



# COTTON, GRAINS, CATTLE

## Crops for Cattle

Northern Territory

Timeline: 2022 to 2026 (4 years) A.2.2122027

The Cotton, Grains, Cattle (CGC) program is an integrated agricultural system, focused on bolstering productivity across the north's cropping and cattle sectors. The aim is to create economically sustainable, place-based integrated farming systems around cotton, grains and cattle to support production of universally marketable cattle from local crops, providing alternative market options.

Enhance economic sustainability of integrated farming for producers.

Create cropping systems suited to tropical climates & less reliant on imports.

Build local capacity to support production, reducing costs & biosecurity risks.

Ensure ethical value, responsible planning & social licence.

Develop agronomy & nutrient management to reduce farming carbon footprint.

## Project: Crops for Cattle

'Crops for Cattle' is one of six projects in the CGC program.

This project is increasing the efficiency of north Australian cattle production systems using local crops to improve dry season weight gain. The low input, low cost production model that has supported tropical beef production is no longer maintaining the industry as it faces market and climate shifts, and policy pressures.

## research focus

- ↳ **Supplementary locally grown feed**  
Reduce input supply chains and improve feed quality, using feeds produced in the north.
- ↳ **Cattle weight gain**  
Aim of increasing weight over the post-weaning dry season. This can achieve a higher proportion of steers being turned off after one post-weaning wet season, and more efficient heifer performance from increased pre-mating weights.
- ↳ **Herd productivity**  
Flow-on effects are expected on re-conception rates, calving distribution, average weaning weights and subsequently heifer mating weights to increase the whole-of-herd productivity.



Cotton



Hay and fodder



## expected outcomes



Data and information used to evaluate the effectiveness and profitability of various feeding strategies.



Provide information to northern cattle producers to better inform feeding and investment decisions.



Support sustainability of the northern cropping industry by providing a strong and enduring local market for crops.

## project partners

Northern Territory Government; National Feed Company; Northern Livestock and Agriculture; Ridley AgriProducts.

NT stations: LaBelle Station, Avago Station, Maryfield Station, Hodgson Downs Station, Legune Station, Ruby Downs Station, Larrakeyah Station, Carbeen Park, Gilnockie, Mistake Creek, Victoria River Research Station, Katherine Research Station.

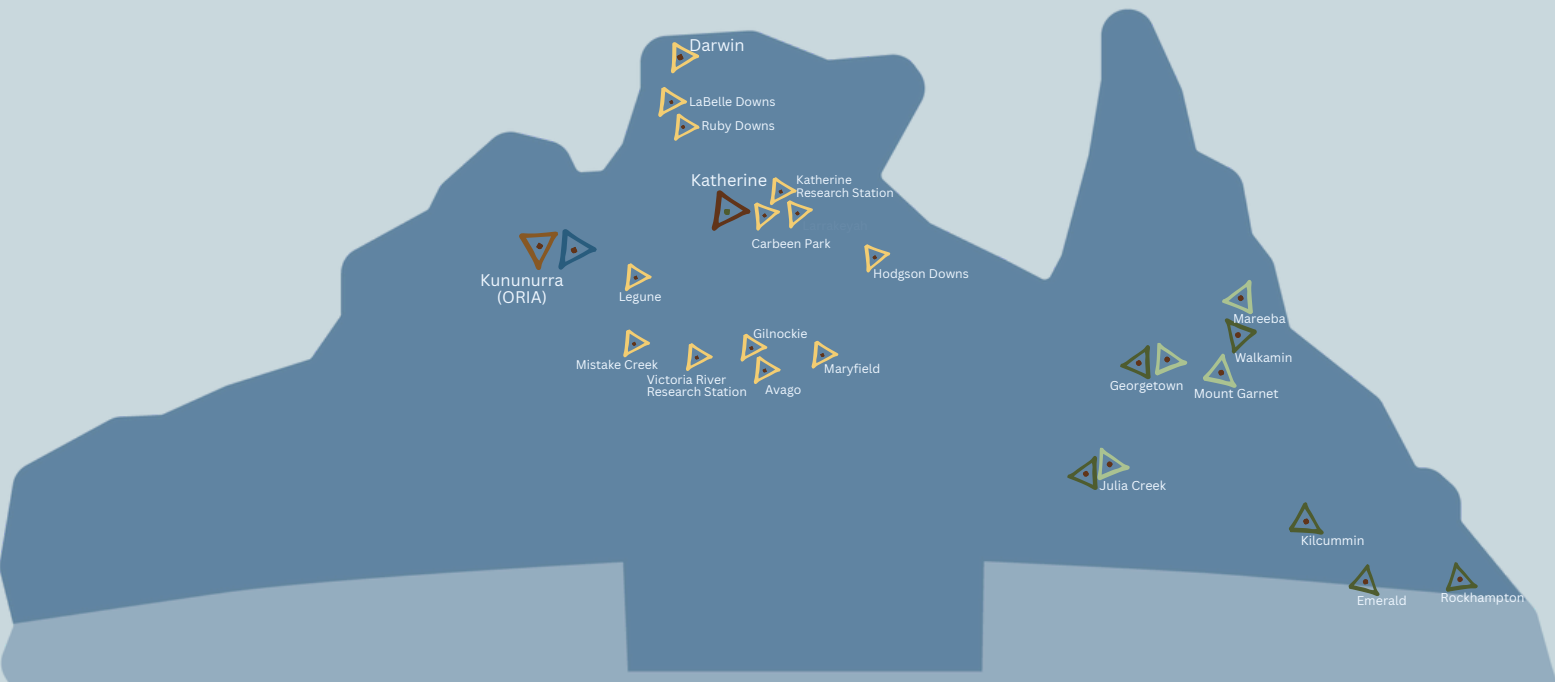


The Cooperative Research Centre for Developing Northern Australia (CRCNA) is delivering industry-led research and development collaborations to enable the sustainable economic growth of Northern Australia. CRCNA funding helps to de-risk investment through new technologies, products and services which address industry issues specific to the north.

Cotton, Grains, Cattle runs for 4 years, and has over 30 collaborators who are committed to building producer, agronomy and research capacity across Northern Australia.

CRCNA invests in agricultural research and development to support:

- sustainable tropical production
- innovative supply chain solutions
- new technologies, models and systems
- climate resilience and nature positive development.



## COTTON, GRAINS, CATTLE Project locations

- Crops for Cattle (NT)
- Fundamentals of cropping systems (NT)
- Sustainable systems for crop diversification (ORIA)
- Cropping enabled cattle production (WA)
- Extension capacity of cropping-systems (NQ)
- CGC farming systems (NQ)

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