

SEQ SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE NEWS – OCT 2024



What's been happening

Get funding to improve your grazing land and native vegetation: **Expressions of interest**



Healthy Land & Water is offering funding to assist South East Queensland (SEQ) graziers and land managers to undertake on-ground works that will improve the condition of grazing land and native vegetation on their properties.

Healthy Land & Water is continuing to work with land managers through the second iteration of project delivery: *Building resilient grazing landscapes and native vegetation communities in SEQ*, which is funded by the Queensland Government's Natural Resources Recovery Program (NRRP).

The project aims to address some of the key threats to land condition and native vegetation, including declining pasture condition, soil health, hillslope erosion, invasive exotic weeds, inappropriate fire regimes and grazing management practices.

If you are a grazier or land manager within SEQ catchments who would like assistance to undertake an on-ground project that addresses any of the issues outlined above on your property, please complete the EOI form below to submit your proposal or contact Renee Ould on 0455 341 682 or renee.o@hlw.org.au.

Complete the form here. (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/V66J75H>)

The Scenic Rim Agriculture Expo

Sustainable Agriculture Facilitators at the Scenic Rim Agriculture Expo



The Scenic Rim Agriculture Expo was held in August in Harrisville. The Expo is a new event on the agriculture calendar and aims to create greater visibility and connection between businesses, industry and communities in the Scenic Rim. A long list of presenters spoke on topics like pasture health, fire ant eradication and biosecurity.

At the Healthy Land & Water stand, the Sustainable Agriculture Team was ready to talk sustainable land management with landholders and farmers. It was a great opportunity for the team to engage with the local community and discuss everything

from drought resilience to erosion control, pasture management and business planning. The team also jumped on the opportunity to build their networks with other stand holders like the Scenic Rim Council, Boonah Landcare and a number of agriculture service providers.

Introducing Renee Ould



Renee's been with us for a while now, and she's hit the ground running from day one. She's become such an integral part of our team that it's hard to remember a time without her! Renee Ould is the project manager for the Natural Resource Recovery Program (NRRP). Renee is a Senior Scientist within the Sustainable Agriculture Team at Healthy Land & Water with over five years of experience in environmental science, focussing on sustainable

resource management and conservation. Since joining Healthy Land & Water, Renee has been working on the NRRP program where she has shown great results supporting landholders and communities to implement activities that improve the condition of natural assets and build landscape resilience.

Additionally, Renee is also working as a Sustainable Agriculture Facilitator, helping implement best practices that promote resilience in agriculture systems across SEQ. Her passion for sustainability and community engagement drives Renee's great work.



New soil capacity gap analysis

The SQNSW Innovation Hub released *The Southern Queensland and Northern New South Wales Regional Soil Capacity Gap Analysis* last month with a list of key risks and recommendations.

One major key risk is the current difficult economic environment that is identified to drive short-term focussed decisions around soil management, leading to long-term soil degradation. One of the recommendations, 'One Health' aims at setting up incentive structures throughout the supply chain to address not only farm business sustainability but also public and landscape health.

A summary of the analysis can be found here [Executive Summary – SQNSW Region Soil Capacity Gap Analysis](https://www.unisq.edu.au/-/media/usq/research/sqnswhub/blogs/240819-sqnswhregion-scga-summary.ashx) (PDF 145KB). (<https://www.unisq.edu.au/-/media/usq/research/sqnswhub/blogs/240819-sqnswhregion-scga-summary.ashx>)

and the full report is available here [Report – SQNSW Region Soil Capacity Gap Analysis](https://www.unisq.edu.au/-/media/usq/research/sqnswhub/blogs/sqnswhregiongapanalysisv11.ashx) (PDF 2MB). (<https://www.unisq.edu.au/-/media/usq/research/sqnswhub/blogs/sqnswhregiongapanalysisv11.ashx>)

The Nation Soil Action Plan can be found here [National Soil Action Plan - DAFF \(agriculture.gov.au\)](https://www.agriculture.gov.au/agriculture-land/farm-food-drought/natural-resources/soils/national-soil-action-plan). (<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/agriculture-land/farm-food-drought/natural-resources/soils/national-soil-action-plan>).

Future Drought Fund video

A number of drought resilience videos have been developed under the Future Drought Fund program, funded by the Australian Government. The videos feature SEQ local graziers who have implemented new practices to improve their drought resilience and overall sustainability.

Col and Jackie Clark have implemented multispecies cropping, natural sequence farming practices and rotational grazing. Hear more about their story [here](#).



Get Ready Queensland

Get Ready Queensland Week rolled out across the state in early October. It is a good reminder to plan for and get ready for the summer season and extreme events that it can bring.

