

Preliminary Conference Program

DAY 1 TUESDAY 28 JULY | Wests' Diggers Auditorium, 4 Kable Avenue, Tamworth

5.30 pm Registrations and Welcome Reception & Canapes - Smokey's Bar & Grill

DAY 2 WEDNESDAY 29 JULY | Wests' Diggers Auditorium, 4 Kable Avenue, Tamworth

OPENING

8.00 am Registrations - Auditorium Foyer

9.00 am **WELCOME - Lester McCormick, Chairperson, Pastures & Grazing NSW**

9.10 am **CONFERENCE OPENING - Keynote Speaker, Karen Penfold (Four Daughters Beef)**

SESSION 1 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT | Session chaired by Melissa Mooney, Regional Australia Bank

9.55 am **Financial Management (Return on Investment, Getting Bank-ready for a Loan, Green Loans)**
Melissa Mooney, Agri Lending Specialist, Regional Australia Bank

10.30 am **MORNING TEA, TRADE DISPLAYS AND POSTERS**

SESSION 2 LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION SYSTEMS | Session chaired by Bill Mitchell, Optiweigh

11.00 am **High Performance Animals (Beef & Lamb)**

Ed Clayton, Livestock Research Officer, NSW DPIRD - Ruminant Nutrition Ed will detail some of his research projects and what is influencing higher animal performance.

11.30 am **High Performance Beef Production Systems (Producer Perspective)**

Don and Jason Mack (Bingara) will detail the management they use in their own production system as well as the technologies they have incorporate. They will also detail the skills they have had to acquire to manage a productive operation.

12.00 noon **New Technologies: Using AI in Pastures and Grazing Systems**

Tristan Steventon, Founder & CEO, Stevtech - Agricultural Intelligence. What is out there and what can we incorporate from AI into our grazing systems?

12.30 pm **SITE VISITS**

LUNCH (packed lunch for site visits)

TOUR A: Managing Acid Soils

"Kia Ora Station" Bendemeer. Inspect improved pasture that has been top dressed with lime . Hear from Dan Hodges, Station Manager.

"Gunnalong" Bendemeer. Inspect improved pasture that has had lime incorporated before sowing. Hear from the owners Tom & Rachel Rummery.

Carol Harris, Senior Research Scientist, NSW DPIRD and Jason Condon, Associate Professor, CSU will provide an update on liming research and results from the HIPPO trial on "The Plateau" at Kingstown.

TOUR B: Cultivating Profits, Foundations of Grazing for Better Return (Beef)

"Riverbend" Barraba. The Owners Will & Stacey Sedgewick will detail their beef enterprise and how they manage pastures to achieve their goals. They will also discuss how they incorporate the Optiweigh system into the management of their enterprise. A representative from Optiweigh will also be available to answer questions on the Optiweigh system.

Preliminary Conference Program (cont'd)

TOUR C: Thomas Foods International - Tamworth Sheep Abattoir

This tour by Andrew Jackson, New England Livestock Manager offers small groups an inspection of the abattoir. You will hear what the buyers are looking for when purchasing sheep for their clients, as well as tips on lamb preparation for sale.

AFTERNOON TEA (site visits) Tours return by 5.00 pm at the latest

6.00 for 6.30 pm **CONFERENCE DINNER Wests Diggers Auditorium**

7.00 pm 3-course alternate drop menu, with after dinner speaker to entertain.

DAY 3 THURSDAY 30 JULY | Wests' Diggers Auditorium, 4 Kable Avenue, Tamworth

OPENING

SESSION 3 MANAGING THE BUSINESS

Sponsor spotlight: Corteva Agriscience

9.00 am **Succession Planning**

Malinda Guest, Director & Principal Clinical Psychologist, Boundless Psychology. Malinda will discuss communication strategies, how to work through difficult emotional conversations, conflict resolution and problem-solving.

Sponsor spotlight: Elders Rural Services

10.00 am **The Latest on Tropical Pasture Research, Grasses and Legumes. What is coming next**

Suzanne Boschma Senior Research Scientist, NSW DPIRD. Dr Boschma will detail the results of the research and what is coming up next for tropical pastures.

10.30 am **MORNING TEA, TRADE DISPLAYS AND POSTERS**

SESSION 4 MANAGING THE PASTURE BASE: SPECIES, MIXED SPECIES AND DISEASE | Session chaired by DLF Seeds

11.00 am **Producer Perspective: Diversifying the feedbase**

Lorroi & Justin Kirkby, "Amarula" Gravesend. The Kirkbys presented at the 2019 Grassland Conference at Gunnedah. They will detail their experiences since then and any changes they have made to their management.

11.30 pm **Pasture Dieback Is this an issue for the North West?**

Ted Callanan, Pasture Agronomist - Sown Pastures QDPI. Ted has experienced Pasture Dieback in the Darling Downs of Queensland and will detail the management successes they have recorded.

SESSION 5 MANAGING THE SOIL BASE: SOIL ACIDITY & SOIL CARBON | Session chaired by Meat & Livestock Australia

12.00 pm **New Directions on Managing Soil Acidity**

Jason Condon, Associate Professor, CSU will detail how the thinking on managing acid soils with lime have changed including top-dressed and incorporated lime.

12.30 pm **Impact of Grazing Management on Soil Carbon**

Warwick Badgery, Research Leader - Rangelands and tropical Pastures NSW DPIRD. Warwick will detail results from his long term grazing trial and the interaction of grazing and rest periods on Soil Organic Carbon.

1.00pm **CONFERENCE CLOSE AND LUNCH**