

# NBRUC 2026

## NORTHERN BEEF RESEARCH UPDATE CONFERENCE

FROM RESEARCH TO RESULTS: DRIVING Paddock PERFORMANCE



10-13 MARCH 2026

VOCO BRISBANE CITY CENTRE, QLD

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

### PROGRAM

#### TUESDAY 10 MARCH 2026

4.00pm – 6.00pm	<b>Conference registration</b> <i>Grand Chelsea Lobby</i>
6.00pm – 8.00pm	<b>Welcome Reception</b> <i>Chelsea Lane</i>



Sponsored by



#### WEDNESDAY 11 MARCH 2026

6.15am for a 6.30am start	<b>Meat &amp; Livestock Australia's Beef Industry Breakfast</b> <i>The Grand Palms</i> Limited numbers, please secure your ticket via the online registration form to attend.
7.30am	<b>Conference registration</b> <i>Grand Chelsea Lobby</i>
8.30am – 9.00am	Arrival tea and coffee – <i>Grand Chelsea Lobby</i>
9.00am – 10.30am	<b>Session 1 – Welcome to the 8<sup>th</sup> Northern Beef Research Update Conference</b>
9.00am	<b>Conference welcome and opening</b> <i>Richard Cox, Chair of the NBRUC Organising Committee</i> <i>The Honourable Tony Perrett MP, Minister for Primary Industries, Queensland Government</i>
9.25am	<b>Keynote presentation: Research to results – using data and technology</b> <i>Derek Bailey, Director of Research and Outreach, Deep Well Ranch (Arizona, USA)</i>
9.55am	<b>Keynote presentation: Lessons learnt - how the north can keep winning</b> <i>David Foote, DF Agrifood Advisory</i>
	<b>Q&amp;A</b>