Get ready for natural disaster season

Preparing for natural disasters is critical to your business' long-term resilience. By taking steps early, primary producers can reduce the risk of disaster damage and financial loss. There are many ways you can get ready, such as:

- Checking your insurance.
- Preparing a business continuity plan.
- Preparing an evacuation plan for your family and workers.
- Bookmark the Disaster Impact Survey now, in case you need to report damage to your business [Queensland DAF Agriculture Disaster Impact Survey \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com).

For more tips on getting ready: <https://www.business.qld.gov.au/running-business/natural-disaster/prepare>.

Prepare your livestock ahead of natural disaster season

There are many steps primary producers can take before a natural disaster to help ensure the welfare of animals. Tips include:

- Have an emergency livestock plan to safeguard your animals during a disaster.
- Ensure livestock can be identified via NLIS devices or brands.
- Have sufficient stocks of food and medication.
- Make sure livestock have access to higher or safer ground, in case of flooding or bushfires.

For more tips on getting ready, check out the [preparing animals for natural disasters guide](https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/disaster/flood/prepare) (<https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/disaster/flood/prepare>).

Queensland Future Climate **website update**

Ever wondered what the climate holds for Queensland? Look no further than the [Queensland Future Climate website](https://www.longpaddock.qld.gov.au/qld-future-climate/) (<https://www.longpaddock.qld.gov.au/qld-future-climate/>). This leading resource, delivered in partnership with the University of Queensland, keeps you informed about climate projections and potential hazards across our state.

What's new?

- Cutting-edge science and data analysis transformed into user-friendly climate services.
- Information based on the latest generation of climate models.
- Downscaled data and future climate projections for over 60 climate variables over 450 regions in Queensland.
- Low, moderate, and high emission scenarios considered.
- A CMIP6 Dashboard for exploring high-resolution climate modelling data for specific areas.

What can you do with the website?

- Visualise and download climate data for your region.
- Support adaptation planning across various sectors.
- Gain a clearer picture of potential climate futures in Queensland.

The Queensland Future Climate website is your one-stop shop for understanding the future climate landscape. Visit the updated website to discover more.

[\(https://www.longpaddock.qld.gov.au/qld-future-climate/\)](https://www.longpaddock.qld.gov.au/qld-future-climate/)

Climate Change Authority Sector Pathways Review

Last week's release of the Climate Change Authority's [Sector Pathways Review](https://www.climatechangeauthority.gov.au/sector-pathways-review) (<https://www.climatechangeauthority.gov.au/sector-pathways-review>) has confirmed the current challenges raised by industry regarding Australian agriculture's transition to net zero. Read more here. (<https://nff.org.au/media-release/climate-change-report-highlights-challenges-for-agriculture-in-reaching-net-zero/>)

Navigating a future of cross-sectoral forces: **Horizon Scan webinar**

The [Navigating a Future of Cross-Sectoral Forces](https://agrifutures.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/24-099-navigating-future-forces.pdf) report (<https://agrifutures.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/24-099-navigating-future-forces.pdf>) provides stakeholders in Australian agriculture with insights into managing transformative changes and building resilient, productive rural supply chains. In a webinar hosted by the report's author Sarah Nolet from Tenacious Insights, the impact of various forces on rural industries was highlighted, emphasising the importance of mental resilience and adaptability through future-focussed discussions.

Watch the recording here (<https://youtu.be/l1wVUTetaJU>)

AgriFutures Australia reveals new revenue opportunities for rural industries

The findings are based on identifying driving forces for new opportunities and offer a practical guide for resilience in a changing landscape. The report also highlights the importance of tailored support and investments to help each sector thrive.

Read more. (<https://agrifutures.com.au/news/one-size-fits-all-will-no-longer-suffice-agrifutures-australia-reveals-new-revenue-opportunities-for-rural-industries/>)

A 'Stella' day for strawberry growers and lovers



A new high-yielding, disease-resistant and sweet-flavoured strawberry has hit the nation's retail shelves after more than five years of development by Aussie growers and plant breeding experts.

The new variety, the Stella-ASBP is one of 17 that have been delivered through Hort Innovation using industry levies and funds from the Australian Government and the organisation's partnership with the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF). The breeding program accounts for more than 50 per cent of the varieties grown nationally.

Find out more here (<https://www.horticulture.com.au/hort-innovation/news-events/media-releases/2024/a-stella-day-for-strawberry-growers-and-lovers/>).

