New Date Variety Discovered at AZRI

A new ultra-fertile variety of date palm has been found at the Arid Zone Research Institute (AZRI) near Alice Springs.

Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries’ Horticulture Officer Glen Oliver made the discovery when inspecting the palm’s unusually voluminous blossoms. “I just tapped it and all this pollen came out. I just said, ‘this’ would be good for male pollen – we should collect this pollen’.”

Seven sample offshoots were collected from this palm and sent to London, United Kingdom (UK) for DNA indexing. Results confirmed that this male palm was unique and not related to any other male palm varieties in the world. This also has historic implications—it was the first time that date palm plants have been exported from Australia. The quarantine requirements did present some challenges, but the offshoots arrived safe and sound in the UK.

The capacity to reduce the number of male palms that an orchard has to maintain will be significant for the Australian and global date industry. There has already been interest from the Middle East and North Africa to export this variety to these areas, which are the biggest players in the billion-dollar date industry.

Dave and Anita Reilly of the Gurra Downs Date Company in South Australia regularly work with Mr Oliver at AZRI and have also been excited about the discovery. In the past they’ve supplied date varieties to AZRI as a part of collaborative research which has been funded by Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC) and DPIF.
Editorial

Dear Reader,

In this edition we report on the Low Stress Stock handling school presented by Jim Lindsay on Old Man Plains. Due to huge interest, a second school is considered early next year for those that missed out.

There is also an update on how the steers in the ‘Steer Challenge’ are performing, while the series on non-pastoral use deals with land suitability in this edition.

We are fortunate to have a very experienced Animal Biosecurity team in Alice Springs to assist producers with information and support on the movement of animals, as well as with disease management and surveillance—see articles on pages 10 and 11.

The following exciting events are happening around Alice during the next few months:

3–4 July  Alice Springs Show DPIF/ DLRM Stall – see Dave Collinson about the concessional loan schemes
23–24 July  Business EDGE course by Ian McLean to provide business skills
7–9 August  Australian Woman in Agriculture Conference
11 September  John Bertram & Emily Piper will discuss ‘balanced bulls’ in a Field Day
22 October  Biennial Alice Springs Field Day in collaboration with ASPIAC

At the AZRI Farm, preparations have started for an evaluation of 14 table grape varieties. There has also been much interest in the bush tomato trial and recent date palm research—see article on the front page.

Enjoy the read.

Pieter Conradie
Business EDGE Workshop Provides Key Business Skills

Alice Springs 23rd and 24th July 2015

For more information, visit: www.babusiness.com.au/products/business-edge or contact Ian McLean on either 0401 118 191 or ian@babusiness.com.au.

One in four beef businesses in your region are making more money than the other three combined...

HOW DO THE 1 IN 4 DO IT?

They do not achieve it by:

✘ having the best country
✘ getting the most rain
✘ getting the highest prices, or
✘ driving the flashiest motorcar.

They achieve it by:

✔ having the best businesses.

This business performance is underpinned by excellent business skills.

Those skills are different from those needed to manage the herd and they are not hard to learn.

If more profit is important to you, then everything you need to know is covered in the BusinessEDGE workshop.

WHY THIS WORKSHOP IS IMPORTANT

The recently released Northern Beef Report found that there is wide variation in business performance and that opportunities exist for most beef businesses to improve long-term performance.

The BusinessEDGE workshop will provide the necessary business skills to understand and improve business performance and:

✔ Determine if your business is economically sustainable in the long term, and if not, what to do about it
✔ Prepare and understand key financial information for your business
✔ Determine if your herd is performing as it should
✔ Determine if your debt is creating, or destroying, wealth and how much your business can afford
✔ How to rationally allocate capital expenditure projects so that asset values, profits and cash flows improve over time
✔ Provision and plan for succession and retirement so each event is fully funded
✔ Determine if all the family needs and aspirations can be funded by the business.
Non-Pastoral Use – Land Suitability

The Northern Territory Government has cut the red tape to make it easier for pastoralists to generate alternative income streams through recent amendments to the Pastoral Land Act promoting non-pastoral operations.

