

# Most productive and persistent legume available

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Millmerran grazer Craig Antonio, who has 400ha of Leucaena growing, attended the field day.

Mr Antonio is president of the Leucaena Network, an organisation which promotes the growing of Leucaena in Australia and overseas.

He said helping to drought proof a property was possible with Leucaena, particularly when established and the tap root extends down six to eight metres.

"Leucaena is the most productive and persistent legume available at the moment."

He said cattle production can be increased by 150 to 200 per cent with well managed Leucaena.

This depended on the incidence and severity of frost.

Mr Antonio said if only leaf drop resulted from a frost, the Leucaena could be grazed again much sooner than if the frost killed the plant to ground level.

He said the industry was waiting for the release of a new Leucaena variety that had resistance to psyllids which can defoliate Leucaena in the humid coastal areas of Queensland and Northern New South Wales.

Dalby Downs currently joins 900 registered Angus and Brangus breeding cows and their progeny are taken through to 12 to 24 months of age.

The business turns off about 800 head each year, 200 of them as stud bulls, for sales at Clermont and Roma. Commercial cattle supplied to meatworks are all MSA certified.

Dalby Downs is home to the Burenda Angus Stud. Burenda Holdings is a small company owned by Alec and Mary Peden and Vera Thiess. The enterprise began on the property "Burenda" at Augathella in 1992 as a large scale commercial cattle and sheep operation.

In 2002 Dalby Downs at Kaimkillenbun was purchased to produce fodder to assist in droughts and assist with producing the Burenda Angus and Brangus studs to improve the genetics of their bulls and females.

Dalby Downs currently consists of about 3044ha, with an additional 200ha of lease country, 1063ha for grain, hay and silage production, 600ha of winter forage (oats and feed barley), 902ha of leucaena and grass, and the remaining 679ha is basalt ridge grazing country.



• ABOVE: Among those at the North East Downs Landcare organised field day: Chairman of the NE Downs Landcare Group, Graham Cooke, Jondaryan, David Lange, Moola, Selwyn Peters, MacLagan, and Laurie Tones, Quinalow.

• BELOW: Jonathan Schmidt explains the leucaena planting equipment. The two-row planter has a seed box for each row and the spray tank is used to apply Spinnaker herbicide to allow the leucaena to become established without pressure from grass.



## Grants to help drought hit farmers

A new grant program will support regional, rural, and remote communities in Queensland and the Northern Tablelands region of NSW who are doing it tough due to the ongoing drought.

The program is funded by the Tim Fairfax Family Foundation for Queensland grants and Yulgilbar Foundation for NSW.

Tackling Tough Times Together will help communities access the resources to let people connect with one another.

It will fund community-based mental health and well-being activities that help to relieve current stressors and symptoms, and most importantly, that build capacity and resilience. This could include initiatives to facilitate social connection or create opportunities for people to share their issues and concerns; build skills and knowledge; or reduce suicide risk and avoid other long-term mental health issues.

A small number of grants of up to \$10,000 are available to not-for-profit projects in communities of 15,000 or less. A small number of grants of up to \$50,000 are also available. Visit [www.frrr.org.au](http://www.frrr.org.au), or phone 1800 170 020.

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## Where food comes from

The Australian pork industry has developed three new educational programs in response to a survey that showed that school children are generally ignorant about many aspects of primary industry.

Australian Pork Limited launched the programs recently at the Pan Pacific Pork Expo on the Gold Coast, following the wake-up call from the findings of the survey.

Year 6 and 10 students were surveyed nationally by the Australian Council for Educational Research and the Primary Industries Education Foundation.

It revealed huge gaps in young people's knowledge of basic food origins and production.

The survey found more than 40 per cent of Year 10 students believed farming damaged the environment, that cotton came from an animal, and more than a quarter of Year 6 students believed yoghurt came from plants.

Australian Pork Limited (APL), in consultation with Angela Colliver of Angela Colliver Consulting Services Pty Ltd, developed three Food Production Education Resources aligned to the new Australian curriculum in Technologies, Science and Geography.

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## Awards recognise excellence in natural resource management

Entries and nominations are now open for the second Condamine Awards which is the region's only dedicated awards event for natural resource management excellence.

The awards, hosted by natural resource management group Condamine Alliance, will be held this year at the Empire Theatre on October 31.

Condamine Alliance Acting Chief Executive Officer Penny Hamilton said the awards recognised and celebrated outstanding contributions to natural resource management in the Condamine catchment.

"They are an excellent opportunity to share and showcase contributions, innovation

### CONDAMINE ALLIANCE

and leadership in protecting and promoting our region's natural resources," Mrs Hamilton said.

"There are many people, groups and businesses across our region making a real and positive difference to our environment.

"Their contribution is so important and these awards are an opportunity to recognise and celebrate it," she said.

There are nine award categories open to individuals, groups, organisations and businesses - People, Water, Land, Wildlife, Research, Cultural Heritage, Media, Community and Young Achiever.

Finalists in each category will be eligible for the Chair's Award and Overall Award.

"Entrants in the inaugural awards were of exceptional calibre and we expect it to be the same this year," Mrs Hamilton said.

"We are hoping for a great response and encourage everyone to enter who is doing something meaningful and special to look after our catchment's natural resources.

"We are also inviting nominations so if you know of someone who deserves to be recognised then complete the online nomination form," she said.

Visit [www.condaminealliance.com.au/awards](http://www.condaminealliance.com.au/awards). Entries close on September 5.



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## Locals shine in bacon awards

Circle T Meats from Raceview and Schulte's Meat Tavern, Plainland, received Queensland's top honours for their full rasher bacon in the Australian Bacon Awards.

The awards are held during Australian Bacon Week, June 22-28, and both are initiatives of Australian Pork Limited.

Bacon Week highlights the quality of Australian product and the competition it faces from imports.

The awards attracted 125 entries, judged by fleischmeister Horst Schurger, who has a Masters degree in butchering and smallgoods, and chefs Paul McDonald and Simon Bestly who have broad international experience.

Circle T Meats went on to be placed second nationally, while Schulte's Meat Tavern was placed second in Queensland and third nationally. Slade Point Meat Specialists, Mackay, also took top honours in Queensland for its Short Cut bacon.

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