10.30am – 11.00am	Morning tea – <i>Grand Chelsea Lobby</i>		
11.00am – 12.30pm	<b>Session 2 – Stretching the research dollar</b>		
11.00am	<b>Framing the future of R&amp;D investment: The MLA strategic plan 2030</b> Sarah Strachan – <i>General Manager - Research Development and Adoption, Meat &amp; Livestock Australia</i>		Sponsored by 
11.20am	<b>Moving the dial for northern beef research in a cost price dilemma</b> Ian McLean – <i>Managing Director, Bush Agribusiness Pty Ltd</i> Kieren McCosker – <i>Senior Research Fellow, QAAFI, The University of Queensland</i> Geoff Murrell – <i>Pastoral Partners Australia</i>		
12.00pm	<b>Table talk: Does “leaner have to be meaner” for meaningful research to have impact for northern beef herds?</b> Moderated by Jayne Cuddihy <i>Panel members – Industry and representatives for state agencies reflect on the cost of applied research and challenges in making budgets deliver meaningful outcomes that move the dial for northern beef production systems.</i>		
12.30pm – 1.30pm	Lunch – <i>Grand Chelsea Lobby</i>		
1.30pm – 3.00pm	<b>Session 3 – Concurrent sessions: Animal health, reproduction and herds on the move</b>		
Session	<b>3A - Ticked off: vaccines, vectors and disease detection</b> Sponsored by 	<b>3B - Crush to cradle: optimising reproductive performance</b>	<b>3C - Environmental stewardship: pastures on the radar</b>
Room	Daintree	Topaz	Sundown
Chair	Johann Schröder	Greta Dunne	David Rowlings
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paul Stewart – Remote surveillance for emergency animal disease using artificial intelligence (10)</li> <li>Lida Omaleki – Pasturella multocida and Bovine Respiratory Disease: What does the diversity of Lipopolysaccharide tell us? (10)</li> <li>Jess Morgan – Update on synthetic pyrethroid insecticide resistance in buffalo fly (10)</li> <li>Hannah Siddle – Safe guarding beef production with rapid chemical resistance tests in ticks (3)</li> <li>Guilherme Klafke - RaTexT® as a rapid field alternative to laboratory bioassays for detecting acaricide resistance in cattle ticks</li> <li>Tim Schatz – Assessing the effectiveness of a new type of insecticidal cattle ear tag (3)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Elsie Vincent – Validation genomic breeding values for beef female fertility (10)</li> <li>Benjamin Wood – Incidence of Trichomonas foetus increases with bull age indicating culling for age may be a suitable control option (10)</li> <li>Ella Watkins – Pawsitive pregnancy: Investigating detection dogs for cattle pregnancy diagnosis (10)</li> <li>Antonio Reverter – Enhanced multi-breed genomic prediction for bull fertility using breed-adjusted genomic relationship matrices (10)</li> <li>Gretel Bailey-Preston – Observations of early calving history on a cow’s third and fourth mating outcomes in a high fertility Brahman herd (3)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Robyn Cowley – Finding the Sweet Spot: Pasture utilisation that maintains land condition is the most profitable over the long term (10)</li> <li>Baisen Zhang – Seasonal pasture budgeting at property scale – a FORAGE online tool (prototype) for assessing stocking rates for Queensland grazing lands (10)</li> <li>Jason Barnetson – Mapping Pasture Quality: Using Remote Sensing to Address Northern Australia's Fodder Gap (10)</li> <li>Luis Woodrow – Adjusting the Seasonal Persistent Green Product for Green Grass Signal (10)</li> <li>James Dougherty – Cottonseed supplementation of Rhodes grass hay improves growth of Brahman cross steers in the Northeast Kimberley (10)</li> <li>Georgia Anderson – What drives cattle landscape use in Central Australia? (3)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zheto Zhang – Pilot trial of a whole-cell killed Bovine Genital Campylobacteriosis vaccine (3)</li> <li>• Caity Kelly – The occurrence of vaccine injection site reactions in a northern beef herd (3)</li> <li>• Harvey Santos – Efficacy and safety of an Australian whole-cell killed Tritrichomonas foetus vaccine in T. foetus naïve young bulls (3)</li> <li>• James Copley – Using a test and cull strategy reduces Trichomoniasis prevalence in northern Australia beef bulls (3)</li> <li>• Mark Trotter – The case for on-animal sensors as a tool for endemic and exotic disease surveillance (3)</li> </ul> <p>Q&amp;A</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Matt Wolcott – Genomic benchmarking in commercial beef herds to inform bull selection decisions in extensive, northern production systems (3)</li> <li>• Mel Wooderson – Improving the fertility of a Brahman herd through the use of high fertility bulls in the Northern Territory (3)</li> <li>• Piper Smith – Mooternal: Investigating relationships between maternal investment, calf loss and productivity in Northern Australia (3)</li> <li>• Rebecca Burnham – ‘Beefing Up Genomics’ - A producer driven approach to reference populations (3)</li> <li>• Samantha Rudd - Topical wound treatments targeting haemorrhage and infection in amputation dehorned calves (3)</li> <li>• Kim Hubbard – The effect of lactation anoestrous of first-calf cows on weaning weight (3)</li> </ul> <p>Q&amp;A</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Luis Prada e Silva/Tamara Freitas-Kirk – Bluetooth ear tags can help track supplement intake in grazing cattle (3)</li> <li>• Gretel Bailey-Preston – FireGraze: Using strategic patch burning to influence cattle grazing behaviour and improve land condition (3)</li> </ul> <p>Q&amp;A</p>
