ABRI EXTENSION SERVICES

INITIATIVES & RESOURCES

Providing extension initiatives and resources for the beef industry
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ABRI Extension Services provides technical support and extension initiatives supporting the use and understanding of BREEDPLAN, a modern genetic evaluation system for beef cattle, and related genetic technologies, including BreedObject, MateSel, Completeness of Performance and GeneProb.

The ABRI Extension Services team offers a range of extension initiatives, which are described in more detail throughout this catalogue. The team are also specialised in presenting on a range of beef breeding and genetics related topics, and are available for events facilitated by breed societies, industry organisations and individual producers.

The team is committed to providing ABRI’s client organisations and their members with structured, consistent education and technical support for BREEDPLAN and related genetic technologies.

ABRI Managing Director Hugh Nivison says “I would encourage breeders and breed society staff to engage with the ABRI Extension Services team to ensure they are making optimal use of the BREEDPLAN system and associated technologies”.

Let’s work together to optimise the use and understanding of BREEDPLAN and related genetic technologies in the beef industry
MEET THE TEAM

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Catriona is based in Armidale, New South Wales and has been with ABRI Extension Services since January 2015. She has a Bachelor of Science from Monash University and a Bachelor of Agricultural Science (Honours) from the University of Melbourne. Catriona has previously worked as a genetics demonstrator for the ‘Get Into Genes’ program at La Trobe University.

Paul Williams
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Paul is based in Rockhampton, Queensland, and has been with ABRI Extension Services since February 2012. Paul was raised on a dairy/beef property in South East Queensland, where he worked for four years after finishing his studies at Queensland Agricultural College. Paul also previously worked as a Technical Officer at CSIRO for 22 years. During his time at CSIRO, Paul was involved in a number of Beef CRC I, II and III research projects.

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Boyd is based in Armidale and has been with ABRI Extension Services since May 2017. He has extensive applied livestock experience having worked for breeding programs in multiple species and completing a PhD in Animal Breeding from the University of New England in 2011. He is also currently employed as a BREEDPLAN Technical Consultant, where he has experience with BREEDPLAN analyses, BreedObject and MateSel.
BREEDPLAN TRAINING

An opportunity for breed society personnel to upskill their knowledge of BREEDPLAN and related genetic technologies

Breed society personnel are often the first port of call for members with questions about the BREEDPLAN genetic evaluation and related genetic technologies such as MateSel, Completeness of Performance and GeneProb. While breed society personnel are strongly encouraged to direct such questions to the BREEDPLAN team for assistance, having an understanding of the BREEDPLAN process and related genetic technologies is often desirable. To assist breed society staff improve their understanding of BREEDPLAN, the ABRI Extension Services team offers regular training sessions.

These training sessions are available free of charge for all staff employed by ABRI breed society clients that utilise the BREEDPLAN genetic evaluation system. This includes those clients based in Australia and overseas.
Flexibility is a key part of what the ABRI Extension Services team can offer breed society clients and their staff. Training sessions can range in length from several hours through to a full day workshop. There is also options to deliver training sessions spread across multiple weeks or months. This allows breed society personnel to undertake training on BREEDPLAN and related genetic technologies without impacting too heavily upon the day-to-day running of the breed society.

There are also options for training session delivery, with opportunities for in-person delivery or delivery via online platforms (e.g. Zoom). This is particularly helpful for breed societies that are based outside of Australia or have staff spread across multiple sites.

**Are you interested in arranging BREEDPLAN training for breed society staff members? Contact the ABRI Extension Services team for more information.**
GETTING STARTED WITH BREEDPLAN WORKSHOPS

A short workshop designed to introduce beef breeders to BREEDPLAN

The one hour Getting Started with BREEDPLAN workshops are designed for beef breeders who are new to BREEDPLAN, and would like to learn more about the BREEDPLAN genetic evaluation. The workshop provides an introduction to BREEDPLAN EBVs, performance recording, data submission, BREEDPLAN reports, available BREEDPLAN resources and where to turn for further advice. The workshop also includes a live demonstration of the online web services area.

The Getting Started with BREEDPLAN workshops are designed for online delivery. Each workshop is facilitated by two members of the ABRI Extension Services team and delivered to a maximum of 10 participants. Designed with audience participation in mind, there will be plenty of opportunities for participants to ask questions throughout the workshop. A dedicated session for audience Q&A is also included.

