

# NORTHERN TERRITORY CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION INC.

Member - National Farmers' Federation & Cattle Council of Australia



## Media Release - Statement

18<sup>th</sup> August 2006

### Getting the EDGE for Breeding on the Barkly

Twenty participants representing 10 stations from across the Barkly Region were involved in the Breeding EDGE workshop held in Tennant Creek on 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> of August. The workshop was organised by the Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association and the Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines. The course was supported by FarmBis.

The Breeding EDGE workshop is part Meat and Livestock Australia's EDGENetwork and is designed to assist producers to further develop their skills in utilising breeding programs as well as genetic and reproductive technologies to achieve specific production targets.

The comprehensive course was presented by John Bertram (Beef CRC) and Dr. Matt Bolam (Darwin-based consultant.) Topics covered in the course included reproductive genetics, selection, evaluating desired traits in livestock and managing a breeding herd to capture these benefits.

In addition to the theory element, the course also included a significant practical component. A Bull Breeding Soundness Evaluation (BBSE) was conducted at the Tennant Creek government yards and the group then observed a female breeder cattle assessment at Tennant Creek Station.

The course was very well-received by the participants who were from varying positions from headstockmen to managers. All took away a better understanding of all aspects of breeder herd management and what they could do to influence and improve the performance of their herd.

The workshop was not just a once off with the group deciding to have a follow up day at Helen Springs Station early next year. There the participants will discuss what changes and improvements they have made since the workshop and get further assistance to further improve their herd management.

Other EDGENetwork workshops available include the Nutrition EDGE and Grazing Land Management workshops. If you would like more information about industry training or the FarmBis program please **contact Ian McLean on 0401 118 191 or [ian.mclean@ntca.org.au](mailto:ian.mclean@ntca.org.au)**

FarmBis is a joint Commonwealth and Northern Territory Government initiative, which provides financial support for primary producers and land managers to attend eligible management training activities

FarmBis has supported about 2,500 Territorians since its inception in 1998.

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**'Advancing and protecting the interests of the cattle producers in the Northern Territory'**

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