

BEEF-N-OMICS FOR IMPROVED HERD PROFITS

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The Beef Cattle Section of the NSW Department of Agriculture has developed an innovative advisory program called Beef-N-Omics. The workshop based programme aims to help beef producers increase their profitability.

Components of a Beef-N-Omics Workshop include:-

- * Beef-N-Omics Computer Package.
- * Beef-N-Omics Production Manual.
- * Beef-N-Omics Herd Planner.

The Beef-N-Omics planning model helps a producer identify differences between current herd production and the herd's production objectives.

The herd profile is entered into the Beef-N-Omics computer package. Alternative management practices can then be explored by seeking answers to questions such as:

"What would happen if I reduced calving interval?"

OR

"Would I utilise the property's feed production better by calving in different months of the year?"

The bottom line in any enterprise is profitability. This is the focus of Beef-N-Omics which provides a full gross margin analysis for the enterprise. It also provides a comprehensive monthly herd inventory and a graphed feed budget (feed availability relative to the herd's requirements).

Workshop sessions permit a wide range of technical issues to be discussed. These sessions, aided by the Beef-N-Omics Production Manual, provide the "how to" suggestions for implementing the most profitable changes to herd management and feed utilisation.

Finally, the Beef-N-Omics Herd Planner provides a flexible recording and planning tool to assist the implementation of enterprise revisions.

Over 300 producers have participated in district workshops to date. As the average improvement in profitability identified is in the order of \$40 per cow, the program will continue to provide an important service to beef producers.