Non-pastoral opportunities include tourism, horticulture, forestry, aquaculture and broad scale agriculture activities. Non-pastoral use permits can now be issued for up to 30 years, or the expiry date of a term lease, and are now registered to the lease, not the lessee, so permits are transferable if the pastoral lease changes ownership. The non-pastoral use permit may potentially increase the value of a pastoral lease when considering it for sale purposes.

Pastoralists should make decisions about diversification activities based on their particular lease, which means land and water capability assessments, market and supply chain analysis, careful consideration of business structures, and day-to-day operational requirements.

In this issue of the Alice Springs RURAL REVIEW, you will find information on ‘Land Suitability’. In future issues there will be further information on ‘Pastoral Business Development’, ‘NPU and Native Title’, ‘Pastoral Land Act Amendments’ and ‘Frequently Asked Questions’. If you would like more information, please contact Annette Duncan, NT Department of Land Resource Management (m: 0400 576 418; email: annette.duncan@nt.gov.au) or visit http://www.lrm.nt.gov.au/rangeland/non-pastoral-use-permits).
LAND SUITABILITY

The Northern Territory Government is able to provide advice to pastoralists looking to diversify and develop non-pastoral use operations on their pastoral lease. When looking at land suitability to support the proposed non-pastoral use activities a combination of advice on soil type, crop suitability and water availability should be sought.

**Soil-Landscape**
Rangelands Division, Department of Land Resource Management (DLRM)

**Crop Suitability**
Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPIF)

**Water Availability**
Water Resources Division, Department of Land Resource Management (DLRM)

**SOIL-LANDSCAPE**
Soil-landscape and general land suitability information and mapping are available from the Department of Land Resource Management (DLRM) Rangelands Division. DLRM may have appropriate land suitability information for some areas. However, where there is insufficient information available the lessee will need to provide evidence of land types in order for the Department to provide advice.

Information concerning specific crop requirements should be sought from the Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries (DPIF).

When assessing land suitability the following general soil-landscape properties are important:
- slope
- rock outcrop
- soil drainage (general wetness during monsoonal activity)
- soil depth
- clay content
- soil pH

For more information contact:
DLRM Land Assessment Branch
P: 08 8999 4478 | E: rangelands@nt.gov.au

For advice on erosion and sediment control contact:
DLRM Land Development Coordination Branch
P: 08 8999 4572 | E: rangelands@nt.gov.au
Crop Suitability

Technically, a huge range of crops can be grown in the Northern Territory. As a general guide, common food crops that grow in summer in temperate areas can be grown in the NT in the dry season. The wet season is more limited to tropical crops. When considering agricultural and horticultural options, it is more important to evaluate markets and price fluctuations for produce, logistics of the production and, establishment and running costs.

The Plant Industries Group of DPIF provides applied research, development and extension services for horticultural, broad-acre and forestry industry development in the Northern Territory. The group provides a ‘point of entry’ to prospective investors seeking to start plant based enterprises. This includes facilitation services such as arranging cross-agency briefings and assistance with identification of key contacts.

Other key considerations will include:
- Power supply (availability, reliability and cost)
- Availability and cost of inputs (fertilisers, chemical pesticides)
- Road and transportation (suitability, access and availability)
- Capital for infrastructure (machinery, cool rooms, packing sheds, packing materials)
- Labour (availability, skills, visa requirements, housing and salaries)
- The value of the crop compared to the cost to transport it to market (high value, low volume options are more likely to be profitable due to the Territory’s isolation).

DPIF will assist in providing technical advice on plant production, biosecurity measures and market access information for lease holder’s business cases which will support decision making around diversification activities.

Water Availability

Water resource information and mapping are available from the DLRM Water Resources Division. The scale of the proposed development largely dictates the level of detail for which information is required.