GETTING STARTED WITH BREEDPLAN WORKSHOPS:

- Run for approximately 1 hour
- Small numbers of participants per workshop to encourage audience participation
- Have a dedicated Q&A session
AVAILABILITY

Getting Started with BREEDPLAN workshops are offered **free of charge** for all BREEDPLAN members, including those located in Australia and overseas.

Online Getting Started with BREEDPLAN workshops are run regularly throughout the year. As they are offered on a sign-up basis, attendees are likely to represent a mix of different breeds and/or countries.

While the ABRI Extension Services team offers the Getting Started with BREEDPLAN workshops on a sign-up basis, consideration will be given to running breed-specific workshops if there is a particular demand. Breed societies interested in offering the Getting Started with BREEDPLAN workshop for their members should contact the team to discuss feasibility.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

Upcoming Getting Started with BREEDPLAN workshops will be promoted via the ABRI Extension Services website, newsletter and social media accounts.

**Keen to find out more? Contact the ABRI Extension Services team today!**
BREEDPLAN WORKSHOPS

Assisting beef breeders to make the best use of BREEDPLAN and related genetic technologies in their herds

The one day BREEDPLAN workshops are designed for seedstock beef producers who would like to improve their use and understanding of BREEDPLAN and related genetic technologies.

The ABRI Extension Services team have designed multiple BREEDPLAN workshop programs that cover various aspects of beef breeding. These include:

- **BREEDPLAN Fundamentals**
  More detailed than the one hour Getting Started with BREEDPLAN workshop, the BREEDPLAN Fundamentals program is recommended for seedstock beef producers who are fairly new to BREEDPLAN or who wish to refresh their BREEDPLAN knowledge.

- **Getting the Most Out of BREEDPLAN**
  The Getting the Most Out of BREEDPLAN programs cover more advanced topics than the BREEDPLAN Fundamentals workshop, and are recommended for all seedstock beef producers. Several programs have been developed, including one program that focuses on DNA technologies and another that focuses on breeding objectives.

BREEDPLAN workshops are delivered by two members of the ABRI Extension Services team.

**BREEDPLAN WORKSHOPS:**
- Are full day workshops
- Have a maximum of 30 participants
- Are designed to incorporate discussion
- Encourage beef producers to share experiences and learn from each other
AVAILABILITY

BREEDPLAN workshops are offered periodically at central locations around Australia.

The team will give consideration to running international BREEDPLAN workshops. Those interested in hosting international BREEDPLAN workshops should contact the ABRI Extension Services team to discuss feasibility.

COST

While there will be charges associated with attending a BREEDPLAN workshop, the team aims to keep this cost affordable for beef producers. Discounts will be offered for multiple attendees from the one herd. If several BREEDPLAN workshop programs are being run consecutively, discounts will also be offered to those who choose to attend multiple days.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

Upcoming BREEDPLAN workshops will be promoted via the ABRI Extension Services website, newsletter and social media accounts.

Keen to find out more? Contact the ABRI Extension Services team today!

Feedback from previous BREEDPLAN workshop attendees indicates that:

- >95% feel they have improved their knowledge of BREEDPLAN
- 81% have made practice change in their herds in the 6-12 months following their workshop attendance
- 96% considered the workshop value for money
BULLSELECT WORKSHOPS

Cattle producers purchase bulls on only one or a few days of the year, but the effects of their bull selection decisions will last for generations within their herd.

With an increasing range of information available on sale day, selecting the right bull may seem a daunting task, but it doesn't have to be. Through a mix of theory and practical demonstrations, our one-day BULLSELECT workshop educates attendees on how to utilise BREEDPLAN information, alongside visual assessment, to select the best bull for their herd.

