
DRAFT PROGRAM

FEEDER STEER SCHOOL 2.0

ARMIDALE
10 - 13 FEBRUARY 2025

- Monday, 10 February - Registration & welcome dinner
- Tuesday, 11 February - Full day program & networking dinner
- Wednesday, 12 February - Full day program & networking dinner
- Thursday, 13 February - Full day program & event concludes

Register



Program Day 1: Monday, 10 February 2025

5:30pm Registration & Welcome Dinner

UNE

Program Day 2: Tuesday, 11 February 2025

8:30am Welcome & Official Opening

Professor Chris Moran,
Vice Chancellor & CEO, UNE

8:40am Mechanisms for increasing demand for your cattle

Michael Crowley,
Managing Director, MLA

9:10am The traits of a suitable calf to breed & feed for retail

Sam Ditchfield, National Livestock
Operations Manager, Greenstock
Australian Meat by Woolworths

9:40am Grass fed or grain fed - What do consumers want?

Ethan Mooney,
Feedlot Procurement Manager, Teys

10:10am Morning tea

10:50am Local pasture data boosting beef productivity

Max Newsome,
Livestock Officer, LLS

11:10am Matching productivity to market demands

Georgia Oaks,
Sustainable Agriculture, LLS

11:30am Getting the most out of dual purpose cereal crops

Callen Thompson,
Consulting Partner, AgSTAR Projects

11:50am Single v. mixed species forages - What do the numbers show?

Carol Harris,
Research Agronomist, NSW DPIRD

12:10pm Panel Session - Getting the mix right

Max, Georgia, Callen & Carol

12:30pm Lunch

2pm Workshop rotation 1: Replacement heifer selection - The powerhouse of your operation

Tahnee Manton,
Senior Livestock Officer, LLS

3pm Workshop rotation 2: Matching steers to target markets

Brett Littler,
Senior Livestock Officer, LLS

4pm Workshop rotation 3: Bull confirmation & objective selection

Erica Halliday, Ben Nevis
Jake Phillips, Angus Australia

6:30pm Dinner

Program Day 3: Wednesday, 12 February 2025

8:30am	The booming growth of lot feeding in Australia & making custom feeding work for all	Barb Madden, Immediate Past President, Australian Lot Feeders Association, Director - Smithfield Cattle Co
9:10am	Cattle that perform for Rangers Valley - What does the data show?	Maddie Fryer, Rangers Valley Feedlot Data & Operations
9:40am	Preparation of cattle for feedlots	Dr Jemma Postle Vet, Apiam Animal Health
10:10am	Morning tea	
10:50am	Preparing backgrounding animals for transport to feedlot	Sharon Dundon, Project Manager Animal Wellbeing, MLA
11:10am	Immune competence in beef cattle - what it means for feedlots & genomic tools for producers	Dr Brad Hine Senior Research Scientist, CSIRO
11:30am	Defining a breeding objective, understanding EBV's and percentile bands	Jake Phillips Extension Manager, Angus Australia
11:50am	Advanced technologies in boosting genetic performance	Dr Alex Ball, Armidale Node, SQNNSW Innovation Hub
12:10pm	Panel Session - Selecting for success	Sharon, Brad, Jake & Alex
12:30pm	Lunch	
2pm	Workshop rotation 4: The psychology of cattle - Training calves for feedlot entry	Dr Kev Sullivan, Veterinary Surgeon & Physician, Production Animal Consultation Australia
3pm	Workshop rotation 5: Can't judge a book by its cover: Developing a breeding objective	Jake Phillips Extension Manager, Angus Australia
4pm	Workshop rotation 6: Vaccination programs for improved animal health	Dr Gemma Postle Apiam Animal Health
6:30pm	Dinner	

Program Day 4: Thursday, 13 February 2025

8:30am	Matching feeder demands to markets - Feeding the JBS feedlot juggernaut	Michael Finucan, GM Feedlots & Marketing, JBS Northern
9:10am	Crossing into Wagyu - Too late or the time is now?	Jeff House Director, Jeff House Livestock
9:40am	The sustainability landscape of beef production - what does the future hold?	Sonja Dominik, Principal Research Scientist, CSIRO
10:10am	Morning tea	
10:50am	Southern Multi Breed Project - What is the performance across six breeds and do they vary?	Dr Brad Walmsley Research Scientist, NSW DPIRD
11:10am	Reducing methane with every mouthful of pasture - The journey ahead	Laughlan Stewart, Research Scientist, DLF Seeds
11:30am	How much time in lairage is too much?	Emma Lynch - Lecturer, Ruminant Production, UNE
11:50am	Carcass value insights – understanding the drivers of yield and quality for better returns	Dave Packer, Program Manager, Meat Standards Australia, MLA
12:10pm	Panel Session - The steaks are high	Brad, Laughlan, Emma & Dave
12:30pm	Lunch	
2pm	Afternoon workshop option 1: Carcass bone out (Limited places - attendees to choose preferred afternoon workshop on registration)	Pete McGilchrist, Mick Finucan, Dave Packer, Aimee Bolton
2pm	Afternoon workshop option 2: Tullimba Research Feedlot tour	Rachelle Hergenhan, Animal Science Fran Cowley, Livestock Production Sam Clark, Animal Genetics UNE
5pm	Event concludes	