Movement control order for tomato plants with Tomato brown rugose fruit virus from South Australia



Queensland has issued a [movement control order](#) restricting the movements of tomato, capsicum, and chilli plants, seeds, seedlings, fruit and carriers from South Australia following the (ToBRFV) in South Australia. This is a precautionary measure to minimise the risk of ToBRFV spreading to Queensland.

<https://www.publications.qld.gov.au/dataset/793e9745-624a-471c-b55b-58b5eaa5eb76/resource/6740f613-d400-4752-80af-d1ce50b8ac5e/download/tomato-brown-rugose-fruit-virus-movement-control-order-30-september-2024.pdf>

Biosecurity Queensland is working with the Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to support domestic and international market access for Queensland produce.

If you suspect the presence of ToBRFV in crops in Queensland, call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881 or report it online (<https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/contact/report-a-biosecurity-pest-or-disease>).

For more Biosecurity news click [here](https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/biosecurity) (<https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/biosecurity>).



Grants & Awards

Farm Business Resilience Program wins Resilient Australia Award

The Farm Business Resilience Program took out the government category in the 2024 Get Ready Queensland Resilient Australia Awards at a ceremony hosted by the Queensland Reconstruction Authority in Brisbane on 20 September.



The award submission titled *Disaster resilience in the agriculture sector: Planning with purpose* impressed judges with its proactive approach to business resilience which was having an impact on-farm.

More than 2,100 individual producers have engaged in the program, developing and updating more than 1,000 business resilience plans over the last three years.

Find out more about the [Farm Business Resilience Program](https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/disaster/drought/assistance/farm-business-resilience-program) (<https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/disaster/drought/assistance/farm-business-resilience-program>).

The Farm Business Resilience Program is jointly funded by the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund and the Queensland Government's Drought and Climate Adaptation Program.

Healthy Land & Water is partnering with the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) in supporting the delivery of grazing Farm Business Resilience plans. If you are interested in developing or updating your farm business resilience plan, reach out to the Sustainable Agriculture Team members (contact details at the bottom of the newsletter)

Win a comprehensive soil assessment

Are you a Primary Producer who owns, manages or cares for agricultural land in the southern half of Queensland or the northern half of New South Wales?

Win a comprehensive soil assessment for your property with this competition from UniSQ. There are three prizes worth \$5,000 up for grabs.

Find out more here (<https://www.unisq.edu.au/research/sqnswhub/wsd-2024>).

Future Drought Fund grants open

The Resilient Landscapes Grants Program and Long-term Trials of Drought Resilient Farming Practices Grants are currently open for submissions until 19 November 2024.

Find out more at the below links:

- [Resilient Landscape Grants Program \(https://www.agriculture.gov.au/agriculture-land/farm-food-drought/drought/future-drought-fund/resilient-landscapes-grants\)](https://www.agriculture.gov.au/agriculture-land/farm-food-drought/drought/future-drought-fund/resilient-landscapes-grants).
- [Long-term Trials of Drought Resilient Farming Practices Grants \(https://www.agriculture.gov.au/agriculture-land/farm-food-drought/drought/future-drought-fund/long-term-trials-drought-resilient-farming-practices-grants\)](https://www.agriculture.gov.au/agriculture-land/farm-food-drought/drought/future-drought-fund/long-term-trials-drought-resilient-farming-practices-grants).

Healthy Land & Water is in discussions with our networks regarding consortia bids for cross-regional projects. If your organisation is planning to submit a proposal, get in touch with one of the Sustainable Agriculture team members to discuss support and collaboration on projects (scroll to the end for contact details).

QFF Crisis Communications Training

Primary producers are increasingly facing risks that may cause disruption to their farm business. Register your interest in this series of free face-to-face workshop on communicating during a crisis with key stakeholders including staff, clients, and suppliers, as well as public officials, industry and the media.

Submit your expression of interest here. (<https://www.qff.org.au/projects/crisis/>).



Upcoming events

How To Plan A Burn | Canungra

LOCATION – TBC

Sat 26 October 2024

8:00 am - 2:00 pm

This practical workshop has been designed as the next step in property fire management planning: How to plan a burn!

The event is intended for landholders who are interested in taking steps to use fire as a management tool on their property, whether they have already developed a property fire management plan or not. This workshop is an interactive, outdoor walk-and-talk where we will demonstrate the concepts and build your understanding while looking at how it all fits together in the bush.

Attendees will be taken through:

- The decision-making process required to determine an appropriate burn area.
- Understanding regulations and permits.
- On-ground preparation required.
- The impacts of weather, slope and vegetation (including weeds).
- Fuel hazard assessment techniques.
- Ignition techniques.
- Essential safety protocols and landholder responsibility.

*Please note - we will be assessing the site together but will **NOT** be undertaking any burning on the workshop day.

