

Northern Australian Dairy Conference 2017



“Turning today’s innovations and knowledge into tomorrow’s profit”

Subtropical Dairy (SDP), the Young Dairy Network (YDN) and the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Queensland (DAFQ) have decided to join forces to hold a two-day conference in Gatton, Queensland on Thursday 16th and Friday 17th November 2017.

The conference will focus on the latest research and innovations, on-farm profit drivers, linking farmers with services and future farming systems. The conference programme will consist of approximately 20 speakers comprising of leading farmers, scientists and service providers.

This event will commence on Thursday, November 16th at the University of Queensland, Gatton Campus with a Service Provider Breakfast outlining the latest Situation and Outlook and QDAS results, followed by a full day conference, concluding with a YDN networking

event and dinner. At the conclusion of day one, the Subtropical Dairy AGM will be held. A concurrent meet and greet networking session will run for the Young Dairy Network and Service Providers. An industry dinner hosted by the Darling Downs Subtropical Dairy Regional Group will be held that night.

The following day, we will be hosting two visits to regional farms on the Southern Downs who have consistently ranked highly in QDAS benchmarking results year-to-year. Following the farm tours, the conference will conclude with an informal

BBQ lunch.

There will be no cost to farmers to attend the two-day event however, registration for all other participants (excluding sponsors) will be \$300 ex GST. To enable us to provide the Conference free to farmers, we are seeking the support from Service Providers and Industry Partners. If you are interested in supporting the “Northern Australian Dairy Conference 2017” please see available sponsorships below. For further information please contact Kylie Dennis on 0456 191 965 or email kylie@subtropicaldairy.com.au

GOLD SPONSORSHIP \$2000+gst



- Naming rights to sessions i.e.” Sponsor of Session One” etc.
- Name and logo displayed on dinner tables
- Acknowledgement in Conference literature & Northern Horizons pre- & post articles
- 4* Complimentary Full Conference Registrations
- 2* Complimentary Dinner Only Registrations
- Complimentary Trade Display (large table, 3 chairs & area for fridge/merchandise display)
- Preferential Trade Display position
- Conference Satchel Inserts
- Company logo displayed on PowerPoint presentations during the event
- Opportunity for Company signage to be displayed in the conference venue (preferential positioning)

SILVER SPONSORSHIP \$1000+gst

- Acknowledgement in Conference literature
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- Conference Satchel Inserts
- Company logo displayed on PowerPoint presentations during the event

NON-ATTENDING SPONSOR \$500+gst

- Acknowledgement in Conference literature
- Conference Satchel Inserts
- Company logo displayed on PowerPoint presentations during the event

Registration brochures will be emailed out closer to the event. In the meantime, save the dates and we look forward to seeing you in November.

Sponsors

Subtropical Dairy would like to thank the below sponsors who have already committed to supporting the “Northern Australian Dairy Conference”

Platinum



Gold



Silver



Non-Attending





Image 1 – Lablab pasture pre-grazing



Image 2 – Lablab post-grazing

Lablab, a very cost-effective source of crude protein.

Craig Findsen, Team Leader, Dairy, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

Lablab has traditionally been planted dryland with the purpose of growing feed for the autumn feed gap. It is now being rediscovered as both a dryland and irrigated pasture crop grown in much larger areas as a contributor of high quality forage for milkers between December and April.

Lablab can be a cheaper source of crude protein in the diet when grazed as pasture than compared to adding protein in the form of protein meals or by-products.

Forage quality

The forage quality of Lablab pasture is high in crude protein (CP) at 31.5% and moderate in neutral detergent fibre (NDF) at 38% due to cows being able to selectively graze the best of the plant.

Grazing management

Under dryland conditions, Lablab takes 14 weeks to first grazing. Yields are typically 3-5 t DM/ha over 1 to 3 grazings. Under irrigation, Lablab takes 8 weeks to first grazing yielding 8tDM/ha over 4 to 5 grazings.

The grazing rule is, when leaf cover forms a complete canopy, remove this with a short grazing period. Lablab needs to be grazed by over allocating feed to avoid crop trampling. This method of allocation allows the cows to selectively strip the leaves from the top of the plant. Forty percent of the lablab pasture on offer is composed of leaves and young stems and the remainder are mature stems. The cows normally graze 35% of the pasture height, which is about 58% of the total pasture on offer.

Lablab is a resilient forage source, meaning if you have good growing conditions of another pasture or crop, utilise it as the Lablab will maintain quality (making it one of a few pastures that is versatile from a pasture management perspective). In this instance, reduce the amount of Lablab being fed, but don't totally remove it from the diet completely.

When other pasture options are less favourable, Lablab can contribute to a greater amount of the diet to maintain or improve milk production.

The economics of Lablab

Lablab can be grown as either a dryland or an irrigated crop. It is an economic way of adding protein to the diet of milking cows.

Dryland Lablab is weather tolerant and represents good value at 8c/kgDM when utilising 4.2tDM/ha. Dryland Lablab has slightly lower crude protein levels of 24% CP when compared to irrigated Lablab. Irrigating Lablab offers a certainty of a yield with the added bonus of a higher crude protein level at 31% CP. If 5.6tDM/ha is utilised of an 8tDM/ha irrigated Lablab crop, this costs 13c/kgDM. If high levels of utilisation are not achieved, then irrigated Lablab could be a more expensive feed than a well-managed and fertilised pasture. Potential risks limiting yield would be over-grazing or grazing in wet conditions leading to destruction of the base of the Lablab plant.

Lablab and Lucerne pastures can reduce the reliance on a protein source such as canola meal in a diet. However, always check your diet is nutritionally balanced, as protein from forage may not be able to meet all of the animal's protein requirements. From an economic perspective Lablab and Lucerne pastures represent extraordinarily good value when compared to purchased protein meals and grains. ■■

Sample	CP %	NDF %	Yield t DM/ ha utilised	c/kgDM	c/kgCP
Lablab pasture (Dry)	24	51	4.2	8	33
Lablab pasture (IR)	31	38	5.6	13	42
Lucerne pasture (IR)	30	24	11.2	11	37
Kikuyu pasture (IR)	23	50	11.9	9	39
Canola meal	53	28	-	60	113

The project is funded and supported by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and Dairy Australia.



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