For instance a low impact development may only require a desktop study however a development that has the potential for significant impact on the water resource will require field investigations for thorough assessment. Developments in the Top End are subject to different policies than developments in the arid zone.

When assessing water requirements the following factors are taken into account:
- Resource availability
- Resource Capacity and Sustainable yield
- Water Quality

Licensing provisions apply to Water Control Districts and Water Allocation Plan areas.

For more information and advice contact:
DLRM Water Resources Division
P: 08 8999 4455  | E: waterresources@nt.gov.au
www.lrm.nt.gov.au/water

For more information contact:
Warren Hunt, DPIF Plant Industries Group
P: 08 8999 2143  | E: warren.hunt@nt.gov.au
Innovation in the Rangelands was the theme for the Australian Rangeland Society 18th Biennial Conference held in Alice Springs in April this year. The conference attracted well over 300 delegates from all over Australia, as well as international delegates from North America, Great Britain and South Africa.

Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries (DPIF) officers played a significant role in not only event preparation and organisation, but also in the delivery of presentations and posters over the three days. Jane Tincknell teamed up with well-known pastoralist Joanne Craig of Mistake Creek to provide a captivating interview-style presentation where Jane questioned Joanne about her experience with the Business Management Advisory Project. Joanne admitted that although she was sceptical at first, the tools developed as a part of the project has allowed the management team at Mistake Creek to create meaningful information from the data they collect, which in turn has allowed Joanne and husband Steve to make informed decisions. Joanne stated: “The extra half hour in the office has made a huge difference.” The presentation won second place in the People’s Choice Awards for a Spoken Presentation.

Dionne Walsh’s presentation titled ‘Ahead of the pack: what 30 years of commercial pastoral innovation can teach us’, showcased strategies to improve beef business performance. The strategies were identified by speaking to a long time, well respected, local pastoralist from the Barkly and analysing detailed station business records. Successful strategies included:

- Infrastructure development where economically viable
- Invest and select for fertility in the herd
- Pay good attention to heifer and weaner management, as these have long term impacts on herd performance.

Steve and Bec Cadzow from Mount Riddock Station were interviewed on stage by Dr Margaret Friedel during the Stories from the Rangelands session. Steve and Bec answered questions on a variety of topics including how they manage the family owned Mt Riddock Station and how they are actively involved in educating urban Australians about the good job the pastoral industry does in land management, food production and animal welfare. The long-term investment Steve and Bec have made in erosion and feral animal control has led to large increases in animal production and improvements in land condition.

The Alice Springs pastoral team also provided a fascinating field trip for delegates to the Arid Zone Research Institute and Old Man Plains (the research station established by Northern Territory Government in 2003). The tour thoroughly embraced the theme of the conference and provided numerous demonstrations of the use of technology and innovation in pastoral businesses. One such example was the use of the Remote Livestock Management System, which the research team used to monitor the weight gains of animals that have been transported south for slaughter and MSA grading. There was also a demonstration of how remote sensing technology can assist in monitoring land condition and how drones may be used on stations for infrastructure monitoring purposes. The trip ended with a visit to Rocky Hill Grape Farm, Undoolya Station, where Richie Hayes is producing table grapes very successfully thereby demonstrating how diversification can be achieved through innovation.

Twenty-five of the conference presentations were filmed and are now available on YouTube, including Jane Tincknell and Joanne Craig’s presentation titled ‘Indigenous Pastoral Businesses’ (http://bit.ly/1QooLgH) and Robyn Cowley’s presentation ‘Fire in Savannas’ (http://bit.ly/1EUJr9v). Other presentations readers might find of interest are Jen Silcock’s ‘Degraded or Just Dusty’ which won People’s Choice Award http://bit.ly/1K8Qke5, and Dean Revell’s ‘Rangeland Self Shepherding’ http://bit.ly/1RlIQRw about encouraging cattle to change their grazing patterns to the advantage of pastoralists. All papers are available on-line at http://bit.ly/1QrmpxG.

