

Having trouble viewing this email? [View Online](#)

[Website](#) [Blog](#) [Events](#)



SQNNSW Innovation Hub Newsletter #19



The SQNNSW Innovation Hub wishes everyone a very happy festive season, and we look forward to working with you all in 2023, to create thriving regions, industries and people.

Evaporation mitigation: new resources

Irrigation experts Mike Scobie and Erik Schmidt, who recently received [Irrigation Australia's MacLean-ledema Award](#), is one of the University of Southern Queensland researchers who collaborated with Granite Belt growers to produce a factsheet and several case studies on ways to reduce evaporation losses from water storages. SQNNSW Innovation Hub Stanthorpe Node Manage Wim Linström says helping Granite Belt growers improve their water security is a key pathway to drought resilience.



Evaporation reduction by suspended and floating covers and chemical films may substantially reduce stored water losses if the right product is selected for a specific water storage. In the Granite Belt Region of Queensland – where horticulture production is dominant – evaporation from storage is typically between 1.6m and 1.8m/year.

[Read them now >>](#)

Planning for resilience

Business success relies on sound business planning for all aspects of the enterprise, and there's never a perfect time to start. Business plans can be used for more than guiding business and investment decisions, they are also a tool to allow family enterprises to sit down and have important conversations. [Read our blog](#) for more about the why and how of planning, and about some tools to help you gather data.



[Find out more >>](#)

Join the team! Adoption Officers needed

Passionate about drought planning, preparedness and recovery? How about supporting producers to be productive and sustainable?

NSW Local Land Services is seeking five highly skilled Senior Agricultural Advisors to help develop and deliver agricultural drought preparedness programs and advisory services, in conjunction with the SQNNNSW Innovation Hub and the Southern NSW Innovation Hub. These Adoption Officer roles are available throughout regional NSW, though ideally would be located in Inverell, Deniliquin, Hillston, Bourke and Cooma. Other locations within the LLS regions are negotiable. These are full-time roles, to June 2024. Applications close January 15, 2023.



[Apply today >>](#)

Extension & Adoption Grants

Apply now for grants to get proven drought resilience practices and technologies onto farms to drive large scale adoption. The Australian Government's Future Drought Fund (FDF) is looking for eligible entities to work with farmers to drive large-scale adoption of proven and existing practices and technologies that improve drought resilience and agricultural productivity. Applications are open for Extension and Adoption of Drought Resilience Farming Practices Grants with between \$100,000 and \$3 million (GST exclusive) available per application. Successfully funded projects must offer extension and adoption activities and be completed in 24 months (between June 2023 and June 2025).



[Find out more >>](#)

Coming up

[Book now](#)


Worms & productivity

Glen Aplin Q, January 13

Learn about soil health from sustainability expert Graeme Sait and check out an on-farm vermicast project at a special Granite Belt Growers information evening.

BOOK NOW >>

[Book now](#)


Excel for Grazing Enterprises

Begonia Q, February 8

Have you ever downloaded a spreadsheet and not been able to use it? Learn how Excel can be useful, with practical examples for grazing businesses.

BOOK NOW >>

Quick bites from your Hub stakeholders

Saving money with renewables

Many properties in remote parts of the county have long been off-grid – often because they are too remote to connect to town power – and rely on diesel generators. But there are a growing number of relatively new farms That are off-grid despite the availability of mains power. The Queensland Farmers' Federation said more of its members were considering such a move, with reasons ranging from wanting to be independent, to saving money or reducing on-farm emissions. [Read more.](#)

NSW: farm gate cereal disease ID

Local Land Services is bringing lab tests to the farm gate in a bid to help growers identify and stamp out cereal diseases such as crown rot. LLS will supply sample collection kits to farmers; the collected samples can be sent free-of-charge for testing. [Read more.](#)

Landcare Farming explores carbon

Carbon farming and sequestration: the most talked about technologies in the battle against climate change. But what is it, and how can you use it to work towards agricultural industry emission targets? [Click here](#) to watch a recording of a Landcare Farming faming webinar featuring content experts and producers.

