



YouthAg Chat notes – Armidale, 10 May 2022

1. What would make your job easier on the farm at the moment?

- Benchmarking – growth rates, profitability
- Daycare that's affordable and accessible
- Accessing labour – staff and contractors
- Tech and equipment that saves times and money (cost benefit) eg. Auto weigh, drones for auto-mustering
- \$R&D funding
- Injectable multicombo drench
- Breeding Centre AI
- Bridging the gap between farmers who accept and adopt tech and those who haven't – getting more producers to implement new practices on farm
- Knowledge

2. What would make you trial, test or do something differently on farm or in your job?

- Implement tech more effectively
- Proven, affordable practices demonstrated in your local area
- Practical application
- Knowing the financial benefit of a new practice – increase profit, sustainability and productivity
- Technology advances that are workable
- Opti-weigh
- Fly strike vaccine
- Ongoing links with farmers and researchers

3. Where do you get your Information from?

- Colleagues, newsletters (MLA, Beef Central, DPI, UNE)
- Twitter/social media
- ABARES
- Industry bodies/peak councils/state organisations
- LLS
- Local advisors – vet
- Internet
- Field days/meetings with producers
- Media – ABC, The Land
- Researchers, networking, committees, papers, presentations

4. If we could put something into play and do anything right now for people in the livestock industry what would we do?

- Support Young farmers to get into the industry with land access and training
- Improve tech adoption
- Build a dog fence
- International policy for market access
- Support biosecurity to improve
- Levy proportion of production – everyone to pay
- Increase technology adoption
- Strategic management tools
- Effectively deal with methane emissions
- Deal with tougher times
- Upskill resellers on tech for individual animal ID and data

5. What is your greatest fear for the livestock industry over the next 5 years?

- Biosecurity - exotic disease (eg. FMD), resources for border protection, technology, not prepared for incursions from overseas
- Not keeping up with tech
- Consumer perception of sustainability and meat consumption
- Attracting young people/affordability
- Misinformation from individuals who govern/influence the industry
- Climate change
- World economy, trading constraints and international politics/policies eg. Subsidised imports
- Decline in meat consumption
- Loss of knowledge with older generation retiring
- Theft
- Cancelling of feedlots
- Animal welfare and environmental management perception by the 'outside world'
- Consumer perception of Sustainability
- Worm burden in the New England threatening sheep enterprises
- Misinformation/misunderstanding and over-reaction to expectations on carbon neutrality
- Trade restrictions
- Reduction of livestock due to legislation
- Not moving forward with technology (not changing)
- Ongoing investment in livestock industry

6. What would be your greatest hope for livestock farmers in your area in terms of research that turned into practical solutions – how would this happen?

- GPS tags for tracking livestock to combat theft and wild dog attack
- Worm burden – merchandise drench sales expertise; worm management on-farm; mortality of livestock
- Heat stress and meat quality
- Carbon neutrality – methane levels
- More use of ID and Data for management decisions
- Livestock nutrition
- Genetics – production and resilience; effective use of ASBVs by the industry
- Solutions for reducing methane emissions – feed additives, genetics

7. Do you have any advice for the role of SALRC?

- More proactive to progress ideas and R/D into on-ground solutions
- Social – marketing presence for SALRC
- More awareness of SALRC – industry/people don't know what we do
- Researchers access to producers to help plan R&D; speak to producers more to improve information exchange
- Adoption of research and tech on-farm – how to get the benefit
- Central library/location for access to research and development information
- Training and on-farm demonstration
- Extension to farmers, simplifying research platform for farmers to easily access information
- Be more proactive to make priority issues progress