestrus (no cycling during lactation) and their ability to get back in calf within 4 months of calving.

**Stations of the Barkly- ‘Lake Nash Station’**

*Casey Collier, Livestock Industry Development, Tennant Creek*

Lake Nash, located 117km south of Camooweal on the Queensland-Northern Lake Nash, located 117km south of Camooweal on the Queensland- Northern Territory border is a breeding, backgrounding and finishing operation. Owned by the Hughes Family’s Georgina Pastoral Company and managed by Fred and Sarah Hughes, the property occupies an area of 4.2 million acres. The aggregation includes Georgina Downs and Argadargada Station with a total carrying capacity of 75,000 head.

Lake Nash has been in the Hughes family for eleven years and Fred and Sarah took over management in July 2013, inheriting a team of 35 staff including stockmen, pilots, bore runners, cooks and other maintenance staff.
The Cattle

By 2007, Lake Nash had significantly increased its cattle numbers but had to drastically destock during the 2008 drought. Numbers were then built up until 2012, but had to again be decreased during the 2013 drought. Rather than continue with this model of management, Fred, Sarah and the Georgina Pastoral Company team decided to think outside the box and look at improving the value of the herd, rather than the herd size. Being in such a low rainfall area (annual average rainfall of 296mm), Lake Nash is ideally located for organic production.

Lake Nash currently runs a mixed herd of 50,000 cross bred cattle with an additional 6000 joined purebred Wagyufemales. The organic Ultrasound (13/16 Angus x 3/16 Brahman) are homozygously polled which in theory means all progeny should be polled and have a high fertility rate.

The first drop of organic calves hit the ground in 2014 with hopes that the first organic slaughter cattle will emerge from the program in early 2016. With an average of $1/kg dressed weight premium for organics in 2014, Lake Nash will be able to run fewer cattle without harming profitability and hence better manage the seasonal risk. A key attraction for converting to organics is that cows and steers are both paid the same c/kg. With very few parasites and inputs, little has had to be changed in order to comply with the organic production requirements.

Currently, Lake Nash is running a pure bred Wagyu herd as well as a F1 program out of the Ultrasound heifers. In time, these programs may lead to a phase out of the commercial herd. The smaller frame of the Wagyu animals means that Lake Nash can run a larger number with the same feed.

Social Life on Lake Nash

On weekends, Lake Nash’s recently renovated social club is a hive of activity. Hardworking team members quench their thirst and catch up on weekly shenanigans. Often teachers, nurses, builders and coppers will also pop down for a sundowner from Alpurrurulam community, situated 8 kilometres up the road. During the cooler and busier months of the year, the crew attend numerous local camp drafts, rodeos and race meetings including Brunette, Camooweal, Harts Range and Isa Rodeo. Of course one of the latest and most popular recreational activities is plunging into the new swimming pool for a spot of water volleyball or just cooling down after a long day’s work. No doubt there will be many pool parties as the weather warms up.
Hi everyone, as you may know, I started as the Barkly Landcare Coordinator in a part-time capacity in July and have been getting up to speed on the role and trying to get out and meet some members.

I visited Scott and Jane Armstrong at Beetaloo earlier in the month. They are seeking to address the uneven utilisation of pastures around watering points with mutually positive benefits for production and the land. The last two wet seasons have given an insight into how the system performs under different conditions.

So far Jane and Scott are happy with the way the cattle performed in the most recent early finishing wet season. The cattle struggled in the previous ‘wet’ wet season on the black soil. Ideally they would like to have more paddocks so that the cattle can rotate through each paddock once in a year rather than two or three times and include some red soil for the wet season. They are happy with the cover of grass around watering points in the trial. Scott racked up 1200 hours in his helicopter last year, moving cattle through the rotation and in other parts of the property.

The final round of pasture monitoring will be carried out by the DPIF in May 2016 which will give 5 years of data. The results indicate that seasonal conditions have had a greater effect on the pastures than the grazing system used (i.e. rotation vs continuous grazing). The pasture data will be used to do some modelling to better understand pasture and animal performance over the long term under different stocking rates and seasonal conditions. These results will be made available to the public by mid-2016.

