The University Of Queensland
AUSTRALIA

CREATE CHANGE

# Gatton Farms

# Services Guide

## Collaborative and Innovative Solutions for Agricultural, Veterinary and Food Research

# Why work with UQ Gatton Farms?

## Innovative solutions

At Gatton Farms, we are committed to providing innovative solutions that cater to the evolving needs of agricultural research. With a strong focus on delivering practical, cutting-edge tools and methodologies, we support our clients in exploring new frontiers in agricultural science.

From advanced animal husbandry techniques to pioneering crop production methods, our goal is to facilitate breakthrough research that drives progress and industry advancements. We work closely with researchers to ensure their work is powered by the most relevant, forward-thinking solutions.

## Comprehensive support

We offer a full spectrum of expert support to help your research run smoothly from start to finish. Our team of skilled professionals is dedicated to assisting with every aspect of your project, from planning and design to implementation and analysis.

Whether you require assistance with animal handling, crop trials, or irrigation management, our experts are here to provide hands-on support. With access to both the resources of The University of Queensland and our industry connections, Gatton Farms offers a collaborative environment that enables your research to thrive.

## Ideal environment

The fertile Lockyer Valley offers an ideal setting for research, with a subtropical climate featuring long, hot summers and mild temperate winters.

This unique environment supports both dryland and irrigated studies, making it perfect for research into crop production, irrigation, and soil management.

Its transitional climate also makes it valuable for work spanning both temperate and tropical conditions—allowing us to support a wide range of crop and livestock systems. With 780mm of annual rainfall, the region is productive and reliable for year-round agricultural experimentation.

## Extensive machinery and facilities

Gatton Farms is equipped with an impressive range of facilities and machinery designed to support a variety of agricultural research needs. From cutting-edge tractors and harvesters to precision irrigation systems and automated animal feeding tools, we provide access to the latest technology to achieve efficiency and accuracy.

Our extensive infrastructure—including beef cattle, equine and small ruminant stock handling facilities, a dairy platform and a crop research platform—supports a broad range of studies and provides your research with access to the right resources, all within a framework that prioritises safety, animal welfare and ethical compliance.

## Connections

At Gatton Farms, we know successful research often depends on a strong network of experts.

If you need services or specialties beyond what we offer, we have trusted industry partners ready to assist. Whether it's agronomy, weed and irrigation advice, animal nutrition, or advanced equipment, we connect you with the right people.

We are committed to supporting your research by linking you with expertise and resources—both within and beyond our facilities.

Our team also collaborates closely with your experts to ensure a smooth, effective research experience.

## Diverse research areas

We support a broad range of agricultural, veterinary and food research areas, including livestock management, crop production, and sustainable farming practices. If your research area isn't listed in this guide, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

At Gatton Farms, we may just be able to accommodate your needs, even if it's not something we currently highlight.

Our infrastructure is adaptable, and we're always eager to collaborate with researchers exploring new fields and concepts within the agricultural, veterinary and food sciences. Whatever your area of focus, we're here to support your groundbreaking work.

# Our research areas

## Crops

- Crop variety trials
- Pest and disease management
- Chemical efficacy studies
- Fertiliser trials
- Water efficiency research
- Biofuel and carbon offset projects
- Continuous improvement of best management practice (BMP)

## Dairy cattle

- Feeding and stock management
- Animal health and welfare
- Milking and calf rearing
- Stock handling
- Reproductive research
- Monitoring and technology
- Controlled environment management and heat abatement

## Equine

- Breeding and foaling
- Behavioural studies and training
- Feed systems
- Vaccinations
- Post-rehabilitation services
- Recovery techniques

## Beef cattle

- Droughtmaster stud breed
- Disease resistance
- Breeding programs
- Environmental adaptation
- Water and feed efficiency
- Health and welfare
- Pasture management

## Small ruminants

- Sheep and goats
- Genetic and reproductive research
- Grazing studies and forage testing
- Sustainable farming practices
- Low-stress stock handling

50+ full time equivalent staff across the farms

1000+ animals cared for across campus

450 hectares of cropping fields

500 hectares of grazing pasture

1600 students based at Gatton

# Crops research

The Crop and Field Research Unit (CFRU) is designed to provide the resources and infrastructure needed for cutting-edge research and experimentation in crop production. Whether your focus is on grain farming, forage trials, or precision agriculture, our team is equipped to support a wide range of projects. Let us help bring your project to life with precision, efficiency, and high-quality data.