The event is being delivered in partnership with Scenic Rim Regional Council and supported by the Queensland Fire & Biodiversity Consortium.

[JOIN THE WAITLIST HERE](#)

(<https://hlw.org.au/portfolio/how-to-plan-a-burn-canungra>)

**Keep Calm Grow Trees |
In collaboration with
Boonah and District
Landcare**

TAROME, VENUE TBA

Sun 27 October 2024

2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Come for a walk and talk on Brian, Julie and partners' much loved Tarome property that's being transformed for nature. Chat with other lovers of land care and share nibbles and a cuppa.

This event is held on private property. Event location will be provided to attendees two days out from the event.

Featuring:

- How to care for sick and injured wildlife.
- Koala scat survey and monitoring in the Scenic Rim region.
- A drone flight (if weather permits) used for koala surveys.
- Managing weeds to protect habitat.
- Time to ask questions and enjoy the provided refreshments.
- Opportunities to chat with representatives of Boonah and District Landcare, Healthy Land & Water, Watergum, EMU and Wildcare.

Supported by Healthy Land & Water, through funding received from the Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

[\(https://boonahanddistrictlandcare.com.au/events/\)](https://boonahanddistrictlandcare.com.au/events/)

**Holistic Management
Workshop | In
collaboration with
Boonah and District
Landcare**

BOONAH, VENUE TBC

Sat 16 November 2024

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Gain insight into using holistic management principles to manage the complexities of farming and life, in this 4-hour workshop.

Whether you're beginning your journey or need a refresher, bring your questions on how holistic management could work on your property.

Topics:

- Introduction to Ecosystem Cycles focussing on water & energy (UV).
- Principles of holistic management focussing on predator prey interactions and brittleness scale.
- Using animals as tools.
- Includes morning tea and refreshments.

Free event, but booking is essential.

This event is supported by Healthy Land & Water and the Australian Government through funding from the Natural Heritage Trust, under the Climate-Smart Agriculture Program.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

[\(https://boonahanddistrictlandcare.com.au/events/\)](https://boonahanddistrictlandcare.com.au/events/)

**Rachel's Farm (PG) with
Q&A Panel | In
collaboration with
Boonah & District
Landcare**

**BOONAH, Boonah
Cultural Centre**

Sat 16 November 2024

4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

FILM: Watch the film, *Rachel's Farm* (PG).
FOOD: Share a meal showcasing local, regeneratively, organically grown food.
Q&A: Connect with others and pose questions to experts who live and breathe holistic management and regenerative agriculture – Brian Wehlburg (Inside Outside Management) and Randal and Juanita Breen (Echo Valley Farm).

The event is possible thanks to sponsorship by Kalfresh and Aborgreen and support from Scenic Rim Regional Council and Healthy Land & Water.

[GET TICKETS HERE](#)

(<https://aubeau.sales.ticketsearch.com/sales/salesevent/138368>)

OTHER EVENTS BELOW

QFF National Agriculture Day Breakfast 2024

**Customs House Brisbane,
399 Queen St, Brisbane**

Fri 15 November 2024

7:00 am-9:00 am

Join the Queensland Farmers' Federation (QFF) on Friday, 15 November for their annual National Agriculture Day Breakfast.

This event offers a valuable opportunity to celebrate Queensland's agriculture sector while engaging with political and industry leaders who will come together to share their vision for the future of food, fibre and foliage production across the State.

Join the QFF board, peak body members, corporate partners, industry leaders, and ministerial guests, to network and contribute to the conversation as we work together to build a strong future for Queensland agriculture.

Tickets sold out in 2023, so book early to avoid disappointment this year.

Event details:

Date: Friday, 15 November 2024

Time: 7:00 am to 9:00 am. Arrive 6:45 am for registration.

Venue: Customs House Brisbane, 399 Queen St, Brisbane.

Ticket price: \$125 per ticket or Table of 10 for \$1,250.

[**GET TICKETS HERE**](#)

Embracing Agriculture Digital Innovation Workshops | TAFE Queensland

Various locations, dates
and times – check
description

Enhance your knowledge and skills and increase your understanding of the benefits of these technologies.

(<https://tafeqld.edu.au/news-and-events/events/2024/october/embracing-agriculture-digital-innovation-workshops>)

Workshop highlights

- Expert guidance: Led by Sonya Comiskey, a renowned leader in agricultural innovation.
- Convenient locations: Choose a venue that suits you best.
- Shorter days: Designed with shorter sessions to accommodate your work commitments.
- Additional guided access to our results from the AgValuate Tool, a farm-specific, innovation readiness assessment tool that will help you to understand how technology can impact your farm.

