

## **Grain & Graze: putting the mixed farming puzzle together profitably**

Last month, 250 farmers and agricultural technical staff from two states attended a field day at the Douglas McMaster Research Station, near Warialda. The field day demonstrated farm management trials and research being undertaken into mixed farming systems.

“The field day was organised in order to share the findings of several Grain and Graze trials that have been underway at the research station, and to launch the McMaster Mixed Farming Systems trial,” said Kathryn Taylor, Agricultural Systems Officer with the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee, and main contact for the Border Rivers Grain and Graze program.

“This trial was designed by the McMaster Farm Group and will aim to compare different farming systems on a whole-farm scale to determine what effects livestock and cropping integration will have on the profitability and sustainability of a farming enterprise,” she said.

“The trial will also assess the results of increasing the investment in the pasture component of such an enterprise,” said Kathryn.

People who attended the field day also learned about the effects of grazing and compaction on subsequent crops, the values of using legumes as pasture bases and rotational crops, and using grasses and legumes to rejuvenate cultivation areas.

Border Rivers Grain and Graze Chairman, Robert Webb, said, “These trials have one aim – profit. Financial profit, social profit and environmental profit.”

“The McMaster Research Station has been an invaluable resource for farmers in the Border Rivers region,” said Kathryn.

“Trials conducted here have provided important information to help farmers and other people working within the agricultural industry to better plan properties, and better manage their resources.”

“The McMaster Farming Systems trial will continue to provide mixed farmers with answers to real on-farm problems down the track, as well,” she said.

The field day was run by the Primary Industries Innovation Centre, a joint initiative between the NSW Department of Primary Industries and the University of New England. The field day was supported by CSIRO, Border Rivers-Gwydir Catchment Management Authority, and the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee as part of the Border Rivers Grain and Graze program.

**ENDS**

## **Media contact/s**

**Written and released by:** Amelia Radford, QMDC, 07 4637 6234, [ameliar@qmdc.org.au](mailto:ameliar@qmdc.org.au)

**More information:** Kathryn Taylor, QMDC, 07 4671 7900, [kathrynt@qmdc.org.au](mailto:kathrynt@qmdc.org.au)

Robert Webb, Border Rivers Grain and Graze Chairman, 07 4675 4535, [robannwebb@bigpond.com](mailto:robannwebb@bigpond.com)

## **Images**



**Caption:** 250 farmers and agricultural technical staff converged on the Douglas McMaster Research Station, near Warialda, last month.



**Caption:** farmers and staff all learnt from a range of trials being conducted at the Research Station.

For high quality versions of these images, please contact Amelia Radford on 07 4637 6234, or [ameliar@qmdc.org.au](mailto:ameliar@qmdc.org.au)