## Diverse research trials

FLEXIBLE FIELD RESEARCH

The CFRU accommodates both large field trials and small plot experiments, providing flexibility for diverse types of research. Our facilities allow for studies ranging from crop rotation and regenerative agriculture practices to irrigation trials, enabling comprehensive testing of variables such as water management, soil health, crop protection and crop variety.

## Planting and seeding

POWERED BY PRECISION

We offer programmable plot planters for both summer and winter crops, allowing precise and efficient sowing. Our equipment also includes cone seeders, broadcast systems, and no-till seeders for both pasture and crop planting, ensuring minimal soil disturbance and accurate planting depth.

## Hay making and forage

EFFICIENT SOLUTIONS

We support research in forage production and hay making with disc and sickle bar mower conditioners and baling equipment for both small and large square bales. These tools enable researchers to study different forage crops, hay quality, and harvesting techniques.

## Spraying and fertilisation

TARGETED CROP CARE

Our GPS-enabled sprayers (available in two, six, and 15-metre widths) ensure efficient and uniform application of fertilisers, pesticides, biostimulants and herbicides, essential for managing field trials and ensuring the accuracy of your results.

## Water and irrigation

OPTIMISED WATER MANAGEMENT

Our sophisticated irrigation systems, including drip, gravity T-tape, hand-shift lateral boom, and trickle systems, ensure that your crops receive optimal water distribution. We also offer access to a variety of water sources such as potable water, fresh creek water, and bores with low to medium EC, as well as recycled water for experiments that require specific water quality conditions.

## Harvesting equipment

ACCURATE YIELD MEASUREMENT

The CFRU is equipped with specialised harvesters, including the Zurn plot harvester for grain research and a forage plot harvester, both equipped with GPS for precise yield measurements and data collection.

## Precision tools

DIGITAL FARMING TECHNOLOGY

Our GPS-enabled tractors, plot harvesters, and drones are designed to enhance the accuracy of your research. Whether you are studying crop growth, yield, or soil conditions, our precision farming equipment offers the tools needed to gather highly accurate and actionable data. Our drone technology, including scouting and spraying drones, enables real-time monitoring and precise application of treatments across research plots.

## Ag apps and technology

CONNECTED CROP MANAGEMENT

We provide access to AgWorld, AgriWebb and CropX apps for remote crop monitoring and management, making it easier to track data, analyse trends, and manage trials efficiently.

## Contact the Crop and Field Research Unit

gatton.cropunit@uq.edu.au

## Resources, machinery and equipment

**IRRIGATION SYSTEMS**

- Drip irrigation
- Gravity T-tape
- Hand-shift
- Lateral boom
- Trickle systems
- Linear
- Centre pivots

**PLANTING AND SEEDING EQUIPMENT**

- Programmable plot planters (summer and winter crops)
- Cone seeders
- Broadcast systems
- No-till seeders (for pasture and crops)
- Conventional combine planters

**HARVESTING EQUIPMENT**

- Zurn plot harvester (grain, GPS-enabled)
- Forage plot harvester (GPS-enabled)

**HAY MAKING & FORAGE EQUIPMENT**

- Disc mower conditioners
- Sickle bar mower conditioners
- Baling equipment (small and large square bales)

**SPRAYING AND FERTILISATION**

- GPS-enabled sprayers (2m, 6m, and 15m widths)

**DIGITAL TOOLS**

- AgWorld, AgriWebb and CropX apps (for crop monitoring and management)