HOSTING A BULLSELECT WORKSHOP

This workshop is available to:
- Individual seedstock producers who wish to educate their commercial bull buying clients
- Breeder and producer groups who wish to educate their members
- Private consultants and state government departments who wish to educate clients or local producers

ABRI EXTENSION SERVICES WILL

- Provide two experienced facilitators to run the workshop
- Organise the workshop program
- Consult with you on cattle for the exercise sessions
- Supply resource material for attendees
- Provide necessary field day equipment

WORKSHOP COVERS:

- Understanding the value of genetics
- Interpreting and using BREEDPLAN EBVs and Selection Indexes
- Using online searches to source the right genetics
- Practical bull selection exercises using demonstration cattle, including a Mock Auction
Feedback from BULLSELECT workshop attendees indicates that:

- 97% feel they have a better understanding of BREEDPLAN information
- 97% feel they are more likely to use BREEDPLAN information in their purchasing decisions
- 92% rated the day as excellent or very good

THE HOST IS RESPONSIBLE FOR

- Providing the venue including a suitable presentation area and yards for the exercise sessions
- Catering including morning tea, lunch and refreshments
- Event promotion (assistance can be provided)
- Supplying cattle with suitable BREEDPLAN EBVs for the practical demonstration sessions

AVAILABILITY

The ABRI Extension Services can deliver BULLSELECT workshops around Australia. For international queries, please contact the team to discuss opportunities.

COST

Within Australia, each BULLSELECT workshop is offered at a cost of $2,000 AUD (Inc. GST).

If you are interested in running multiple workshops, please contact the ABRI Extension Services team to discuss package options.

Ready to host a BULLSELECT workshop or after more detail? Contact the ABRI Extension Services team today!
Levels of performance recording in their herd. This includes advice on how to record traits that are not currently being recorded in the herd and/or identification of missing performance data.

The genetic progress of their herd. This includes an assessment of the current genetic position of the herd and the drivers that influence genetic improvement.

Questions regarding BREEDPLAN and related genetic technologies. For example, advice on when to use breeder-assigned management groups or queries regarding a specific animal.
LENGTH

While herd consultations vary in length depending on the depth of discussion, the typical herd consultation takes between 2-3 hours.

AVAILABILITY

Herd consultations can be conducted for BREEDPLAN members located around Australia. The team aims to deliver in-person herd consultations if already in a nearby vicinity (e.g. travelling for a workshop); alternatively, herd consultations will be offered electronically.

BREEDPLAN members who are based outside Australia and who would like a herd consultation should contact the team to discuss this possibility. Please note that herd consultations for international BREEDPLAN members will be offered electronically.

Please note that charges may apply.

Want to find out more or organise a herd consultation? Contact the ABRI Extension Services team today!
The ABRI Extension Services team are capable and experienced presenters, having spoken at numerous events. The team have experience explaining beef breeding and genetic topics to a diverse audience, including seedstock and commercial beef producers, youth (including school, TAFE and university students), ultrasound scanners, livestock agents, vets and other beef industry personnel.

Importantly, the team are equally comfortable presenting in-person and online, having experience with multiple webinar platforms (including Zoom, Teams and GoToWebinar).

**EVENT TYPES**

The ABRI Extension Services team are available to speak at events organised by breed societies, individual beef producers and beef industry groups.

These include, but are not limited to:
- Field days
- Conferences
- Breed society AGMs, National Shows and Sales and Youth events

The team can also organise BREEDPLAN presentations for educational institutes and other organisations.

**REQUEST A SPEAKER**

The ABRI Extension Services team are specialised in presenting on a wide range of beef breeding and genetics topics.

The ABRI Extension Services team may be able to provide a BREEDPLAN stand for your next event.

This is the ideal way to provide event attendees with access to the latest BREEDPLAN information. A member of the ABRI Extension Services team is also on hand to answer any BREEDPLAN queries.
A WIDE RANGE OF TOPICS

The ABRI Extension Services team are available to speak on a wide range of beef breeding and genetics topics (see box). Many event organisers will approach the ABRI Extension Services team with an idea of the topic(s) that they would like covered. The team is happy to discuss details of such requirements, and work with you to tailor a presentation specific to your needs.

Presentations of varying lengths can also be prepared to fit in with event requirements. The team is commonly asked to present for durations of 30 minutes, one hour or two hours, but will happily work with event organisers to meet specified requirements.

AVAILABILITY

The ABRI Extension Services team is available to present at events both within Australia and internationally. To avoid disappointment, the team recommends that you contact us as early as possible to discuss our availability. Please note that charges may apply.

