

Graziers set sights on sustainability

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Graziers in North Queensland will get the opportunity learn more about sustainable beef production practices at Grazing Best Management Practices (BMP) workshops in March.

AgForce Regional Manager Paul Burke said the workshops will give graziers an understanding of the program and how it can help them improve their long term productivity, profitability and sustainability.

“Grazing BMP provides best practice guidelines, outlined in the programs five modules, to help graziers improve their farm practices and demonstrate sustainable and ethical beef production.”

The five modules include: soil health, animal health and welfare, grazing land management, animal production and people and business. Graziers will get the chance to begin their Grazing BMP Self-Assessment at the workshops, which involves answering questions about their current practices.

“While working through the modules graziers will be able to see how they stack up against industry standard and identify areas for improvement within their own practices to become ‘at’ or ‘above’ industry standard.”

“Grazing BMP then provides a conduit for graziers to upskill or adjust their practices according to their identified areas that need improvement,” Mr Burke said.

“Sustainably produced food is becoming a mainstream consumer expectation rather than a novelty, the Grazing BMP program demonstrates graziers are addressing consumer demands, while continuing to protect the environment.”

The workshops will also feature guest speakers, including: Noel Brinsmead from AgForce Projects; Bob Shepard and Jo Robertson from QDAF and Corrie Grimmett from Livestock Biosecurity Network.

Workshops will be held at:

- Twin Hills Racecourse – Tuesday 8 March 2016
- Pentland Soldiers Hall – Thursday 10 March 2016

Workshops are free and run from 8.30am – 4pm. Registration is essential. Attendees can register online at www.agforceprojects.org.au or call (07) 3238 6048.

An update on drought services available will also be provided at the information sessions.

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For more information contact AgForce Projects Senior Media and Communications Officer Caitlin Boucher on (07) 3238 6060 or 0488 002 091.

What is Grazing BMP?

The program, a joint partnership between AgForce, Fitzroy Basin Association and the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF), allows graziers to anonymously benchmark their current business practices and stewardship performance and compare their results against the rest of the industry. In return, the aggregated and de-identified data will allow the industry to clearly demonstrate adoption levels of practices and performance and any areas requiring further attention for improvement.