**PRECISION AGRICULTURAL TOOLS**

- GPS-enabled tractors
- GPS-enabled plot harvesters
- Drones (for scouting and spraying)

**VARIETY OF SOIL TYPES**

- Access to a variety of soil types, including heavy black high CEC clays and alluvial silty loams
- Enables research on crop growth, nutrient uptake, and overall productivity under different soil conditions
- Supports tailored studies into soil management, crop performance, and sustainable agricultural practices

# Dairy research

**At UQ Gatton Farms, our Dairy Unit offers comprehensive facilities and services designed for advanced research, teaching, and industry collaboration in dairy production. Located in the subtropical Lockyer Valley, our operations are supported by cutting-edge technology and expert staff to provide a dynamic environment for research and industry partnerships.**

## Industry collaboration

As a by-product of our teaching and research endeavours, the Dairy Unit produces over three million litres of milk annually. This milk is sold to Norco, the last Australian-owned milk cooperative, supporting local industry and contributing to the national dairy supply chain. Our operations benefit from a long-standing partnership with the Queensland Department of Primary Industries (formerly DAF), enhancing opportunities for applied research, innovation and extension.

## Water and irrigation

Our advanced irrigation systems ensure optimal pasture and feed crop growth, supporting both dryland and irrigated dairy operations.

## Feeding and stock management

From calf rearing to feeding mature cattle, we offer automated calf feeders and maintain lifetime data records for all animals to support efficient stock management.

## Animal health and welfare

Services include disbudding, vaccinations, and regular health checks, as well as the use of fistulated steers for research into digestion and feed trials.

## Effluent and manure management

We use sustainable practices like composting and effluent water management to reduce environmental impact and make the most of these valuable nutrient sources.

Students explore a research grazing trial, supporting dairy operations that test the best feed options for animal health and productivity.

## Milking and calf rearing

Our modern milking facilities and dedicated calf rearing sheds provide a hands-on environment for milking operations and livestock management research.

## Stock handling

Our dairy facilities are equipped with advanced stock handling infrastructure, including individual stalls and dedicated stock handling areas designed to ensure wellbeing and safety.

We prioritise low-stress stock handling techniques to ensure that animals are managed in a humane and effective manner. This environment is ideal for research focused on animal behaviour, health, and welfare, allowing for detailed observation and data collection.

## Reproductive research

We provide comprehensive support for reproductive research, including breeding studies and artificial insemination trials. With expert staff and specialised equipment, we facilitate in-depth research into reproductive technologies and practices, helping to advance knowledge in animal breeding and genetics.

Whether you're studying genetic traits, breeding cycles, or reproductive health, our facilities offer the perfect environment for conducting high-level reproductive research.

## Monitoring and technology

With geo collars and individual cow monitoring systems, we enable precise data collection on animal health, behaviour, and performance for your research projects.

## Environmental adaptability

Situated in the subtropical Lockyer Valley, UQ Gatton Farms benefits from a climate that spans both temperate and tropical conditions. This diversity allows us to simulate and study a wide range of environmental variables—from seasonal feed responses to climate adaptation strategies.

Our facilities are equipped to monitor, measure and adjust environmental factors such as temperature, humidity, soil moisture and pasture growth, creating controlled research conditions across varying scenarios. This adaptability gives researchers the tools to conduct relevant, regionally informed studies with real-world applications.

## Comprehensive trial support

Whether researching broadacre cropping, silage storage, or pasture-based feeding, our facilities and equipment are tailored for a wide variety of dairy research trials.

## Beef calf rearing

UQ Gatton raises non-replacement calves as beef animals, providing an alternative model that supports animal welfare and delivers valuable research and teaching outcomes.

This program contributes to our broader goals in ethical livestock management, while offering students practical experience in integrated dairy–beef production systems.