For more information about the gems of knowledge shared at the conference, be sure to look up #ARSConf2015 on twitter which trended second in Australia during the event, or contact your local extension officer. Remoteness is no longer a boundary to information sharing – Innovation in the rangelands at its best!
Quality Graze: Producer Steer Challenge

... the journey continues

Chris Materne, Pastoral Production Officer, Alice Springs

After the first year of the ‘challenge’ it appears that environmental conditions exert a greater influence on steer performance in terms of liveweight gain than genetics, although genetic influence may be starting to show under the hide. The real test will be next year when the carcass feedback data is received and Meat Standards Australia (MSA) grading to provide an indication of meat quality.

To view further information about the project and results, including photos of the mini fields, log on to: www.qualitygraze.nt.gov.au

Scoreboard (broken down to breed)

Figure 1. Steers are mustered quarterly to collect performance data such as liveweight (Target: 575kg at 30 months of age; daily growth rate 0.5kg) and p8 fat depth (Target: >6mm)

Figure 2. Steer liveweight from data collected via Remote Livestock Management System compared to the quarterly performance data and rainfall.
Moving Indigenous Pastoral Businesses In The Right Direction

Jane Tincknell, Pastoral Industry Development Officer, Alice Springs

The Business Management Advisory Project, known as BMAP, is an initiative of the Indigenous Pastoral Program (IPP). This Project is a collaboration to advance the mutual interests of IPP partners, Indigenous agribusinesses and private agribusiness firms. The IPP partners are: the Northern and Central Land Councils; the Northern Territory Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries; the Australian Government’s Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet; the Northern Territory Cattlemen’s Association; Northern Territory Department of Education; and the Indigenous Land Corporation.

BMAP supports Indigenous agribusinesses towards generating a return on capital that exceeds the cost of managing and improving a pastoral enterprise by:

- building capacity of managers to manage risk and make decisions that improve both business professionalism and profitability
- ensuring the long term economic and environmental sustainability of these businesses
- protecting the significant external investment made into Indigenous pastoral business.

The Project has demonstrated the need for businesses to decrease overhead expenses, increase gross margins and improve herd productivity. As a result there are three key practice changes occurring within these businesses since the involvement of BMAP, i.e.

- data collection, analysis and reporting particularly in the area of livestock and economics
- communication between board, manager and staff
- treatment of the property like a business and time spent doing strategic planning.

Businesses have participated in various activities including the introduction of simple repeatable management processes, implementation of accountability frameworks, and on-property BMAP team visits coupled with remote support via phone and email. Individual managers have completed a Grazing for Profit (GFP) school, presented at the Australian Rangeland Society Conference and attended Beef Australia 2015.

The recent GFP school allowed managers to gain a better understanding of regenerative grazing and business principles. Attendance at Beef Australia 2015 provided an opportunity for managers to see and understand numerous examples of where the following four GFP principles are being successfully utilised in rural businesses across Australia, i.e.

- plan, monitor and manage grazing;
- grazing period is adjusted to suit plant growth rate;
- spend time working on the business;
- be efficient and effective (doing the right things well).

BMAP will step up a gear in the next few months as managers collate data from the last twelve months to allow business benchmarking and analysis to be completed. This analysis will help to focus managers as they continue to improve the profitability and professionalism of their business. Future IPP strategic directions will also be supported by BMAP, with commencement of planning for economic and ecological modelling to support an increase in cattle numbers on participating properties by 40,000 head over the next 6 years.
Do you know what your legal obligations are under the *Livestock Act* and *Regulations*?

**Brands in the NT** – Under *Livestock Regulations 60(1)* a person must not sell, give away, exchange or receive travelling livestock that are unbranded cattle. Unbranded cattle, means cattle of at least 8 months of age that have not previously been branded with a registered brand. It is therefore compulsory to brand cattle with a NT registered brand before they are moved off a property or are sold, unless they are less than 8 months of age. You may apply to the Registrar for special permission to move unbranded cattle.