The two-day workshop will cover the following topics:

- Technology today.
- Using data in agriculture.
- Technology tomorrow.

The workshops will include:

- Current digital opportunities and farm management technology.
- Cyber-security and how to identify common cyber threats using interactive videos and case studies.
- Different types of connectivity, including their advantages and disadvantages.
- Internet of Things (IoT) systems and devices, including sensors and their functions.
- The use of drones, their capabilities, benefits and limitations on farms, plus relevant legislative requirements.
- Global positioning technology including GNSS, GPS and GIS.
- Methods of precision farming and control using satellite navigation and other technologies.
- How to manage data effectively and securely.
- Automation and technologies used to improve supply chain processes.
- Technologies and innovations that are transforming the agricultural industry.

Specifically, it will include how to access support, additional courses and training, and examine some case studies relevant to the region.

Caboolture

Date: 6 -7 November 2024

Time: 10:00 am - 3:30 pm

Location: [TAFE Queensland Caboolture Campus](#)

Address: Tallon Street, Caboolture, Queensland, 4510

Kalbar

Date: 12 -13 November 2024

Time: 10:00 am - 3:30 pm

Location: The Bowl Boonah

Address: 42 Coronation Drive, Boonah, Queensland, 4310

Toowoomba

Date: 14 -15 November 2024

Time: 10:00 am - 3:30 pm

Location: Agtech and Logistics Hub

Address: 275 McDougall Street, Toowoomba, Queensland, 4350

National Agriculture Day

15 November 2024

National Agriculture Day is coming up on 15 November 2024 and is a chance to celebrate Australia's incredible farming sector.

Check out how you can get involved (<https://agday.org.au/>).

QBEST Program Webinar Series

Various locations, dates and times – check description

The Queensland Farmers' Federation (QFF) conducted free energy audits through the Queensland Business Energy Saving and Transformation (QBEST) Ag Program to support large energy user farms (farms consuming greater than 100,000kWh per year on a single National Metering Identifier (NMI)) to reduce their energy spend.

The QBEST Ag webinars will share highlights of the QBEST Energy Audit Program's audits with a number of short webinars during October and November. The webinars are brought to you by QFF and will feature some of the Energy Auditors who have conducted the on-farm energy audits. The webinars are online and free and will be available to view afterwards if you can't make the webinar times.

Find program dates, times, topics and presenter information below:

Webinar 2: Cold Room Energy Efficiency: QBEST Audit highlights

Date: Tuesday 15 October, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Presenter: Ryan Dillon, Webster's Group

[REGISTER HERE.](#)

(<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/844e90e1-d677-453c-a0cd-40a6614d3a65@970a6fc0-7f52-43d2-8e6f-8581d29b7b37>)

Webinar 3: Energy Efficiency Opportunities in Piggeries

Date: October – TBC

Presenter: TBC

Webinar 4: Large Pump Energy Efficiency: QBEST Audit highlights

Date: Thursday 31 October, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Presenter: Phil Szabo, Saturn Engineering Group

[REGISTER HERE.](#)

(<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/076472f8-8d35-487c-acfa-18215018d251@970a6fc0-7f52-43d2-8e6f-8581d29b7b37>)

Webinar 5: Scheduling energy consumption to maximise your Solar:
Case studies from Dairy and Horticulture

Date: Tuesday 5 November, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Presenter: Stephen Soutar, AEI Australia

[REGISTER HERE.](#)

(<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/4166fd62-d588-45db-ac01-8bc8492f691c@970a6fc0-7f52-43d2-8e6f-8581d29b7b37>)

Webinar 6: Aquaculture, Voltage, Power Factor and VSDs: A case
study of a north Queensland Barramundi Farm energy audit

Date: Wednesday 13 November, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Presenter: Alan Day, Tailored Energy Solutions

[REGISTER HERE.](#)

(<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/93c1c2c1-78e6-48ec-9dad-7ba1468df4eb@970a6fc0-7f52-43d2-8e6f-8581d29b7b37>)

For more information contact Andrew Chamberlain via email
andrew@qff.org.au.

The QBEST Ag program is being delivered by the Queensland
Farmers' Federation and is funded by the Queensland Government.

Please contact us if you would like us to help promote an upcoming event or sustainable agriculture initiative you are involved in. For any other queries or further information please contact the SEQ Sustainable Agriculture team:

- **Bruce Lord** | 0427 013284 | bruce.l@hlw.org.au
- **Vanessa Smolders** | 0432 561 610 | vanessa.s@hlw.org.au
- **Renee Ould** | 0455 341 682 | renee.o@hlw.org.au
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