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SQNNSW Innovation Hub Newsletter #20

Long-term Trial opportunity

The Australian Government's Future Drought Fund (FDF) is seeking eligible applicants to conduct long-term trials of innovative farming practices that build drought resilience. The [Long-term Trials of Drought Resilient Farming Practices Grants program](#), has grants of up to \$8 million (GST exclusive, per application) available for projects to be delivered in the activity period (2023 to 2028).

Applications close on 15 March 2023 at 9pm (AEDT).

Have questions?

Attend the online info session on **8 February at 2-3pm (AEDT)** and have your questions about the program and application process answered by FDF program leads. Register via [the Eventbrite page](#).



Stanthorpe Node provides wriggly update

Growers on the Granite Belt had the chance to learn more from the Stanthorpe Node's vermicast project partners (the worms themselves were a bit quiet though) at a Granite Belt Grower Association event this month (January). Author, educator and Granite Belt farmer Graeme Sait, a recognised world leader in sustainable horticulture, also provided an overview of soil health.



[See who was there >>](#)

Future Drought Fund review

The Productivity Commission has launched its review of the Future Drought Fund (FDF), to assess its effectiveness in supporting farmers and communities preparer for drought. The SQNNSW Innovation Hub is one of the many initiatives supported by the FDF. For more information about the review, including its Terms of Reference and how stakeholders can contribute their views, [click here](#). Stakeholders can also [subscribe](#) to receive updates.



Inquiry into Part 3 of the Future Drought Fund Act 2019

Call for submissions



Coming up



Excel for grazing

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](#)



Wallumbilla Women's Wellness Weekend

*The Barn @ Mt Hope Q,
February 25*

This wellness weekend has been organised for the women of the Maranoa, with sessions on business, gardening, art, inspiration and networking.

[Book now](#)



Farming Family Reboot

Armidale NSW, April 18-20

Do you want to reboot your farming family? EOIs will soon open for places in the 2023 events. This is a free, three-day event with catering and accommodation included. Keep an eye on the newsletter and our socials for more detail soon!

Opportunities for you

Business/industry improvement

Farm office 3-day workshops (NSW)

Central West Local Land Services are offering 3-day farm office workshops hosted by Carmen Quade. The course will cover establishing and refining record keeping systems, streamlining bill payments and book-keeping, reducing accounting fees, and being more time efficient in the office. The course is valued at more than \$1,000 will be made available for \$200/person. Places limited,

register today. [Coonamble sessions](#): February 20, March 13 & March 27. [Condobolin sessions](#): February 28, March 21 & March 30.

Increasing seafood value (NSW)

NSW DPI, in partnership with the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC), and an industry led steering committee, has developed the Seafood Innovation Program to increase the post-harvest value of seafood in NSW. [Read more](#) and register your interest.

Proving sustainability credentials (national)

New funding (grants up to \$500,000) will support Australian farmers to demonstrate their sustainable farming practices, leading the way on developing a provable product-claim that assures key export markets. [Applications close](#) February 25.

Communities

Strengthening Rural Communities

The Small & Vital stream gives small remote, rural and regional communities across Australia the opportunity to access funds for a broad range of initiatives that directly and clearly benefit local communities. Grants up to \$10,000. [Applications ongoing](#), assessed quarterly.

First Nations

NAIDOC Local Grants Opportunity

The grants will help assist with the cost of activities held during NAIDOC Week 2023 (2-9 July). Applications close February 17. More at [GrantConnect](#).

Personal improvement

Rural NSW Scholarship

Targeted at current and future leaders, the NSW Rural Scholarship connects women from regional, remote and rural communities to a large, like-minded network that helps fast-track professional goals. [Applications close](#) February 16.

Pasture management

Prograze (NSW)

NSW Local Land Services (Central West) is offering the Prograze course this year. Starting in February, the course will consist of eight workshops (theory and in-paddock). Registrations close on February 10; cost is \$300/business. [Learn more](#).

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). This 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](#).

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.*

February

- 2 – [Soils Alive!](#), GLENRAC, Glen Innes NSW
- 4 – [Pasture & weed ID](#), NSW LLS, Ponderosa NSW
- 7-9 – [Livestock nutrition workshops](#), NSW LLS, Quirindi, Warialda & Walgett NSW
- 7 – **[Farm business resilience](#), QDAF, Tambo Q**
- 8 – **[Farm business resilience](#), QDAF, Blackall Q**
- 8 – **[Excel for Grazing Enterprises](#), SQ Landscapes, Begonia Q**
- 8 – **[Long-term Trials funding webinar](#), DAFF**
- 9-10 – [Grazing management](#), NSW LLS, Tocal NSW
- 14-16 – [Getting the most from forage](#), NSW LLS, various NSW
- 21-22 – [evokeAG](#), Adelaide SA
- 21 – [Digging deeper](#) (soil workshops), GLENRAC, Glen Innes NSW
- 23 – [Hay & Autumn sowing](#), NSW LLS, Singleton NSW

March

- 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
- 24 – [Beef basics information session](#), NSW LLS, Taree NSW
- 27 – **Resilient livestock systems workshop, Armidale Node, Glen Innes NSW**
- 28 – **Resilient livestock systems workshop, Armidale Node, Armidale NSW**
- 29 – **Resilient livestock systems workshop, Armidale Node, Walcha 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**

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