3.00pm – 3.30pm	Afternoon tea – <i>Grand Chelsea Lobby</i>		
3.30pm – 4.30pm	<b>Session 4 – Concurrent sessions: Methane, practice change and the R&amp;D legacy</b>		
Session	<b>4A - The “not the methane” session?</b>	<b>4B - Good projects, good results: delivering the R&amp;D legacy for northern systems</b>	<b>4C - Drivers of practice change</b>
Room	Daintree	Topaz	Sundown
Chair	Matt Callaghan	Paul Nilon	Sally Leigo
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Richard Heath - Zero Net Emissions from a thriving Australian agriculture sector (20)</li> <li>• Melissa Dayman – From weaning to research ready: Enhancing Greenfeed Emissions Monitoring (GEM) unit interaction in extensive grazing systems (3)</li> <li>• Melissa Matthews – Methane emissions from cattle grazing Desmanthus pastures on property (3)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Steven Bray – Sixty-year experiments, hidden in the Mulga, informing today’s issues (10)</li> <li>• Robyn Cowley – Why are woody plants increasing? The value of long term studies – lessons from a 30+ year burning experiment and 50+ year grazing exclosures (10)</li> <li>• Stuart Buck – Sowing seeds of legume success in central Queensland (10)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harry Evans – Understanding herd performance requires clarity in classifications (10)</li> <li>• Sampath Dissanayake – Unveiling the performance drivers of northern Australian beef systems: A time series analysis (1990-2022) (10)</li> <li>• Kieren McCosker – Key Drivers of Profitability within North Australian Beef Breeding Businesses (10)</li> <li>• Sampath Dissanayake – Bioeconomic evaluation of prepartum nutritional supplementation in northern Australian beef production systems (10)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hayley Norman – Advancing faecal NIRS for predicting intake and methane emissions from Northern cattle herds (3)</li> <li>• Marina Fortes – Measuring methane emissions under grazing conditions in Brahman heifers (3)</li> <li>• Diane Ouwkerk – Discovering Northern Australia’s low methane feedbase potential (3)</li> <li>• Lachlan Godson/Zac Geldof – Legume-enhanced pastures with fertiliser inputs improve productivity and reduce net GHG emissions in a Central Queensland beef system (3)</li> <li>• Céline Chaléat – Controlled-release technology for methane mitigation in grazing beef cattle: 3-nitrooxypropanol (3-NOP) release profiles in water (3)</li> <li>• Gonzalo Martinez-Fernandez – Use of Bovaer in drinking water for Northern Australian cattle (3)</li> <li>• Cameron Whistler – Genomic prediction to select for lower methane production in purebred, crossbreed and composite cattle in northern Australia (3)</li> <li>• Elaine Mitchell – Evidence for enhanced soil carbon and nitrogen stocks under time-controlled grazing in the Australian subtropics (3)</li> <li>• Tien Chinh Nguyen – Biodiversity and carbon storage in a Corymbia hybrid silvopastoral system in northern Australia (3)</li> <li>• Julia Waite – Wrap up and discussion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gavin Peck – Old evaluation trials delivering a legacy of new persistent legume varieties (10)</li> <li>• Mary Williams – Augmenting native pastures with legumes as a pathway to resilience and increased productivity in the Victoria River District of the NT (3)</li> <li>• Michael Finey – Demonstrating the challenges of augmenting native pastures with legume cultivars on cracking clay soils in the victoria River District (VRD), NT (3)</li> <li>• Jaidyn Eastaughffe – Long-term dynamics of species composition in the Northern Territory Rangelands: a 50-year perspective (3)</li> <li>• Juan Guerschman – Improved monitoring of pastoral landscape productivity and trends in the Rangelands (3)</li> <li>• Bernie English – Legume production paddocks improve dry season diet quality and animal performance on fertile soils in north Queensland (3)</li> <li>• Greta Dunne – Species proportion trends on the Richmond Downs post 2019 flood (3)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Matt Thompson/Harry Milbank – Economic evaluation of establishing pasture legumes in the Brigalow Belt (10)</li> <li>• Tim Schatz – Crops for Cattle – Increasing the efficiency of north Australian cattle production systems through strategies to improve dry season weight gain (3)</li> <li>• Carrie-Ann Wilson – BeefVantage: Collaborative intelligence for better beef decisions (3)</li> </ul>
6.30pm – 10.30pm	<b>Conference Dinner and NABRC Medals Awards Night</b> <i>Grand Chelsea Ballroom</i>		
<b>THURSDAY 12 MARCH 2026</b>			
7.30am	<b>Conference registration</b> <i>Grand Chelsea Lobby</i>		

