

Alan Sevier Memorial Lecture by Dr David Johnston

Thursday, 15 March 2018 @ 5.15pm
Bayliss Lecture Theatre G:33, UWA



The UWA Institute of Agriculture



Beefing up the West with genetics

Recent advances in beef cattle genetics have the potential to change beef breeding. They can enable seedstock breeders to significantly increase rates of genetic progress and importantly at the commercial sector, allow producers to better match genetics to their production systems and markets.

The talk will discuss how genetics and selection can be used across the beef supply chain to increase productivity and profitability.

The presentation will cover recent advancements in beef cattle genetics including the evolving field of DNA and genomics, new genetic evaluation systems and the development of novel traits with a focus on northern systems.

About Dr Johnston

Dr David Johnston is a beef cattle geneticist at the Animal Genetics and Breeding Unit (AGBU) at the University of New England, Armidale, where he has been for 25 years.

During that time Dr Johnston has been responsible for the design and management of several large beef cattle breeding projects, and the implementation of the research into the international genetic evaluation scheme called BREEDPLAN.

His expertise is mainly in the area of mixed model estimation and prediction and a major focus of his work has been the development of genetic evaluation procedures for new traits. These have included important developments in male and female reproduction traits, mature cow weight, abattoir carcass and meat quality traits, net feed intake, and more recently, research into the incorporation of DNA-based data into estimated breeding values.

Currently Dr Johnston is project leader of a large MLA-funded breeding project in Queensland and the Northern Territory that is developing enhanced genetic evaluation of female reproduction traits through the implementation of

new genomic selection techniques in tropically-adapted beef breeds.

Alan Sevier Memorial Lecture

Dr Alan Sevier was an animal scientist who passed away in 2013. He expressed a wish that his notebooks, journal and writings on cattle breeding and pheromone experiments be given to The University of Western Australia. This is the first year the Alan Sevier Memorial Lecture has taken place.

Event Details:

Date: Thursday 15 March 2018
Time: 5.15pm - 6.15pm
Venue: Bayliss Lecture Theatre
The University of WA
Crawley 6009
RSVP: to ioa.uwa.edu.au/events/register
Contact: 6488 4717 | ioa@uwa.edu.au