Want to find out more or request a speaker for your upcoming event? Contact the ABRI Extension Services team today!
The ABRI Extension Services eBulletin, **Beyond the Black Box**, provides the beef industry with the latest news and technical advice for BREEDPLAN and related genetic technologies.

Six editions are published each year and are made available via the BREEDPLAN website and the ABRI Extension Services Facebook page. Electronic copies are also emailed to staff of ABRI client organisations, to members of Australian-based breed societies and to beef industry personnel, including ultrasound scanners, researchers and extension personnel.

Regular features include:

- **Latest News**: Here you will find all of the latest BREEDPLAN news and developments. This includes regular updates on industry-funded projects that collect performance data and contribute to the ongoing development of BREEDPLAN.

- **Upcoming Events**: Keeping you informed of any upcoming ABRI Extension Services events, including registration details.

- **Spotlight On**: In each edition, the ABRI Extension Services team highlight a topic of relevance.

- **BREEDPLAN Top Tips**: A range of short tips to help readers improve their use and understanding of BREEDPLAN and related genetic technologies.

- **BREEDPLAN Essentials**: These include BREEDPLAN data submission dates, age ranges and the BREEDPLAN performance recording timeline.

Want to join our mailing list? Please contact the ABRI Extension Services team.
WRITTEN RESOURCES

A comprehensive set of resources covering a range of topics relating to the use of genetic technologies in cattle breeding

ABRI Extension Services and BREEPLAN provide industry-leading levels of resources to assist beef producers and the wider industry better understand and utilise BREEPLAN and related technologies in cattle breeding.

These resources include:

- **Technical Notes**: A series of fact sheets that relate to the application of genetic technologies within a breeding program. This includes the various applications of DNA technologies in cattle breeding and the use of genetic evaluation information to achieve specified breeding objectives.

- **Seedstock Producer Perspectives**: A series of case studies that outline how seedstock beef producers are using BREEPLAN and/or related genetic technologies to enable genetic progress in their herds.

- **BREEPLAN Tip Sheets**: Over 90 tip sheets are available. These cover a variety of topics, including information on using and understanding BREEPLAN EBVs and Selection Indexes, as well as information on performance recording. A number of short videos that complement the existing tip sheets have also been developed.

- **Example Sale Catalogue Notes**: Designed to assist seedstock producers who wish to provide an overview of BREEPLAN information to their bull buying clients, these are currently available for the majority of ABRI’s Australian and New Zealand based clients.

Available on the BREEPLAN website

ARTICLES FOR BREED SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

The ABRI Extension Services team are willing and able to assist with writing articles on genetic technologies for breed society publications.

Contact the ABRI Extension Services team for more information. Please note that sufficient notice is required.
SOCIAL MEDIA

Get social with ABRI Extension Services

You can keep up to date with the latest developments in genetic technologies and the activities of the ABRI Extension Services team by following us on Facebook and YouTube.

News, short articles and information on upcoming events are routinely posted on Facebook. Our YouTube channel contains video presentations including a range of short videos and recording of previous webinars.

https://www.facebook.com/SBTSTBTS/

https://www.youtube.com/@sbtstbts/
USE OF RESOURCES

ABRI Extension Services and BREEDPLAN resources are freely available for use by breed societies, breeders and the wider industry

ABRI Extension Services and BREEDPLAN documentation provide valuable educational resources. As such, they are commonly reproduced for publications (including magazines, newsletters and sale catalogues) and shared on websites and social media pages.

We are pleased to make these resources freely available for public use. However, we ask that you kindly reference ABRI Extension Services and/or BREEDPLAN when using our resources.

RECOMMENDATIONS

• If sharing a document (e.g. on your own website), please ensure that you link directly to where the document is hosted on the BREEDPLAN website, rather than hosting a local copy. Linking directly to the source will ensure that the document you display will always reflect any modifications made by our team at a future date.

• If sharing resources on social media, please use the #BREEDPLAN and/or #ABRIExtension hashtags in your post. You are also welcome to tag our ABRI Extension Services Facebook account.

• Please let the team know if you are using our resources in your publications. This allows us to record which articles have been used more widely.

DID YOU KNOW?

BREEDPLAN is a registered trademark. It should be written with all capital letters, and not lowercase.
LET'S WORK TOGETHER

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