The final biodiversity survey will be carried out at the beginning of this wet season. Steve Eldridge from Desert Wildlife Services says that it is again too early to be certain but so far there are no signs of negative impacts on biodiversity in the rotationally grazed areas compared to the set-stocked areas.
I then went up to stay with Sally and Justin Dyer at Hayfield-Shenandoah Station. Hayfield is the northern most property in the Barkly Landcare region. Sally is the Treasurer of the Barkly Landcare & Conservation Association (BLCA) and the couple are expecting their first child in October. Sally took me for a drive through the property to a stock route where she has been treating Bellyache Bush and I got to see how they work their Brahman cattle in the yards.

This week I went with Jon Hodgetts from Territory Natural Resource Management (TNRM) to meet a few more members. You may remember Jon from his BLCA days. We visited the President of BLCA, Chris Towne at Helen Springs and also met Michael Johnson and Anthony Cox at Brunette Downs and Anthony Lagoon. Jon and I had a good look around the Barkly including many areas that have been treated for weeds. I got to experience the effect of rain on the black soil which was useful for me to remember when planning future trips! Thanks to everyone for their hospitality and making us feel very welcome.

Everyone I have spoken to so far has ideas about what the focus should be on next and we will hopefully discuss all of these in the next BLCA meeting which is at Tennant Creek DPIF building on Monday 14 September at 10:30am. I hope to see you there!

**Non-pastoral use activities- Diversification**

Diversification is an increasingly common practice for farms and rural businesses around the world. In the face of increasing financial, environmental and market pressures, diversification offers the opportunity to spread income risk and build resilience.

On 1 January 2014 amendments to the non-pastoral use (NPU) provisions of the *Pastoral Land Act* were enacted enabling Territory pastoralists to apply for permits for NPU activities such as tourism, horticulture, forestry, aquaculture and agriculture for a term of up to 30 years with the permit registered to the lease, allowing transfer with change of ownership.

The Australian Government's Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC) has developed the website [www.farmdiversity.com.au](http://www.farmdiversity.com.au) to help Australian farming businesses explore different enterprises that could help generate another source of farm-based income. It’s a great first-stop on the journey to diversifying with a range of resources and links to further information.

Meanwhile in this issue you will find information on “Pastoral Land Act Amendments” then over the coming issues there will be further information on “NPU and Native Title” and “Frequently Asked Questions”.

If you missed the last editions which featured “Where are the Opportunities”, “Land Suitability” and “Pastoral Business Development” or if you would like further information please contact the Department of Land Resource Management, Director Pastoral Lease Administration and Board on 0400 576 418 email: rangelands@nt.gov.au or visit [www.lrm.nt.gov.au/npu](http://www.lrm.nt.gov.au/npu).
Pastoral lessees can apply for permits to use parts of their lease for non-pastoral uses such as agriculture, horticulture, aquaculture, tourism and forestry.

The amendments to the Act give pastoralists an opportunity to take advantage of different markets. Previously, parts of pastoral properties could be used for non-pastoral use activities but permits were only approved for up to five years and had to be renewed annually. Permits were provided to the lessee and were not transferable if the pastoral lease changed ownership.

Non-pastoral use permits can now be approved for 30 years, and can be renewed by applying to the Pastoral Land Board two years prior to its expiry.

The non-pastoral use permit is now registered to the lease and not issued to the lessee, providing longer term security for investment. The permit being registered to the lease has the likelihood of also increasing the value of a pastoral lease if the lease is going to be sold.

The changes give pastoralists greater certainty and confidence to explore and invest in longer term non-pastoral opportunities.

The primary operation of a pastoral lease must be for pastoral purposes, but pastoralists can operate other business enterprises like mango crops or tourism and camping operations side by side, providing two revenue streams.

Already local pastoralists are diversifying with these types of business enterprises being developed on pastoral leases in the Darwin, Sturt Plateau and Gulf pastoral districts.

ADVANTAGES

The Northern Territory Government recognises the pastoral industry cannot depend on cattle alone but needs to be able to diversify to unlock the potential of the land.

While pastoral production must remain the dominant industry on the property under the Pastoral Land Act,
pastoralists can use part of their properties for crops or tourism to provide an extra buffer against hard times by creating new income streams.