7.30am – 8.00am	Arrival tea and coffee – <i>Grand Chelsea Lobby</i>		
8.00am – 10.00am	<b>Session 5 – Plenary session: Industry led research – Innovation, partnerships and extension</b>		
	<p><i>Facilitated by Jean Kittson</i></p> <p><b>Capture, engage and keep valuable people</b> Barb Bishop</p> <p><b>Driving adoption of innovation at scale through experiential learning</b> Claire Mahony, IRDA Foundation</p> <p><b>Campfire Chat – the use of VR and AI technology in an Indigenous Peer to Peer Learning Group</b> Ian Perkins</p> <p><b>Delivering outcomes for the Kimberly-Pilbara</b> Bron Christensen</p> <p><b>Extension and adoption across Gascoyne</b> Krystie Bremer</p> <p><b>Q&amp;A</b></p>		
	<p><b>Pilbara Voices: Rethinking Research from the Ground Up</b> <i>Sponsored by Pilbara Innovation Partnership</i></p> <p>Pilbara producers are reshaping how research happens across northern WA. This session brings together pastoralists to share what producer-led research looks like in practice – the opportunities, barriers, and lessons learned from working directly with scientists and funders. Facilitated by Dr Kelsey Pool (UWA), the panel will explore how producers identify research-able issues within their own stations and regions, what makes research relevant and scalable, and how stronger producer involvement can drive greater adoption and long-term impact across the rangelands.</p>		
10.00am – 11.00am	Morning tea – <i>Grand Chelsea Lobby</i>		
11.00am – 12.00pm	<b>Session 6 – Concurrent sessions: Decision tools, legumes and reproduction</b>		
Session	<b>6A - Decision tools &amp; technology for improved management</b>	<b>6B - Legumes, trees, rangelands and carbon</b>	<b>6C - Improved reproduction and resilience</b>
Room	Daintree	Topaz	Sundown
Chair	Dale Miller	Kendrick Cox	Hayley Norman
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ian Dunbar – Spatial survey to assess legume adoption in Queensland (3)</li> <li>Roger Sneath – excel dry season pasture budget soon to be available on futurebeef (3)</li> <li>Mehrnush Forutan – Genetic tools to support fertile and productive cattle (3)</li> <li>Tim Emery – Using smart collars to help keep an eye on your bull team 24/7 (3)</li> <li>Greg Campbell – Automated, Remote Detection of Oestrus in Grazing Cattle Using CERES TAG Sensors (3)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jane Evans – Production potential of improved pastures on northwest Queensland downs (3)</li> <li>Dana Walkington – Testing pasture establishment techniques in the Desert Uplands (3)</li> <li>Vanessa Macdonald – Spatial Analysis of Legume Suitability in Queensland (3)</li> <li>Saranika Talukder – In vitro total gas production and nutritional evaluation of tropical legumes (3)</li> <li>Ajay Augustin – Evaluating seed yields of <i>Stylosanthes seabrana</i> and <i>Stylosanthes</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kirsty Moore – Managing myostatin mutations (double muscling) in northern Australian tropically adapted beef breeds (10)</li> <li>Elizabeth Ross – Solving the discordance between poll genotypes and phenotypes in Northern Beef Cattle (10)</li> <li>Dana Walkington – On-property research and strong relationships result in practice change that increases land condition and carrying capacity in Western Queensland (10)</li> <li>Mark Peart – Water-Based vs. Traditional Supplementation in Cattle: A Case Study (3)</li> <li>Tim Schatz – Easy P – evaluation of a Phosphorus supplementation strategy that is easy to</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Christie Pearson – Virtually fencing cattle onto new water points in Northern Australia (3)</li> <li>Kaitlyn Annesley/Stephen Wiedemann – Updating the life cycle carbon assessment of Australian livestock exports (3)</li> <li>Kate Holzapfel – Developing sustainable carrying capacities in the Victoria River District of the Northern Territory (3)</li> <li>Thomas Williams – Tracking reveals cattle group into spatial and social clusters, but performance does not differ between groups (3)</li> <li>Tony Cavallaro – Field prototype for oral sample collection in grazing ruminants (3)</li> <li>Grant Stone – The FORAGE system – the ‘track record’ (10)</li> <li>Kara-glenn Worth – Reducing barriers to agriculture technology adoption through innovation-readiness assessments (10)</li> <li>Mark Peart – Unlocking a new source income in livestock production: Literature Review (3)</li> </ul>	<p>scabra in southern Queensland Compared to northern Queensland (3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kendrick Cox – Cultivated strips fast-track legume establishment in red basalt woodland (3)</li> <li>Kerry Goodwin – Silvopastoral establishment provides insight into animal production (3)</li> <li>Joe O’Reagain – Vegetative propagation of putatively sterile Leucaena genotypes (3)</li> <li>Stuart Buck – Feed availability in mature leucaena paddocks (3)</li> <li>Kate McCullough – Urea Boosts Biomass but Reduces Litter Cover in Gully Remediation (3)</li> <li>Gavin Peck – New stylo varieties for frosty locations (3)</li> <li>Elaine Mitchell/David Rowlings – Soil carbon sequestration under tropical perennial legume Desmanthus in northern Australian grasslands (10)</li> <li>Nahuel Pachas – Steak n Wood project: Silvopastoral systems research in Queensland and northern New South Wales (10)</li> </ul> <p>(53)</p>	<p>implement in areas that are difficult to access during the wet season (3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Harry Milbank – Breedcow Lite – streamlined for dynamic use by graziers and advisors (3)</li> <li>Luis Prada e Silva – Pre-calving nutrition improves reproductive efficiency in northern beef herds (3)</li> <li>Niilo Gobius – Breedcow+ provides northern producers with options to improve gross margins and improve land condition (3)</li> </ul> <p>(51)</p>
