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Media release

RDA Mid North Coast & Norfolk Island facilitates the introduction of fresh genetics to Norfolk Island's cattle population

3 May 2024

Since 2015, Norfolk Island has been faced with biosecurity limits that preclude the importation of live ruminants. This has had a significant impact on the agriculture industry on Norfolk Island with fresh genetics not readily available.

Regional Development Australia Mid North Coast and Norfolk Island (RDAMNC & NI) has successfully engaged with the Norfolk Island Cattle Association (NICA), The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (DITRDCA), Breeder Genetics and the Norfolk Island Regional Council (NIRC) to facilitate the development of an Assisted Reproductive Program (ARP) for the cattle population on Norfolk Island.

The severity of the issue was addressed with RDRAMC & NI during an extended visit to the island by CEO, Dr Madeleine Lawler in late 2023. It was identified that without urgent intervention, the industry would collapse. Since that time, RDRAMC & NI has been able to secure some additional funding from DITRDCA, engage Breeder Genetics to provide cattle industry expertise, support the delivery of a workshop on ARPs by Angus Australia and Breeder Genetics to NICA and, with the assistance of Breeder Genetics, secure the services of world class technicians to conduct the insemination process later this year.

RDRAMC & NI is incredibly grateful to all the stakeholders that have been able to engage and work together to facilitate this program - in particular, The Hon. Kristy McBain, Minister for Territories, Regional Development and Local Government for her support of this project.

RDRAMC & NI will continue to remain focused on ensuring that the program is given every opportunity to be as successful as possible and will continue to advocate for the cattle and other agricultural industries on Norfolk Island to try and alleviate some of the challenges that continue to be faced by the community.

“We are immensely proud to be in a position to facilitate an outcome for Norfolk Island that will hopefully result in the rejuvenation of the cattle industry on Norfolk Island. The RDRAMC & NI Board has been incredibly supportive of this project, and we look forward to continuing to engage with the Norfolk Island

community and other stakeholders to facilitate more opportunities such as this going forward” said RDAMNC Chair, Kieren Dell.

Acting CEO, Dianne Wall stated that “the success of this program will really make a significant economic, social, cultural and environmental contribution not only to the cattle producers and their families but also to the broader community on Norfolk Island, and whilst we are thrilled to see the project get this far, we have our fingers well and truly crossed for a successful outcome from the insemination process”.

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