

BEEF
AUSTRALIA
2009
ROCKHAMPTON

CSIRO Belmont Research Station

Westpac Property Tours – Monday, 4 May 2009



Mustering at CSIRO Belmont Research Station

CSIRO Belmont Research Station provides the ideal environment for research into livestock production in the tropics and sub-tropics of northern Australia. The station's research and breeding programme officially began in 1953 to develop new tick-resistant cattle breeds by crossbreeding existing cattle herds with breeds derived from the African Zebu line.

CSIRO Belmont Research Station is located on the Fitzroy River, north of Rockhampton and has a carrying capacity of 1,200 cattle. Research activities focus on the following main areas:

- systems genetics and genomics
- livestock management systems
- animal physiology/environment interactions.

The programme has also been successful in developing the cattle breed known as the *Belmont Red* which is used in crossbreeding to improve herd fertility and meat quality, as well as tick resistance.



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The resident herd at CSIRO Belmont Research Station has helped researchers make valuable progress in their genetics research

The Westpac property tour will explore the station's world-class research projects being carried out by the CSIRO and the CRC for Beef Genetic Technologies (Beef CRC). Beef CRC projects include the discovery of the genetic and non-genetic factors, including female reproductive performance and bull fertility, which influence the performance and welfare of tropically-adapted beef cattle.



The breeding programme remains central to the research at CSIRO Belmont Research Station

Researchers will also walk you through the work being carried out to identify the genetic markers for polled, African horn and scurs genes in tropical beef cattle. These genes determine whether cattle will grow horns or not. Other exciting developments at **CSIRO Belmont Research Station** include research into methane mitigation strategies for beef cattle, spatial grazing patterns in extensive environments and animal behaviour studies.

