



## Travel & Training Bursary Report

**FFN member:** Rachel Hoolihan, QLD

**Event:** EDGENetwork – Nutrition Edge workshop, Longreach QLD – November 2014

My name is Rachel Hoolihan and I am an employee of the Australian Agricultural Company, within the graduate program. In November 2014, I attended an EDGENetwork - Nutrition Edge workshop in Longreach. The workshop was facilitated by a leading industry nutrition, reproduction and management expert, Ms Désirée Jackson. EDGENetwork is a joint initiative by Meat and Livestock Australia, Queensland Government, Northern Territory Government, and Department of Agriculture and Food.

The Nutrition EDGE program was a tailored workshop, designed to equip individuals with the ability to make decisions which will ultimately help to achieve herd performance. In addition meeting targets through improved breeder fertility, weight gains, optimal use of supplements and overall management.

The three days were jam packed with technical data and information, with take home reference material and workshop notes, followed by a field session.

The major topics covered throughout the workshop include;

- Digestive system of ruminants and use of nutrients, intake and production
- Pasture growth and quality, and indicators & factors that affect them
- Grazing management and animal performance
- How to manage supply of nutrients from pasture to grazing animals
- Identifying mineral & vitamin deficiencies and how to manage for them
- Managing nutritional deficiencies
- Defining targets and options
- Supplementation and associated economics

The highlight for me was the breakdown of diet quality reporting and supplement labels, providing me with more confidence to assess new supplement products coming into the market. Given the vast dry seasonal conditions across much of Northern Australia, the importance of supplementation economics is vital and the workshop was an open and encouraging platform with participants readily prepared to share their personal/business situations and experiences to enhance learning and understanding.

I am very grateful and would like to thank the Future Farmers Network for the training and travel bursary which significantly contributed to associated costs in attendance. I would highly recommend the workshop to other members looking to refresh or gain new knowledge in the nutrition field.

Kind Regards,  
*Rachel Hoolihan*  
AACo. Graduate