**Waybills** - It is a mandatory requirement for cattle, buffalo, sheep, goats, camels, alpacas, llamas, deer and pig owners to complete a waybill whenever stock are moved outside the boundaries of a property. PICs are required for both origin and destination properties. Pink copies must be sent to the Registrar within 28 days of livestock being moved.

**National Livestock Identification System (NLIS)** – The owner of the property of origin must ensure that NLIS devices are attached to the right ear of all cattle before they leave the property. It is the responsibility of the owner of the property receiving cattle to ensure that the NLIS devices are read then transferred to the NLIS database within 48 hours of cattle arriving at the property.

Check out our Websites [www.dpif.nt.gov.au/animalhealth](http://www.dpif.nt.gov.au/animalhealth) or contact your Livestock Biosecurity Officer (LBO) for assistance.

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Darwin Region  
Rob Wait (LBO)  
Ph: 08 8999 2034

Katherine Region  
Josh Haigh (A/RLBO)  
Ph: 08 8973 9767

Tennant Creek Region  
Tom Haines (RLBO)  
Ph: 08 8962 4458

Alice Springs Region  
Greg Crawford (RLBO)  
Ph: 08 8951 8125

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*Where in Australia can you enjoy true outback hospitality, meet and network with other dynamic women who are leading Australian Agriculture plus experience the Northern Territory’s finest food under a star studded night sky?*

Why Alice Springs of course, see you in August 2015!

**Australian Women in Agriculture invites you to the**  
**AWiA Conference, 7th - 9th August 2015**

Further Information: [www.awia.org.au](http://www.awia.org.au) or [www.facebook.com/AustWomenInAg](http://www.facebook.com/AustWomenInAg)
National Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies Surveillance Program (NTSESP) in the Northern Territory

To ensure that Australia is eligible to export cattle and meat to a number of overseas markets we must prove that we are free from Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSEs).

To be able to do this, it is essential that samples from cattle and sheep from all areas of Australia are tested as part of our National TSE Surveillance Program (NTSESP). Therefore it is essential for the Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries (DPIF) to test cattle from all regions in the NT and so we need producers to notify us of potentially eligible cases. Producers who participate will be entitled to a subsidy for each animal which is examined.

TSEs are fatal diseases that affect brain and central nervous system tissues. Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) is the form associated with cattle and is commonly referred to as ‘Mad Cow’ disease. Scrapie is the form found in sheep and goats. Neither are present in Australia.

Clinical Signs

Clinical signs associate with BSE are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Behavioural</th>
<th>Neurological</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>apprehension</td>
<td>abnormal ear position</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>changes in herd hierarchical status</td>
<td>abnormal head carriage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>excessive nose and flank licking</td>
<td>altered consciousness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>excitability</td>
<td>ataxia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>frenzy</td>
<td>blindness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>head rubbing or pressing</td>
<td>circling or falling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>head shyness</td>
<td>fetlock knuckling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hesitation at doors, gates, barriers</td>
<td>hyperaesthesia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>persistent kicking when milked</td>
<td>(sound, touch)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>teeth grinding</td>
<td>hypo aesthesia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(sound, touch)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>moribund without evidence of infection or trauma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>paralysis/paresis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>recumbency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>tremor</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Sampling

The crucial samples which need to be collected are the brain and 2-3cm of spinal cord. Further samples include bloods and pieces of the animals’ organs (i.e. lung, heart, liver, kidney and spleen). These samples must be collected by the government Veterinary Officer or Livestock Biosecurity Officer before the producer becomes eligible for the subsidy.

Samples may be collected from eligible animals either on the property or in some cases at Bohning Yards.

Payment

Producers are provided with a payment for up to two eligible cases. The current payment rate for cattle submissions is $300.

Eligibility

Cattle are eligible for testing if:
- they are older than 30 months and younger than nine years;
- they display one or more of the clinical signs associated with BSE.

More Information

For more information on the NTSESP, please refer to Animal Health Australia’s National TSE Surveillance page:


To report an animal with clinical signs consistent with those associated with BSE, please contact your local Livestock Biosecurity Officer, Regional Veterinary Officer or private veterinarian.