**UQ Gatton offers advanced technology and sustainable facilities to support research partners driving innovation in dairy production, animal welfare, and industry progress.**

## At a glance

3 million litres of milk produced annually

850 dairy cows (milking and beef)

Holstein-Friesian, Brown Swiss & milking Gyr breeds

Geo collars track cows individually

Supplied to major co-op Norco

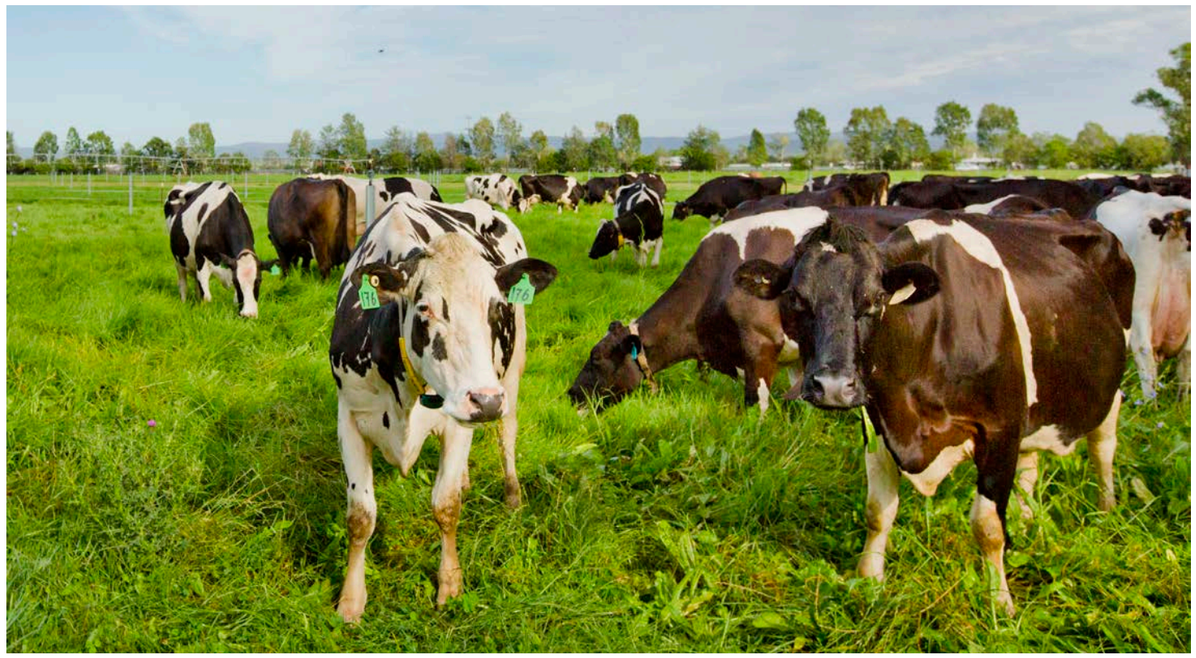
Tailored total mixed ration feeding and grazing

Large-scale on-site feeding facilities

Research projects to improve innovation

## Contact the Dairy Unit

gatton.dairyunit@uq.edu.au



# Dairy operations

## Infrastructure

- 14-a-side double-up rapid-exit herringbone dairy for efficient milking operations.
- Purpose-built calf rearing shed with capacity for up to 85 calves.
- Feeding infrastructure includes five 500t concrete silage pits, 8000t silage buns, a three-bay commodity shed (27t per bay), two feed pads for 340 cows, and shade structures providing adequate space per cow.

## Herd

- Approximately 450 Holstein-Friesian (82%), Brown Swiss (5%), HF × BS crossbreeds (10%) and milking Gyr cross (3%), including milkers and dry cows.
- 220-250 heifers maintained as replacement stock for herd sustainability.

## Production

- Producing approximately three million litres of milk annually, all supplied to Norco, Australia's last major dairy co-operative
- Average production is 8,500 litres per cow, with milk solids of 4.0% fat and 3.3% protein.