The changes make it easier to apply for permits and invest in non-pastoral uses through a more streamlined process in accordance with other legislation like the *Native Title Act*.

The non-pastoral use permits will create a more even playing field between pastoral lease holders and freehold title owners in terms of land use, while giving a lessee more potential to generate income. The non-pastoral use permit may potentially increase the value of a pastoral lease, when considering it for sale purposes.

Diversifying allows pastoralists to capitalise on growing demand for produce and supports the Government’s vision to accelerate development of the North.

**WE CAN HELP**

The Government has cut red tape to make it easier for pastoralists to diversify and develop new income streams.

The permits are administered by the Pastoral Land Board with support from the Department of Land Resource Management and other Government agencies as required.

The Pastoral Land Board is responsible for the notification process under the *Native Title Act*, to ensure the new use complies with the provisions of this legislation.

The Department of Land Resource Management and Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries can provide pastoralists with advice on land suitability, crops and potential markets.

Diversification expands the opportunity for increased income streams, so non-pastoral use permit fees are staged over an initial five year period to allow new developments on leases time to mature and be productive.

**WHO CAN HELP?**

About the Pastoral Land Act:
Department of Land Resource Management, Rangelands Division
P. 08 8999 4474 | E: rangelands@nt.gov.au

[www.lrm.nt.gov.npu](http://www.lrm.nt.gov.npu)

Advice on land use:
Department of Land Resource Management
P. 08 8999 4478 | E: rangelands@nt.gov.au

Business growth:
Department of Business Client Liaison Officer, Melanie Reichlmeier
P. 08 8999 3850 | E: melanie.reichlmeier@nt.gov.au
Tick Fever

Tick fever is caused by blood parasites (*Anaplasma marginale, Babesia bovis* and *Babesa bigemina*) transmitted by cattle tick. The disease commonly occurs when cattle move from tick-free to tick infested areas, as cattle born in ticky areas usually develop immunity as weaners.

Clinical Signs and Diagnosis

Clinical signs associated with Tick Fever include

- Weakness
- Depression
- Loss of appetite
- Fever
- Pale gums
- In severe cases red urine and jaundice may be seen and death may occur.

The most common post mortem findings include a

- Distended gall bladder, enlarged spleen, congested kidneys or a distended bladder with dark coloured urine.

The most accurate diagnosis of Tick Fever is achieved by testing blood smears collected from the animal.

Treatment and Prevention

Drugs such as Imidocarb (Imizol®, Imidox®) are available to treat sick cattle when diagnosed with tick fever. These can be sourced from your veterinarian. If treatment is delayed, sick animals may not recover and subsequently die.

Vaccination

When moving cattle from tick-free to tick-infected areas it is important that producers are aware of the risk of tick fever disease and consider vaccination to minimise the risk of tick fever. The vaccination process is known as ‘blooding’. All cattle, including *Bos indicus* breeds, which have been raised in tick free areas, are at risk of contracting tick fever once they are introduced to infected areas.

The development of immunity after vaccination may take up to 8 weeks and is usually lifelong. The development of immunity will depend on the type of tick fever organism. Immunity to Babesia will take around 3-4 weeks while Anaplasma will take around 8 weeks. Cattle older than 9 months of age can be at risk of developing tick fever before vaccine immunity has taken effect.

Cattle should be vaccinated at least 60 days prior to movement into a tick infected area. If this is not possible, then delay movement as long as possible and keep animals tick free using injectable or pour-on tick products until 28 days after vaccination can be completed.
Avoid moving cattle in the second and third week after vaccination if possible, as this is the key reaction period.

Reactions from the vaccination are rare, but may result in loss of condition, abortion, temporary reduction in bull fertility and occasionally death. Bulls and pregnant cows have been found to be the most at risk.

Consideration should also be given to bleeding cattle in marginal tick areas where there may be insufficient cattle tick containing the tick fever organisms to provide immunity when cattle are exposed as weaners.

Vaccination can be ordered from the Tick Fever Centre by phone or fax (Customer Service Centre Number 13 25 23) or through your local rural supplies store or veterinarian.