12.00pm – 1.00pm	<b>Session 7 – Concurrent sessions: Tools and tech, building capacity and managing for improved productivity</b>		
Session	<b>7A - Decision tools &amp; technology for improved management (continued)</b>	<b>7B - Extension, building capacity &amp; regional capability</b>	<b>7C - Managing stressors for improved productivity and sustainability</b>
Room	Daintree	Topaz	Sundown
Chair	Anita Chang	Lindsey Perry	Tony Parker
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Christie Warburton – How many SNPs are required to perform multi-breed genomic predictions in Australian cattle populations? (10)</li> <li>John Carter – Seasonal forecasting: A simple analysis of various statistical and weather model forecasts for Queensland (10)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Liz Moss – Pilbara Extension Network: Producer-led research and extension for resilient northern beef systems (10)</li> <li>Beth Penrose – Building research capacity and capability in the north: the new Research Institute for Northern Agriculture at Charles Darwin University (10)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ben Allen – Novel animal welfare assessment tools for mass euthanasia of intensive livestock (3)</li> <li>Michele Tree – Impact of long-distance transport on cross-bred Bos indicus beef cows (3)</li> <li>Harriet Dunne – Livestock refuge mounds in northwest Queensland (3)</li> <li>Ethan Ryan – Livestock refuge mounds in northwest Queensland (3)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dianne Mayberry – National Climate Risk Assessment – key messages for the Australian northern beef herd (10)</li> <li>• Fiona McCartney – Understanding FORAGE report user experience to improve its usefulness for grazing land management decision-making (10)</li> <li>• Ana Carla Leite De Almeida – Biodiversity into focus: ESG metrics and reporting in the beef sector (10)</li> <li>• Laercio Porto-Neto – Combining reproductive and genomic biotechnologies to further improve beef production (10)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ted Callanan – Ramping up extension delivery as pasture dieback spreads south (10)</li> <li>• Nicole Sallur – FutureBeef—widely valued, driving practice change (3)</li> <li>• Kylie Hopkins – Queensland Pastures e-newsletter increases beef industry engagement (3)</li> <li>• Marcia Smith – The value of knowledge diversity - what if I am wrong (3)</li> <li>• Natalie Hughes – Strengthening the beef industry’s drought, business, and financial resilience through the Advancing Beef Leaders program (3)</li> <li>• Stacey Holzapfel – Research to reality: investigating barriers to on-station practice change (3)</li> <li>• Ryan Honor – The Northern Breeding Business program – Peer to peer learning fostering the adoption of improved cattle grazing business management practices and technologies in the Fitzroy River catchment (3)</li> <li>• Greta Dunne – Producer-focused demonstration site increases engagement in north west Queensland (3)</li> <li>• Megan Willis – Developing a formal staff induction and mentoring program for the Department of Primary Industries Extensive Livestock Systems RD&amp;E work group (3)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Samantha Rudd – Evaluating novel and existing wound treatments for cattle (3)</li> <li>• Samantha Rudd – Attitudes and practice on pain relief for dehorning cattle in Northern Australia (3)</li> <li>• Angela Lees – Influence of heat tolerance classification on rumen temperature regulation (10)</li> <li>• Vicki Mayne – Thriving through change: Integrating climate science into livestock thermal stress management in northern Australia (10)</li> <li>• Jill Fernandes – Is there a return on cattle welfare investment? (10)</li> <li>• Vitor Mercadante – Unravelling the reproductive, hormonal and metabolic differences between Bos indicus and Bos taurus cows while under nutritional restriction (10)</li> </ul>
1.00pm – 2.00pm	Lunch – <i>Grand Chelsea Lobby</i>		
2.00pm – 3.00pm	<b>Session 8 – Plenary session: Getting results &amp; adoption</b>		
	<i>Facilitated by Kylie Hopkins</i> <b>Adoption: The journey that delivers industry impact</b> Sally Leigo <b>Typology of Australian beef producers and the sustainability challenges</b> Bradd Witt <b>The role of CRC in translating results to adoption</b> Richard Heath <b>Catchment collaboration – facilitating NRM groups to succeed</b>		

	Amanda Roughan <b>Panel session Q&amp;A</b>
3.00pm – 3.30pm	Afternoon tea – <i>Grand Chelsea Lobby</i>
3.30pm – 4.30pm	<b>Session 9 – Closing plenary session</b>
	<i>Facilitated by Tim Schatz</i> <b>Research, results &amp; reflection – why the 3 Rs still matter</b> Wayne Hall <b>Eating that elephant in my paddock</b> Jayne Cuddihy <b>Concluding remarks and farewells from NBRUC2026</b> Paul Burke
5.30pm – 8.30pm	<b>Closing drinks - Northern Beef Olympics: After-Hours</b> Limber up for Brisbane 2032 and enjoy a podium-worthy wind-down. Come solo or rally a team — and show us your best Olympic-themed outfits! <i>Chelsea Lane</i>

**FRIDAY 13 MARCH 2026**

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