

# BEEF GENETICS HORIZONS 2004

*PATHWAYS, PRACTICES & PROFITS*

---

**If you are interested in beef cattle breeding and you can only attend one meeting this year, make sure it is one of these**

**ARMIDALE, NSW – 16-17 JUNE**

*Wright Centre, University of New England*

**HAMILTON, VIC – 24-25 JUNE**

*Pastoral and Veterinary Institute, Hamilton*

**ROCKHAMPTON, QLD – 26-27 AUGUST**

*Department of Primary Industry, Rockhampton*

## **YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO UPDATE YOURSELF ON KEY GENETIC TOOLS**

**Cattle selection has followed many fashions over the centuries but today the tools and the knowledge of genetics represent a real opportunity to improve profits of all involved in the beef supply chain.**

MLA is hosting three expos and workshops - 'Pathways, practices and profits' that are open to anyone within the beef supply chain.

The genetic tools available in the industry have expanded greatly in the past few years enabling genetic improvement for a broad range of traits. These forums will take a closer look at these genetic technologies and the opportunities available from using them.



**Elders Breeding Services**



# BEEF GENETIC HORIZONS 2004

## PATHWAYS, PRACTICES & PROFITS

**ARMIDALE 16 - 17 JUNE**

**HAMILTON 24 - 25 JUNE**

Australia leads the world in genetic evaluation technology and has come a long way since the introduction of Breedplan in 1984. This forum is your opportunity to update on the latest technologies and learn how to use them to your best profit advantage.

### DAY ONE

---

- 8.00 am**      **Registration**
- 9.00 am**      **Session 1: Sponsored by Elders Breeding Services**  
**Genetics - the last free lunch?**  
MLA Speaker  
**The MLA Beef Genetics vision - their 5-Year Plan**  
Dr Robert Banks (MLA)
- 10.15 am**     **Morning Tea and Opening of Trade Show**
- 10.45 am**     **Australian Beef Genetics - A World of Opportunity**  
Dr Arthur Rickards (ABRI)  
**We've got world-class genetics tools, let's use them**  
Mr Don Nicol (Breedlink)
- 12.30 pm**     **Lunch - Sponsored by Genetic Solutions**
- 1.30 pm**      **Session 2: Sponsored by Meat and Livestock Australia**  
**Beating the cost price squeeze. Do EBVs help the bottom line? Here's the proof**  
Dr David Johnston (AGBU)  
**Crossbreeding. The theory, the practice, the problems and the bottom line. A warts and all approach**  
Mr Bill Hoffman (NSW Agriculture)
- 3.00 pm**      **Genetics in Practice - How to apply: Concurrent Technical Updating Session I.**  
Each of the sessions A to E will run for approximately 30 minutes and will be repeated. Participants will be able to attend up to 4 of the 5 concurrent sessions.
- A**      **Use ultrasound technology to improve carcass traits**  
Mr Wayne Upton (AGBU)
- B**      **Select the most profitable sire for your enterprise using selection indexes**  
Dr Steve Barwick (AGBU)
- C**      **Use of gene markers in your breeding and selection program**  
Mr Jason Strong (Genetic Solutions)
- D**      **Use internet data bases and web searches to select your next sire**  
Mr Jack Allen & Dr Brad Crook (ABRI)
- E**      **Apply the new measures in BREEDPLAN - NFI & IGF**  
Dr Hans Graser (AGBU)
- 7.00 pm**      **Dinner: Guest Speaker - "Genetics from Conception to the Consumer"**  
Mr James Laurie (Armidale)      Mr Ian Watson (Hamilton)

### DAY 2

---

- 8.30 am**      **Session 3: Sponsored by Elders Breeding Services**  
**Converting genes to dollars. How to evaluate the real value of genetic improvement across the industry**  
Dr Garry Griffith (NSW Agriculture)  
**Exporting Australian genetics - Biosecurity**  
Mr Geoff Ryan (AFFA)  
**Exporting Australian genetics - Is there a dollar in it?**  
Mr Bill Cornell (ABS Australia)
- 10.00 am**     **Morning Tea**

**10.30 am**

**Concurrent Technical Updating Sessions II -**

Each of the sessions A to E will run for approximately 30 minutes and will be repeated. Participants will be able to attend up to 3 of the 5 concurrent sessions

**Genetics in Practice Part II. How to:**

**A Use temperament testing to improve docility and meat quality**

Dr Heather Burrow (CRC)

**B Make the best mating decisions using BREED EXACT**

Mr Greg Popplewell (Elders Breeding Services)

**C Design genetic evaluation systems for composite breeding programs**

Speaker to be advised

**D Use carcass feedback systems in genetic evaluation programs**

Mr Wayne Upton (AGBU)