Sources:


Are you sending cattle to the Meatworks?
All cattle going to the AACo Meatworks must be accompanied by an NVD as well as an NT Waybill. You can order NVD books online via the MLA Webpage.

Export pregnancy testing accreditation program to be reviewed this year
Nationally, the issue of non-veterinarians pregnancy testing feeder and slaughter cattle for live export has been highlighted. Currently only Northern Territory and Western Australia allow accredited non-veterinarians to pregnancy test cattle under government approved programs. Only registered veterinarians can

pregnancy test breeder cattle destined for live export. The standards for pregnancy testing and spaying export cattle are outlined in the Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock (ASEL) administered by the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture.

The NT Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries will be undertaking a complete review of the accreditation program in 2015 given the inconsistency with other States. Consultation with accredited pregnancy testers, producers and other stakeholders will be conducted to identify issues and options available for the program in the future. Information regarding changes will be provided once the review has been completed. Please contact Sue Fitzpatrick for further information or to provide feedback on 0407 498 003 or email susanne.fitzpatrick@nt.gov.au
Where can you use your Brand (branding iron) in the NT?

Check your Certificate of Registration or Certificate of Transfer of Brand OR check on the NT Brands Register Search Database [http://brand.primaryindustry.nt.gov.au/](http://brand.primaryindustry.nt.gov.au/) to find answers to these common questions:

- **What property is your Three-letter Brand and/or Distinctive (symbol) Brand registered for use on?**
- **Are you only branding cattle and/or horses on the property/run written on your Certificate of Registration?**

What should you do?

- If you are using your Brand on a different property/run (than where it is registered for use on) you must complete the Request to Change the Run form.
- If you are not the Owner of the property/run, you must have the owner complete the Owner's Permission to Use Run form (to accompany Application for 3 letter Brand or Transfer Brand or Change the Run).
- If the Registered Owner of Brand has changed (by marriage, individuals to Business/Company etc), you MUST complete Application for Transfer of Brand form
- If the Brand is no longer being used or no longer required, you should complete the Application for Cancellation of Brand form. Please note: all registered Owners of the Brand must sign this form.

If you need to update your contact details - please complete NT Brands Register – Update your Contact details form.

Please remember:

- A brand is registered to a person or company for use on a nominated NT property only
- Under no circumstances are NT brands to be used on another property without special permission from the Registrar (together with Owners permission to use run – see Brands in the NT website for paperwork)
- This means the brand can only be used by the registered owner (or their representative) on the registered NT property as stated on Certificate of Registration or Certificate of Transfer of Brand.
- It does not restrict branded cattle being agisted on other properties
- To brand on a NT property not registered with the Registrar is an offence under the Livestock Regulations may incur a penalty.

If any Brand needs to be cancelled, ownership changed, run changed or there are questions concerning the Brand/s, in the first instance, please contact your Livestock Biosecurity Officer for advice and assistance.

All forms are located on our Animal Biosecurity Branch webpage [www.nt.gov.au/d/animalhealth](http://www.nt.gov.au/d/animalhealth) click on Brands in the NT.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Darwin Region</th>
<th>Katherine Region</th>
<th>Tennant Creek Region</th>
<th>Alice Springs Region</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rob Wait (A/RLBO)</td>
<td>Josh Haigh (A/RLBO)</td>
<td>Tom Haines (RLBO)</td>
<td>Greg Crawford (RLBO)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ph: 08 8999 2034</td>
<td>Ph: 08 8973 9767</td>
<td>Ph: 08 8962 4458</td>
<td>Ph: 08 8951 8125</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Hendra Virus (HeV)**

The Hendra virus (HeV) vaccine was officially registered by the Australian Pesticide and Veterinary Medicines Authority in August 2015 following three years availability under permit. From 2012-2015, over 300,000 doses of vaccine were administered nationally, with possible reactions reported in less than 0.2% of horses who received the vaccine.

**HeV Vaccine**

Equivac® HeV virus vaccine is a 1mL vaccine that is injected intramuscularly in horses. Equivac® HeV virus vaccine is a ‘subunit’ vaccine, meaning it contains only a small part of the protein from the virus surface. **It does not contain the virus.** A booster dose of the vaccine is currently required every 6 months because a duration of immunity has not been demonstrated for more than 6 months. The vaccine must be administered by a registered veterinarian who has completed training.


