James Lawrence Pavilion
Bos Indicus Room

Wednesday 9 May 2012
11.30 to 1.30 pm

Breeding and genetics for fertility

Hosted by

Queensland Government

Sound bull selection is a major factor influencing herd profitability particularly in northern Australia to improve the breeder fertility, specifically striving for an inter-calving intervals of <365 days. Bulls are the key component of the herd for genetic progress across all traits to meet herd breeding objectives. Herd sires influence larger numbers of progeny and for 12-16 years into the future.

Presentations and speakers include:

Using technology to identify superior bull fertility presented by *Professor Mike McGowan*

- There are current and emerging pre-mating measures of bull fertility essential for best practice beef production.
  - Breeders benefit from an improved understanding of traits affecting the calf 'getting' ability of bulls
  - Semen structure is often ignored and at best poorly understood by many beef producers relative to identifying superior bulls

- **Bull Breeding Soundness Evaluation**
  Producer perspectives - *Burnett Joyce, Robert Rea, Swin Hudson, David Greenup*

Improving herd profitability and female reproduction using superior bull selection *presented by a representative of the Beef CRC*

- Female reproductive performance can be improved through the genetics from the sires selected

- Culling of sub fertile and infertile females is a “reactive” approach to herd improvement rather than a “proactive” selection decision

  BBSE information eg SS and % Normal spermatozoa linked with genetic measures eg SS and Days to calving are essential selection measures for the commercial beef producer to direct the fertility of the herd.

  Producer perspectives - *Rodger Jefferis, Robert Rea, Andrew Chapman, Brett Coombe*