**E Monitoring the genetic progress of your breed and/or herd using STOCKTAKE**

Dr David Johnston (AGBU)

**12.30 pm**

**Lunch - Sponsored by Beef Improvement Association**

**1.30 pm**

**Session 4: Sponsored by the Supporting Breed Associations**

**Breeding for the end-user**

Mr Warren Stiff, John Dee Warwick (Arm), Mr Richard Eldershaw, Rangers Valley Feedlot (Ham)

**2.00pm**

**Concurrent Committee Meetings**

The major opportunity for industry feedback to MLA and key research groups. These sessions will be designed for people with common interests to feedback to researchers, technical developers and administrators, views on various genetic services. Prior to the conference participants will be surveyed to ascertain their interests and groups will be designed for each workshop that cater for the composition of the group. Each of these meetings (A-G) will last for approximately 30 minutes and some of the sessions will be repeated depending on the interests of the participants, ie participants will have the opportunity to attend two sessions in the allotted time. Alternatively participants are encouraged to take this opportunity to examine trade displays.

**Members of the MLA National Beef Genetics Advisory Committee will chair or appoint Chairs for these sessions**

**A Breed Society Committees**

If sufficient interest, individual breed societies will have their own sessions, if not, breed types will be combined. These breed sessions will be supported technically by breed society representatives and ABRI staff responsible for the breed(s).

**B Composite Breeders Group**

This group will be facilitated and chaired by the Composite Beef Breeders Australia (CBBA). Session will contain a brief update on activities and an opportunity to discuss developments in this area.

**C Crossbreeding**

A group will be formed to discuss support needed by dedicated crossbreeders - those who are using a designed crossbreeding and don't intend to progress towards a composite.

**D Genetic evaluation**

A generic group to discuss principles and the application of genetic evaluation. This group will appeal mainly to the seedstock breeder who wants to ensure that he gets the most out of the system by using the best practice recording and those who want to ensure that the system caters for their needs. A chance to give feedback to ABRI at a more generic level than in the breed based discussions.

**E Progeny Testing**

A group to discuss why progeny test and the best designs.

**F Herd recording packages**

Users of software packages will be given a chance to interact with representatives of the companies. Potential software users may also take this opportunity to investigate different packages.

**G Customising BreedObject Indexes**

Designing your own index.

**4.00 pm**

**Keynote Address - "Future Genetics- The Big Picture"**

Dr Hans Graser (Armidale), Dr Mike Goddard (Hamilton)

**4.30 pm**

**Panel Session**

Dr Hans Graser, Dr David Johnston, Dr Gerard Davis

**Key elements of the beef industry will have displays for general perusal and discussions over the session breaks.**

## ARMIDALE ACCOMMODATION

Contact the following and mention the MLA Genetics Conference

|  |              |                       |              |
|--|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Cotswold Gardens                                 | 02 6772 8222 | Abbotsleigh Motor Inn | 1800 888 100 |
| Country Comfort                                  | 02 6772 8511 | Sandstock             | 02 6772 9988 |
| New England Motor Inn                            | 02 6771 1011 | Deer Park             | 02 6772 9999 |
| Armidale Tourist Information Centre 1800 627 736 |              |                       |              |

## HAMILTON ACCOMMODATION

Comfort Inn Grange Burn (venue for dinner) 03 5572 5755  
Hamilton Tourist Information Centre 1800 807 056

## SUPPORTING ORGANISATIONS



**Elders Breeding Services**



## SUPPORTING BREED ASSOCIATIONS

**Angus  
Brahman  
Charolais**

**Droughtmaster  
Hereford  
Limousin  
Murray Grey**

**Poll Hereford  
Red Angus  
Santa Gertrudis  
Shorthorn**

**Simmental  
South Devon  
Wagyu**

## OTHER SUPPORTING ORGANISATIONS



**A "BREEDPLAN Basics" Workshop has been planned for the afternoon preceding both the Armidale (15/6) and Hamilton (23/6) events and is being sponsored by the Australian Wagyu Association Ltd. and MLA. For more details and to register contact Benita Davis: Phone (02) 6773 2472 Fax: (02) 6772 5376 or Email: [wagyu@abri.une.edu.au](mailto:wagyu@abri.une.edu.au).**

## FURTHER INFORMATION



**Graeme Mitchell**  
ANF Agritours  
PO Box 814, Armidale NSW 2350  
Phone (02) 6772 9066 • Fax (02) 6772 9899  
Email: [gmitchell@anf.com.au](mailto:gmitchell@anf.com.au)

**Bryan Johnston**  
Phone (02) 6772 1424  
Mobile 0429 721 424  
Email: [bjohnston@anf.com.au](mailto:bjohnston@anf.com.au)