**What is Hendra virus?**

Hendra virus is a virus of flying foxes (fruit bats) which on very rare occasion may cause serious disease in horses and people which can be fatal.

**How is it spread?**

Flying foxes are the natural host for the virus and do not show signs when infected by it. Infected bats may transmit the virus to horses, which can then infect other horses or humans.

- Horses may become infected when in close contact with an infected flying fox or its body secretions (eg. urine, saliva, faeces) or birthing materials (eg. aborted foetuses)
- HeV can spread between horses via direct contact with body fluids or contaminated gear
- People can contract the virus from exposure to body fluids from an infected horse

**Occurrence in the Northern Territory**

- There have been no known cases of HeV infection in horses or people in the NT.
- Testing has shown flying foxes in the NT have been exposed to HeV.

**Signs of Hendra virus in horses**

Hendra virus can cause a broad range of signs in horses and should be considered in any sick horse where the cause of illness is unknown. Signs may include;

- Rapid onset of illness
- Fever
- Increased heart rate
- Laboured breathing
- Depression
- Nasal discharge
- Stumbling
- Blindness
- Inco-ordination

**How to reduce the risk of horses becoming infected**

- Remove feed and water containers from under trees where flying foxes feed or roost
- Don’t leave fruit or vegetables in feed containers when flying foxes are in the area
- Remove flowers and fruit from trees in horse paddocks, or remove horses from paddocks with flowering or fruiting trees
- Temporarily remove horses from the paddock during times of peak flying fox activity
− Prevent contact with items which may have been contaminated with bodily fluids (saliva, nasal discharge, urine, faeces, birthing materials or blood) of flying foxes
− Clean and disinfect gear exposed to bodily fluids of a horse before using on another horse, especially halters, ropes, twitches and stomach drenches.
− Routinely wash hands with soap and water before and after handling horses
− Isolate sick horse from other horses, animals and people and seek immediate vet advice
− Use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when handling sick horses
− Practice good biosecurity- never travel with, work on or transport sick horses.
− Remember that vaccination against Hendra virus is the single most effective way to reduce the risk of Hendra virus infection in horses.

Further Animal Health Information

Want information on a particular animal health topic?

Requests for articles on topics of interest are invited. Please send requests to:

Renae McLean

Ph: 08 8973 9765
Have you seen the Asian honey bee?

✔ Asian honey bees are a serious threat to the community and commercial beekeeping industry

✔ Report any suspect bee sightings to NT Quarantine to help protect our honey bee Industry

✔ Call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881 or visit the Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries website: www.dpif.nt.gov.au

Images are courtesy of Queensland Government

Help protect the Territory’s honey bee industry
## What When & Where

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>September 2015</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brunette Downs Campdraft &amp; Rodeo</td>
<td>25-27th September</td>
<td>Brunette Downs NT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 2015</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barkly Goldrush Campdraft</td>
<td>1-4th October</td>
<td>Tennant Creek NT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennant Creek Rodeo</td>
<td>3rd October</td>
<td>Tennant Creek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beefing up your grazing business for a better life field day</td>
<td>22nd October</td>
<td>Alcoota Station. Plenty Highway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2015</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melbourne Cup</td>
<td>3rd November</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Charles Darwin University- Recognition of Prior Learning

There is an opportunity for NT residents to gain RPL Agriculture qualifications through Charles Darwin University for only the $75.00 Application fee.

Recognition of Prior Learning is specific to Vocational Education and Training students and is the process by which your existing skills, knowledge and experience gained throughout your life – regardless of how they have been acquired – are recognised towards the achievement of a nationally recognised qualification or competency.

Course Information Sheets and Enrolment Checklists (the enrolment checklist lists all units available at CDU for this qualification) for the following courses are available on request:

- AHC20110 – Certificate II in Agriculture
- AHC30110 – Certificate III in Agriculture
- AHC40110 – Certificate IV in Agriculture
- AHC21210 – Certificate II in Rural Operations
- AHC32810 – Certificate III in Rural Operations

The courses listed above are NTG subsidised and are available through Charles Darwin University for Recognition of Prior Learning to NT Residents for free!! There is a one-off application fee of $75.00 per qualification. The assessment process costs the student nothing.

