

Northern cattle herd destined to become bigger and better

25 June 2012

The Queensland Government has injected \$1.5 million into a \$9 million UQ co-ordinated research program that will deliver state-wide returns for northern beef producers.

Speaking at BIO 2012 in Boston, Queensland Minister for Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts Ros Bates said the Queensland Government's science funding would boost Queensland's international science credentials and had the capacity to markedly improve the state's economic, employment and lifestyle prospects.

Expert teams have mapped out a comprehensive new strategy to dramatically improve the blood lines of northern beef cattle.

The teams, working on two separate research projects, are comprised of scientists from the Queensland Government, UQ's Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation (QAAFI), CSIRO's Food Futures Flagship and their northern beef industry collaborators.

According to the coordinator of the two projects Professor Mike Holland, a QAAFI research affiliate, CSIRO visiting scientist and Director of Research and Development at UQ's School of Veterinary Sciences, Australia's northern herd presents unique challenges for animal scientists.

" Low reproduction efficiency has long been recognised as a special problem in tropically adapted breeds, which are integral to the success of beef cattle production in Queensland's harsh tropical environment," he said.

By increasing weaning rates (number of calves weaned per 100 cows mated), identifying genes from heavier cattle, and selecting genes from those cattle which naturally lack horns (poll gene), the integrated research program expects to increase herd numbers and profitability within three years.

One approach will be genetic improvement of seedstock herds in Queensland through a project focused on accelerating genetic improvement via breeding strategies.

Another approach, pioneered by CSIRO scientists, will survey the DNA of breeding herds and develop DNA-based tests to identify young sires who will produce highly fertile daughters, again accelerating the rate of genetic improvement.

CSIRO Food Futures Flagship Director Dr Bruce Lee said this collaboration was a great opportunity for CSIRO and its industry partners to work with QAAFI.

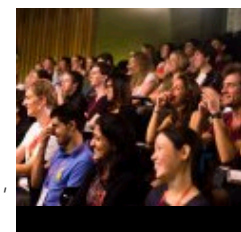
" Our collaboration to deliver novel technologies will enhance the productivity and sustainability of the northern beef industry," he said.

QAAFI Centre for Animal Science Director, Professor Stephen Moore, said genomics would play an

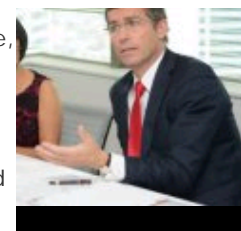
INDUSTRY COLLABORATION

[UQ offers English language test for healthcare professionals](#) 16 April 2014

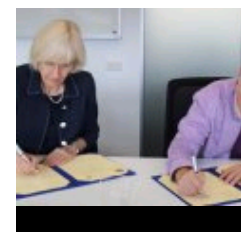
[Well done Westpac](#) 4 April 2014



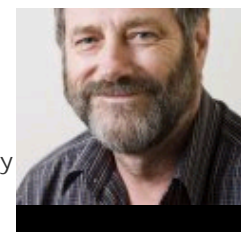
[Ideas for everyone: TEDxUQ to stream live on line](#) 28 March 2014



[UQ opens Indonesia office](#) 26 March 2014



[UQ and Ohio State student exchange agreement to create " global citizens"](#) 10 February 2014



[Flag-raising launches UQ World Health Organisation collaborating centre](#) 29 November 2013

increasingly important role in improving returns on the northern herd.

" The project is a good example of how QAAFI is working successfully with other institutions to establish bovine programs which benefit industry," Professor Moore said.

" Development and evaluation of genomic approaches coupled with more traditional selection methods for improving economically important cattle traits will continue to be one of our top priorities."

Key partners in the integrated breeding program include:

- Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation and University of Queensland affiliates
- CSIRO Food Futures Flagship
- The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (Qld)
- Agricultural Business Research Institute (ABRI), University of New England, Armidale, NSW
- Droughtmaster Stud Breeders' Society, Australia
- Santa Gertrudis Breeders' (Australia) Association, Australia

Media:

Michael Holland

Deputy Head of School and Director of Research & Development

Professor of Animal Biotechnology

School of Veterinary Sciences

The University of Queensland

Mobile: 0407 960 782

Professor Stephen Moore

Director, Centre for Animal Science

Queensland Alliance for Agriculture & Food Innovation

Tel: (07) 3346 6525

QAAFI Communications

Mob: 0417 425 510

Share link:

<http://tinyurl.com/n6gxtae>

Subscribe to the UQ News weekly newsletter

Subscribe



[Queensland, Emory research alliance targets cancer treatments](#) 7 November 2013

[UQ awarded \\$50 million for health discovery work](#) 23 October 2013



[UQ, First Solar to build world-leading research centre](#) 23

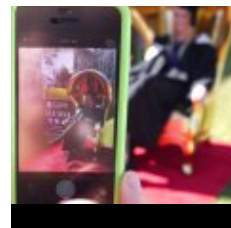
October 2013

RECENT HEADLINES



[UQ](#)

[scholarship honours WW1 nurse](#) 29 July 2014



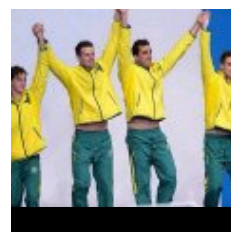
[UQ hits social media](#)

[milestone](#) 28 July 2014



[Hot exhibit](#)

[highlights Queensland architecture](#) 25 July 2014



Brisbane St Lucia, QLD 4072

+61 7 3365 1111

Other Campuses: [UQ Ipswich](#),
[UQ Gatton](#), [UQ Herston](#)

[Maps and Directions](#)

© 2014 The University of Queensland

A MEMBER OF



[Privacy & Terms of use](#) | [Feedback](#)

Authorised by: Director, Office of
Marketing and Communications
ABN: 63 942 912 684
CRICOS Provider No: 00025B

QUICK LINKS

- [➤ For Media](#)
- [➤ Emergency Contact](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA

NEED HELP?

EMERGENCY

[3365 3333](#)

EXPLORE

- [➤ Giving to UQ](#)
- [➤ Faculties & Divisions](#)
- [➤ UQ Jobs](#)
- [➤ UQ Contacts](#)
- [➤ Services & Facilities](#)
- [➤ Login](#)