Contacts in Alice Springs are Regional Livestock Biosecurity Officer – Greg Crawford (08 89518125) and Regional Veterinary Officer – Peter Saville (08 89518181).
Good Liveweight Gain In Young Bulls In Central Australia

Jane Tincknell, Pastoral Industry Development Officer, Alice Springs & Jocelyn Coventry, Pastoral Production Officer, Alice Springs

In 2014, DPIF Pastoral Production Officers were collating data for the Australian Government’s Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency. Data included liveweight gain figures from young bulls that were a part of the Department’s research herd on native and buffel grass pasture just outside of Alice Springs. These figures provided a snapshot of cattle performance over five years. Highlights are given below:

- It is possible to achieve reasonable liveweight gain (greater than 0.5 kg/day), even over winter when pasture grass growth generally declines in the Alice Springs district.
- The rates of cattle liveweight gain were higher in the summer months compared to early winter, i.e. 0.91 vs 0.59 kg/day and 0.88 vs 0.55 kg/day. The summer months are generally the period for active pasture growth so this increased growth rate is of little surprise.  

*But it was a surprise to see …*

- Even with basic pasture monitoring to inform management decisions, there was little difference in averaged seasonal liveweight gain over two very different rainfall years, i.e. 0.75 kg/d in 2010 (ABOVE-average rainfall); and 0.72 kg/d in 2013 (BELOW-average rainfall). Table 1 below shows 6-monthly growth rates for both years, with the rainfall difference between years being illustrated by rainfall decile ranges.

Table 1. Average daily liveweight gain in young Droughtmaster bulls, comparing years of different rainfall and 6-monthly periods of pasture growth.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>… from early winter</td>
<td>0.59 kg/d</td>
<td>0.55 kg/d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>… from early summer</td>
<td>0.91 kg/d</td>
<td>0.88 kg/d</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rainfall Deciles Ranges

Approximate location of Alice Springs.
Attitude Is Everything - Low Stress Stockhandling At Old Man Plains

Jane Tincknell, Pastoral Industry Development Officer, Alice Springs

Recently, 31 people from properties across Central Australia and the DPIF completed a Low Stress Stockhandling (LSS) School at Old Man Plains with Jim and Terry Lindsay. The school is a combination of theory and practical application to improve human-livestock interactions regardless of yard design.

The large group was split into eight teams and each team took turns at moving the mob through different yards. As the mob moved easily through the different yards and narrowing gateways, the school participants were then challenged to move them through a gateway with obstacles. This exercise had attempted to have the cattle put pressure back on the handlers to practice LSS techniques. Yet again the mob moved easily through the obstacles.

Day 1 of the school concluded with the unanimous conclusion that the animals were gentle whilst responsive—even when placed under pressure, they stayed as a herd.

Day 2 began out at the yards with further practical application of the LSS techniques. Seeing how well the cattle responded the day before it was decided to draft them up into small mobs of around five head and spend more time working in larger areas like the laneway and paddock. The gentle animals from the day before were now nowhere to be found and instead a bunch of light footed individuals presented a few challenges for the handlers. The school concluded with a session to review the practical sessions and discuss any specific questions people may have had.

Special thanks to the DPIF for hosting the school, Jim and Terry Lindsay and all the participants for making the school a success. If you are interested in attending a LSS school or any other training please contact Kehara on 8951 1809 or kehara.abbott@nt.gov.au to register interest.
Chance of winter rain along NT/SA border in July!
Chris Materne, Pastoral Production Officer, Alice Springs

AussieGRASS – June 2015 update

2014/15 Pasture Growth

Figure 1: Past 12-months pasture growth relative to historical records since 1957 (1st June 2014 to 31st May 2015)

Legend
Percentile Class
- Extremely Low (0 - 10%)
- Well Below Average (10 - 20%)
- Below Average (20 - 30%)
- Average (30 - 70%)
- Above Average (70 - 80%)
- Well Above Average (80 - 90%)
- Extremely High (90 - 100%)