Please contact Alison Haines on: T. +61 8 89738316 | F. +61 8 89738300 | M. 0438 554 766  
alison.haines@cdu.edu.au
Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is an assessment process that assesses an individual’s formal, non-formal and informal learning to determine the extent to which that individual has achieved the required learning outcomes, competency outcomes, or standards for entry to, and/or partial or total completion of, a VET qualification.

That’s the official description — what it means to you is the following:

You may have an ‘old’ qualification that you would like to bring up to currency in today’s world for employment purposes, or you may have an overseas qualification that you would like recognised. Perhaps you have been working in a skilled or semi-skilled profession for some time and do not have any formal qualification for what you do, but would like to. Or you may have even been volunteering in some role that has given you knowledge and experience that could count towards a formal qualification. It doesn’t really matter how you gained your knowledge, just so long as it is current in today’s world and relevant to a particular VET qualification.

RPL could save you considerable time and money in the long run! After all, if you already know some or a lot about a particular VET qualification, do you really want to sit in a classroom and have someone teach it to you all over again?

For further details on our RPL process, please refer to our Applicant’s Guide to the Recognition of Prior Learning (available on our website as a PDF document) or talk to the course coordinator.

ALTERNATIVELY, CONTACT:
RPL Enquiry Centre
T: 1800 085 209 (freecall)
E: vet.rpl.enquiries@cdu.edu.au

Note: An application fee may apply. For further details on our RPL fees, please refer to our current VET Student Guide, also available on our website.

CREDIT TRANSFER

Do you already have a current Qualification, Statement of Attainment or Official Academic Transcripts for units completed at another Registered Training Organisation?

Credit Transfer is all about recognising these previous studies.

Where units of competency have the same national code but were awarded by another Registered Training Organisation, CDU will recognise these to assist you in completing this qualification.

Simply complete a Credit Transfer form (VET110 available from our website) and along with your original documentation or certified copies (i.e. qualification, statement of attainment or academic transcript) present them to the Course Coordinator who will need to verify the authenticity of these and arrange for a copy to be placed on file for later reference. There is no cost for recognition of these units via Credit Transfer.

For further information about Credit Transfer, please discuss with the relevant VET Lecturer or Team Leader.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
Student Central
T: 1800 061 963 (freecall)
E: student.central@cdu.edu.au
Around the Traps

Have you taken a good photo? Send it into casey.collier@nt.gov.au

Geoff Niethe checks out the Brunette bulls at this year’s Barkly Herd Management Forum

Winners of the trivia night at the BHMF (L-R: Geoff Stanhope, Personis, Casey Collier, DPIF, John Esdaile, Clonna Station QLD & Michael Pocock, Anthony’s Lagoon Station)

Participants at the Barkly Herd Management Forum

Lake Nash Station

Station staff at Lake Nash Station giving their horses a drink

A beautiful sunrise on Lake Nash Station

Getting ready for a day’s mustering on Lake Nash Station
## Barkly House Staff List

BARKLY HOUSE  
First Floor, 99 Paterson St  
PO Box 159, Tennant Creek, NT, 0861  
Fax: (08) 8962 4480

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Regional Management</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Animal Health</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Regional Stock Inspector                    | Thomas Haines | 08 8962 4458  
|                                              |              | M: 0401 113 445 |
| Stock Inspector                             | Greg Maguire  | 08 8962 4492  
|                                              |              | M: 0457 517 347 |
| **Pastoral Production**                     |
| Pastoral Production Officer                 | Casey Collier | 08 8962 4493  
| Pastoral Production Officer                 | Jane Douglas  | 08 8962 4483  
| Pastoral Production Officer                 | Helen McMillan | 08 8962 4486 |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Barkly Landcare &amp; Conservation Association</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Landcare Facilitator</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
To:

If undeliverable, please return to:
Department of Primary Industry & Fisheries
PO Box 159
TENNANT CREEK NT 0861