

Technology in the Outback

How to make it work for you

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What is Technology?

- Technology is a tool to make your life & work EASIER
- GOOD technology will:
 - ✓ Improve animal welfare outcomes
 - ✓ Increase profitability
 - ✓ Decrease workload and/or expenses
 - ✓ Reduce stress



Technology in Action in the Rangelands

- It doesn't have to be computers and wifi
- Some of the best technology is the simplest



Example 1 - Mineral Supplement Feeding

- The most common mineral deficiencies in cattle, sheep and goats in Australia are of copper, selenium, cobalt and phosphorus.
- Feeding supplement can have a positive effect on animal behaviour that will make handling them easier & less stressful.
- Feeding mineral supplement & urea can increase calving rates, will help breeders maintain body weight & lactation and will increase the appetite of cattle
- Seek professional advice in both the diagnosis and correction of deficiencies and make sure you test your soil, feed and WATER
- Determine the benefits and costs in your situation.
- Remember: Technology is a tool to make your life & work EASIER



Example 2 – Telemetry

- Telemetry is the in situ collection of measurements or other data at remote points and their automatic transmission to receiving equipment (telecommunication) for monitoring.
- There are many different types of telemetry available – do your research!
- We currently have 9 sites using a point to point wi-fi connection which has saved us an average of 500km of driving every week.
- It has reduced our stress, especially when we're away from the station.



Take home messages

- Do your research – ask other producers their experiences.
- Get help – animal nutritionists, farm business consultants, IT professionals all will help you make the right decisions for the right reasons.
- There are A LOT of different products on the market that may fix your problem – check, double check and then check again to make sure you're choosing the right product or combination for your unique circumstances.
- Start small & scale up.
- Don't be afraid to look outside the pastoral industry for solutions & inspiration.

Tools and resources

- Free to use & HEAPS of resources, practical information & backed by industry research

www.mla.com.au

www.wool.com

www.futurebeef.com.au

- www.farminstitute.org.au for the 'Big Picture' policy issues
- Premium service (pay per view or membership) Kondindin Group
www.farmingahead.com.au
- Twitter www.twitter.com instantly reach farmers from around the world & get an opinion on just about anything.