Northern Alice Springs district
Drier conditions predicted for majority

Figure 2: Chances of exceeding median growth over the next 3-months (June to August 2015)

Figure 3: Median district pasture growth (kg/ha) - running total

Northern Alice Springs district
- Median
- 2013/14
- 2014/15

Plenty district

Southern Alice Springs district

ALICE SPRINGS RURAL REVIEW
12 May 2015 ENSO tracker raised to El Niño status
(Sourced from the Australian Bureau of Meteorology)
The national outlook for June to August 2015 indicates that:
- **Wetter** than normal across along the SA/NT border in July
- **Warmer** than normal days more likely across northern NT
- **Warmer** than normal nights more likely across the entire NT

Both the Pacific and Indian oceans are influencing this outlook. The El Niño in the Pacific (which models indicate will strengthen) is having a drying impact on eastern Australia, while continued warmth in the Indian Ocean, coupled with the El Niño in the Pacific, is tending to enhance rainfall in southern WA.

### Seasonal Indicators

| ENSO tracker raised to El Niño status on the 12 May 2015. The 2015 El Niño continues to develop. Most oceanic and atmospheric indicators are consistent with El Niño. International climate models surveyed by the Bureau of Meteorology suggest further warming of the tropical Pacific is likely, with sea surface temperatures forecast to remain above El Niño thresholds for the remainder of the year. Therefore, the ENSO Tracker status has been raised to El Niño status on the 12 May 2015. El Niño is often associated with below-average winter–spring rainfall over eastern Australia and above-average daytime temperatures over the southern half of Australia. |
| Current outlook: **Warmer & Drier** |

| Models suggest the IOD index will remain neutral throughout winter. The IOD is currently neutral. Of the five international models that provide IOD outlooks, two suggest a positive IOD is likely later in 2015, with a third model just shy of thresholds. A positive IOD is typically associated with reduced winter and spring rainfall over parts of southern and central Australia. |
| Current outlook: **Neutral** |
Live Cattle Exports via Darwin Port – May 2015

Figures are for cattle exported through the Port of Darwin only; some NT cattle are exported through interstate ports.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Destination</th>
<th>ALL CATTLE (including from interstate)</th>
<th>NT CATTLE (estimate)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BRUNEI</td>
<td>4,043</td>
<td>4,925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHILIPPINES</td>
<td>22,403</td>
<td>16,080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SABA</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SARAWAK</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W-MALAYSIA</td>
<td>14,952</td>
<td>22,309</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIETNAM</td>
<td>35,396</td>
<td>64,461</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EGYPT</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THAILAND</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MAY at a glance
- 46,550 cattle through the Port of Darwin during May; 23,555 less than last month and 4,496 more than May last year.
- 27,688 NT cattle through the Port of Darwin during May; 4,392 more than last month and 1,666 less than May last year.

Live cattle exports thru Port of Darwin 2015

OTHER LIVESTOCK EXPORTS VIA DARWIN PORT
Includes NT and interstate stock

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Destination</th>
<th>Buffalo</th>
<th>Goat</th>
<th>Camel</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BRUNEI</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INDONESIA</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHILIPPINES</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SABA</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>SARAWAK</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W-MALAYSIA</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIETNAM</td>
<td>880</td>
<td>291</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EGYPT</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THAILAND</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>880</td>
<td>291</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NT CATTLE MOVED INTERSTATE 1-31 May 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Destination</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NSW</td>
<td>8,249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QLD</td>
<td>17,460</td>
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<td>SA</td>
<td>3,305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIC</td>
<td>1,586</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WA</td>
<td>11,228</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>41,828</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

NATIONAL CATTLE PRICES

CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATES
www.oanda.com/currency/converter

PREVIOUS 8 YEARS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Cattle, Port of Darwin</th>
<th>NT Cattle, Port of Darwin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>283,046</td>
<td>364,844</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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