

## Take care where your spray drifts

SPRAY operators are being reminded of the need to be responsible during the summer spray season.

Biosecurity Queensland senior scientist Mary O'Brien said spray drift had the potential to cause damage to or contaminate off-target crops, livestock and sensitive areas including houses, schools, waterways and riparian vegetation.

"Off-target movement of agricultural chemicals is costly to producers with particular crops being extremely sensitive to spray drift," she said.

"Broadleaf crops such as grapevines, cotton, sunflowers and pulses are extremely sensitive to spray drift from a range of broad-leaf herbicides.

"Preventing any type of off-target movement should be a major consideration for all chemical users and chemical label instructions should be strictly followed.

"The use of agricultural chemicals is carefully regulated to minimise potential risks to not only crops but to human health, the environment and trade and to ensure the long-term sustainability of our primary industries."

Ms O'Brien said the risk of spray drift increased if spraying was done at night or when inappropriate equipment was used, but vigilance was always important to protect surrounding crops and livestock.

"Night spraying is strongly discouraged as it is difficult to accurately assess weather conditions," she said.

"To reduce the chances of spray drift occurring, spraying should only be done when weather conditions are suitable.

"It is also good practice to notify neighbours of proposed spraying."

Anyone caught misusing agricultural chemicals could be fined up to \$60,000.

For more information go to: [www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au](http://www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au) or call 13 25 23.

# Graziers get help to plan for future

GRAZIERS from around the Fitzroy River area heard the detail of the new Grazing Best Management program at a special launch of the program late last year.

The program, created by Fitzroy Basin Association with AgForce and the State Government, replicates the module-based training program Grains BMP, but for beef producers across the Fitzroy Basin.

It is a voluntary, web-based self-assessment system to assess, benchmark and record a property's progress towards industry-best practice over time.

The program is delivered in six modules, in a workshop environment, and helps landholders identify training needs or opportunities for access to incentives to improve infrastructure.

FRCC project officer Lisa Sutton said: "The program will help participants to develop an action plan for the future that will help lead to increased productivity and better natural resource management outcomes."

Modules focus on productivity improvement as well as environmental and social outcomes, ensuring a strong appeal for graziers.



**STRIVING FOR BEST PRACTICE:** Landholders from the Fitzroy catchment discover at the Grazing BMP program's launch what the program can do for them. Photo: Contributed

Data can be aggregated and reported at a regional, state, and national scale, providing the industry the ability to understand the level of best-practice adoption and demonstrate good land stewardship.

The first of these modules examined managing soil and improving soil health with eight local graziers attending.

Additional workshops will

be offered throughout the FRCC area, starting in February and March this year.

The BMP modules and subsequent self-assessments will cover:

- Grazing land management
- Property planning and management
- Animal health and welfare
- Animal production from pasture
- People and business

### SOIL HEALTH

Participants were able to assess the current condition of their soils based on:

- Biological soil health – retaining organic matter and soil biology capacity
- Chemical – maintaining a balanced supply of nutrients
- Physical – maximise the supply of plant available water

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## What do you know about Hendra?

THE State Government wants to know what horse owners know about Hendra virus and what they think about the way the government communicates about the virus.

Biosecurity Queensland and Biosecurity New South Wales have created a survey to find out more about the practices of equine enthusiasts.

Queensland chief veterinary officer Dr Rick Symon said the horse owner

‘The survey focuses on understanding husbandry practices

survey on Hendra virus was aimed at providing an insight into the practices, attitudes and opinions of horse owners.

"The survey focuses on understanding husbandry practices, general management of horses and feeding practices which may be related to Hendra virus transmission," Dr Symon said.

"Information on the

location, layout, design and vegetation of properties will help provide an insight into possible interactions between flying foxes and horses."

He said the survey would focus on horse owners' attitudes, opinions and understanding of the virus.

"We want to know how people access information provided by state governments, and what we can

do to be more effective in communicating to horse owners," Dr Symon said.

"Our aim is to use this information to allow Biosecurity and other government agencies to tailor resources to reduce the risk of future Hendra virus incidents," he said.

The survey can be completed online at [www.research.net/s/Horse\\_Owner\\_Survey\\_on\\_Hendra\\_virus](http://www.research.net/s/Horse_Owner_Survey_on_Hendra_virus) or accessed at [www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au](http://www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au). It takes about 20 minutes.

### NEW MACHINERY

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Kuhn GA300 rotary rake	Kiotti EX50 FWA loader	\$34,095
Taarup 9035 rotary rake	Kiotti DS4510 FWA loader	\$29,695
Kuhn VB2160 round baler Cutters & hyd drop floor	Kiotti DS3510 FWA loader	\$24,195
Vivon 2160 round baler	Kiotti Mechron ATV tip body	\$18,695
Taarup 616 mixer wagon	Same Tiger70 FWA loader	\$40,695
Trioliet 20m3 twin mixer	Same Commando603 loader	\$32,995
Trioliet 14m3 mixer	Renn 10" roller mill	\$12,650
Italmix 15m3 mixer	Kiotti 1538 ride on mower	\$2,700
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N/H 352 H/Roller mill mixer	\$14,300	Wallace 5 tyne w/ coulters	\$3,500
Semco H/Roller mill mixer	\$12,000	C/Shea 9 tyne chisel	\$2,000
Buckton SD13 feedout wagon	\$17,000	Agtil 5 tyne w/ coulters	\$6,050
Webco SD8 feedout wagon	\$8,800	IHC 3-5 28 disc offset	\$11,000
N/H 471 bale loader	\$2,500	Kuhn 4 furrow reversible	
Taarup 4036 disc moco	\$28,600	Mouldboard plow vari width	\$19,800
Kuhn 352 disc moco	\$27,500	Ellis plastic and pipe layer	\$3,000
Kuhn 302 disc moco as new	\$32,000	Ellis 4 row shielded spray	\$7,700
Krone 2800 disc moco	\$26,400	Silvan 3000 1 w/ - 11 m boom & fire fighting unit	\$13,000
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