Watch out for Japanese Encephalitis

Japanese Encephalitis is a mosquito borne disease that causes significant reproductive disease in pigs, with up to 100% still-born or mummified piglets. Learn more about [mosquito control here.](#)

Organic Awards presented

A Queensland strawberry farmer, the head of Australia's largest organic mushroom producer, and a Victorian dairy company were among 10 award winners at the 8th Australian Organic Industry Awards. [Read more.](#)

Encyclopedia of rural crime

The Encyclopedia of Rural Crime, contributed to by 80 specialists around the world and led by UNE rural criminologist Dr Alistair Harkness, is the latest – and perhaps most important – in a string of influential publications that have helped put rural criminology on the radar in the last decade. [Read more.](#)

Cotton on to machine vision tools

The University of Southern Queensland is investigating how automated machine vision tools might be able to automate or augment some cotton activities, such as crop scouting, to improve data collection and labour efficiency, boosting productivity and profitability. [Read more.](#)

Opportunities for you

DR.SAT updated to help more farmers and growers

The Future Drought Fund's Drought Resilience Self-Assessment Tool (DR.SAT) has been updated with new functionality after consultation across Australia's agricultural regions. Improvements to the free tool include easier farm boundary mapping, access to practical examples of tried and tested drought resilience strategies to help tailor your own farm business solutions without needing to log into the tool, and environmental resilience content that covers more commodities and regions. Access commodity and [region coverage maps here](#) and assess your farm's resilience at drsatsat.com.au.

Flood funding

Primary industries supply chain

Agricultural processing businesses that were impacted by the February and March 2022 floods are being assisted to re-establish operations through the Australian and NSW Government's \$22 million Supply Chain Support Program. [Read more.](#)

Pastures

MLA launches new tool for red meat producers

Australian red meat producers now have access to weekly information on their farm-level pasture status with the release of a new tool called the Australian Feedbase Monitor (AFM). The AFM is a joint initiative between Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) and Cibo Labs. This world-first tool provides producers with satellite-derived objective estimates of leading pasture growth, biomass and ground cover for their property, and is free for MLA members who have linked their Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) accounts to their myMLA dashboard. [Read more](#) or watch an [introductory webinar here](#).

Serradellas for new environments

GLENRAC is seeking assistance with an MLA-funded project, Serradellas for new environments. The research team are conducting a survey to assess current awareness and attitudes toward serradellas in permanent pastures. [Read more.](#)

Leadership development

NSW: Creating capability and confidence

Residents of New England North West have the opportunity to take part in a new (free!) educational program aimed at increasing community leadership capacity. EOIs close on January 8, 2023. [Read more](#).

Coming up

The Future Drought Fund will release a \$40 million grants program in early 2023, supporting long-term trials of practices that improve drought resilience so Aussie farmers can have the confidence to try it themselves. [More information](#).

Events calendar

*This calendar includes events from the Hub, its Members and Partners and Supporters, and events supported by the Australian Government. Please contact organisers for more information. Events in **bold** are organised or supported by the SQNNSW Innovation Hub, or include a Hub speaker.*

2023

January

13 – **[Worm castings & productivity](#)**, Glen Aplin Q

17 – [Animal biosecurity workshop](#), NSW LLS, Hermidale

17 – [Bush kids first aid](#), GLENRAC, Glen Innes NSW

18 – [Animal biosecurity workshop](#), NSW LLS, Coonabarabran

19 – [Animal biosecurity workshop](#), NSW LLS, Dunedoo

25 – [Bush kids first aid](#), GLENRAC, Deepwater NSW

February

2 – [Soils Alive!](#), GLENRAC, Glen Innes NSW

4 – [First aid training](#), NSW LLS, Moonan Flat

8 – **[Excel Spreadsheets for Grazing Enterprises](#)**, SQ Landscapes, Begonia Q

9 – [First aid training](#), NSW LLS, Timor NSW

16 – [First aid training](#), NSW LLS, Bunnan NSW

18 – [First aid training](#), NSW LLS, Wybong NSW

21-22 – [evokeAG](#), Adelaide SA

21 – [Digging deeper](#) (soil workshops), GLENRAC, Glen Innes NSW

23 – [First aid training](#), NSW LLS, Martindale NSW

25 – [First aid training](#), NSW LLS, Rouchel NSW

March

4 – [First aid training](#), NSW LLS, McCully's Gap NSW

7 – [Plant ID workshop](#), NSW LLS, Bedgerabong NSW

8 – [Plant ID workshop](#), NSW LLS, Peak Hill NSW

9 – [Plant ID workshop](#), NSW LLS, Dunedoo NSW

15 – [Revegetation workshop](#), NSW LLS, Mendooran NSW

16 – [Revegetation workshop](#), NSW LLS, Forbes NSW

31 – [Grazing management for horse owners](#), NSW LLS, Calala NSW

June

6-8 – Science to Practice, online/various locations

7-8 – Regenerative Rangelands Forum & Field Day, Longreach Q

SQNNNSW Innovation Hub

West Street, Toowoomba Q 4350
University of Southern Queensland

unisq.edu.au/sqnnswhub

SQNNNSWhub@usq.edu.au



[Share the SQNNNSW Innovation Hub newsletter with a friend.](#)

The SQNNNSW Innovation Hub receives funding from the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund.

