

In July 2017 ARCBA ran a Young Breed Leaders workshop targeting young breeders in the age range of 20-35 years of age to help inspire and prepare them for senior management roles within the beef breeding industry. The underlying theme was “What is the role of genetics in a modern Australian beef industry”.

Australia’s cattle breeding industry is entering a period of radical change as it grapples with the issues caused by transformational technologies in the industry. There is no doubt in ARCBA’s mind, given its widespread industry representation that the breeding industry is seeking generational change but at present there is no supply of appropriately trained young breed leaders. The Workshop was designed to provide the catalyst to change this by targeting young breeders who have the potential to be breed leaders at an early age and promote modern technologies into the beef industry.

The Workshop was targeted at young breeders of 20-35 years of age to help prepare them for senior roles in the beef breeding industry. It was coordinated by independent facilitators with experienced industry personnel available to answer technical queries.

The 43 attendees worked in groups to handle 4 main topics.

- How best to promote the use of emerging technologies including genomics and single step evaluations in beef breeding and production.
- How can genetics be improved to meet the needs of the supply chain and enhance long-term profitability.
- How to ensure the ongoing growth, profitability and viability of the registered cattle industry.
- How to create generational change in the seedstock industry to create more management opportunities for young breeders.

The Workshop was scheduled to immediately precede a Genomics Conference so that attendees had an opportunity to participate in both events.

This Workshop is an important component of ARCBA’s efforts to assist in developing a more modern and productive beef industry. Feedback from the Workshop will be used to provide pointers on how ARCBA should further assist the aspirations of young breed leaders.



Picture: Lucy Kinbacher/Queensland Country Life