

**Media Release  
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## **FARMERS FLOCK TO GRAIN & GRAZE ROADSHOW**

More than 60 people in the Maranoa-Balonne catchments had an 'on-ground' chance to learn more about growing productive, persistent and profitable pastures while better managing natural resources at two Grain & Graze Roadshow field days on April 3 and 4.

At mixed farming enterprises, 'Dunkerry South', Nindigully and 'Banoona', Roma, farmers and graziers were able to hear first-hand about research, development and extension projects investigating the benefits and constraints of the mixed farming system.

Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries project officer Bede O'Mara said the topical issues addressed included the transition between cropping and pasture systems, cereal crops and stubbles, the complexities of risk management and the triple bottom line.

"The project investigated how to get the best performance out of pasture and the best profit from livestock production," Mr O'Mara said.

"We looked at biodiversity in different systems, land capability, livestock performance on different pasture systems (whether a fodder crop, a grass or legume pasture) and feed budgeting using Meat & Livestock Australia's (MLA) Feed Demand Calculator to identify the feed gaps for Nindigully and Roma.

"We also identified where the opportunities might be for short, medium or longer term fodder cropping or pasture production."

Attending the Grain & Graze Roadshow field day at Banoona, east of Roma, mixed farmer Max Bright said it was the interaction between progressive growers and industry experts that made it so worthwhile.

At 'Karoo Park', south west of Surat, Max and Marie Bright run a predominantly cattle operation with opportunity fodder cropping and grow grain when they can to help their cash flow.

"At field days like this we are able to feed off one another," he said. "Sometimes a theory is put forward and producers can usually see whether or not it will work in practice and can see where any problems might occur."

"It's that interaction that makes it so good," he added.

“These days, to be successful on the land you have to be on the ball, you have to do everything right and there are no short cuts.”

With five Grain & Graze Roadshows now completed (three were held in the Border Rivers’ catchment) and the national program finishing up in June, an evaluation of how pastures contribute to the overall profitability and productivity of the regions will take place. Evaluation data will be included in a results booklet for project partners, collaborators and farmers. While stage two of the Grain & Graze program at a national level is still in negotiation, workshops and group activities will continue.

## **Ends**

*The Border Rivers and Maranoa-Balonne Grain & Graze projects have been a partnership between the national Grain & Graze partners, the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee, the Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA, the Queensland and New South Wales Departments of Primary Industries, CSIRO, the University of New England and the Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Water.*

*The national Grain & Graze partners include Land & Water Australia (LWA), Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA), Australian Wool Innovation (AWI) and the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC).*

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