Geo collars use GPS technology to track individual movements, providing researchers with detailed insights into behaviour, grazing patterns, and health.

## Calving pattern

- Seasonal calving from January to October.
- Strategic use of sexed semen for elite cows, conventional for mid-tier, and beef semen for the lower tier, with Holstein and Droughtmaster bulls used for clean-up.

## Irrigation

- 600ML of on-campus water storage, including overland flow, recycled water (150ML), and bore access.
- Infrastructure includes 16ha of solid set, 3 lateral booms (12, 30, 35ha), and 2 centre pivots (15, 35ha).

## Labour

- A dedicated team of staff manage daily operations across the dairy, calf rearing, and feed systems.
- The team is equivalent to 8.5 full-time roles, each working a standard 36.25-hour week.

## Feeding system

- The dairy operates a total mixed ration (TMR) feeding system, with rations fed twice daily to support consistent intake and performance.
- Rations include homegrown silage, cereal grains, protein meals, lucerne hay, and mineral supplements, balanced for fibre, starch, sugars, and crude protein.
- Grain and protein meals are forward-purchased and processed through a computerised disc mill. A mixer wagon blends rations for feed pad delivery.

## Forage production

- The dairy's forage program supports year-round feeding with a mix of permanent and seasonal crops. Permanent pastures are predominantly kikuyu-based, over-sown with annual ryegrass during the cooler months to maintain productivity.
- Annual grazing crops such as ryegrass/clover mixes, forage oats, forage barley, lablab, and forage sorghum are grown to complement the pasture base. Lucerne is cultivated for both hay and silage, providing a high-quality fibre source.
- Silage crops include corn and forage sorghum during summer and wheat and barley in winter. This diverse cropping system allows flexibility in feed planning and ensures consistent supply of homegrown feed for the herd.

## Fertiliser management

- Nutrient plans developed via soil testing with an agronomist.
- Applications include both synthetic fertiliser and organic manure/compost on pastures and cropping areas.

## Nutritional management

- Herd is grouped by production stage: milking, heifers, dry cows, and dairy beef
- Milking herd is further divided into transition, fresh, and late lactation groups
- Diets are tailored to each group and reviewed monthly or when feed ingredients change

## Contact the Dairy Unit

gatton.dairyunit@uq.edu.au

# Equine capabilities

The Equine Unit provides world-class facilities and expert support for equine research, making it an ideal location for studies on breeding, nutrition, behaviour, and performance.

- Around 87 UQ horses cared for on campus
- Breeding prized Australian Stockman horses
- A 12-horse walker
- Stables & sheds designed for precise handling
- Rehabilitation and agistment offers available
- Adjacent hospital provides advanced care

## Facilities

EQUINE-READY ENVIRONMENT

With purpose-built stables, yards, and pastures, researchers can study a wide range of equine topics, from breeding and foaling to behavioural studies and training. Our breeding shed, indoor crushes, treatment rooms and stocks are set up for precise handling, making it easier to focus on research without compromising animal welfare.

## Breeding program

HORSES WITH HEART

UQ Gatton breeds its own horses to support teaching, research, and practical handling experience. Carefully selected for temperament and physical suitability, our horses are raised in a research-informed environment that prioritises health, soundness, and manageability.

## Horse sales

FROM PADDOCK TO PUBLIC

Each year, we offer a select number of horses for sale through our annual sale program. These horses are typically bred and trained on site, making them well-suited for riding, competition, or further education. Sales are promoted to the equine industry and public, with proceeds reinvested into teaching and research.

## Equine Hospital

ON-SITE SPECIALIST CARE

Adjacent to the Equine Unit, the UQ VETS Equine Specialist Hospital provides access to one of Australia's leading veterinary facilities.

With advanced diagnostic and surgical capabilities, the hospital supports high-level clinical research and collaboration across areas such as lameness, performance medicine, internal medicine, physiotherapy, surgery, ophthalmology and sports horse rehabilitation.

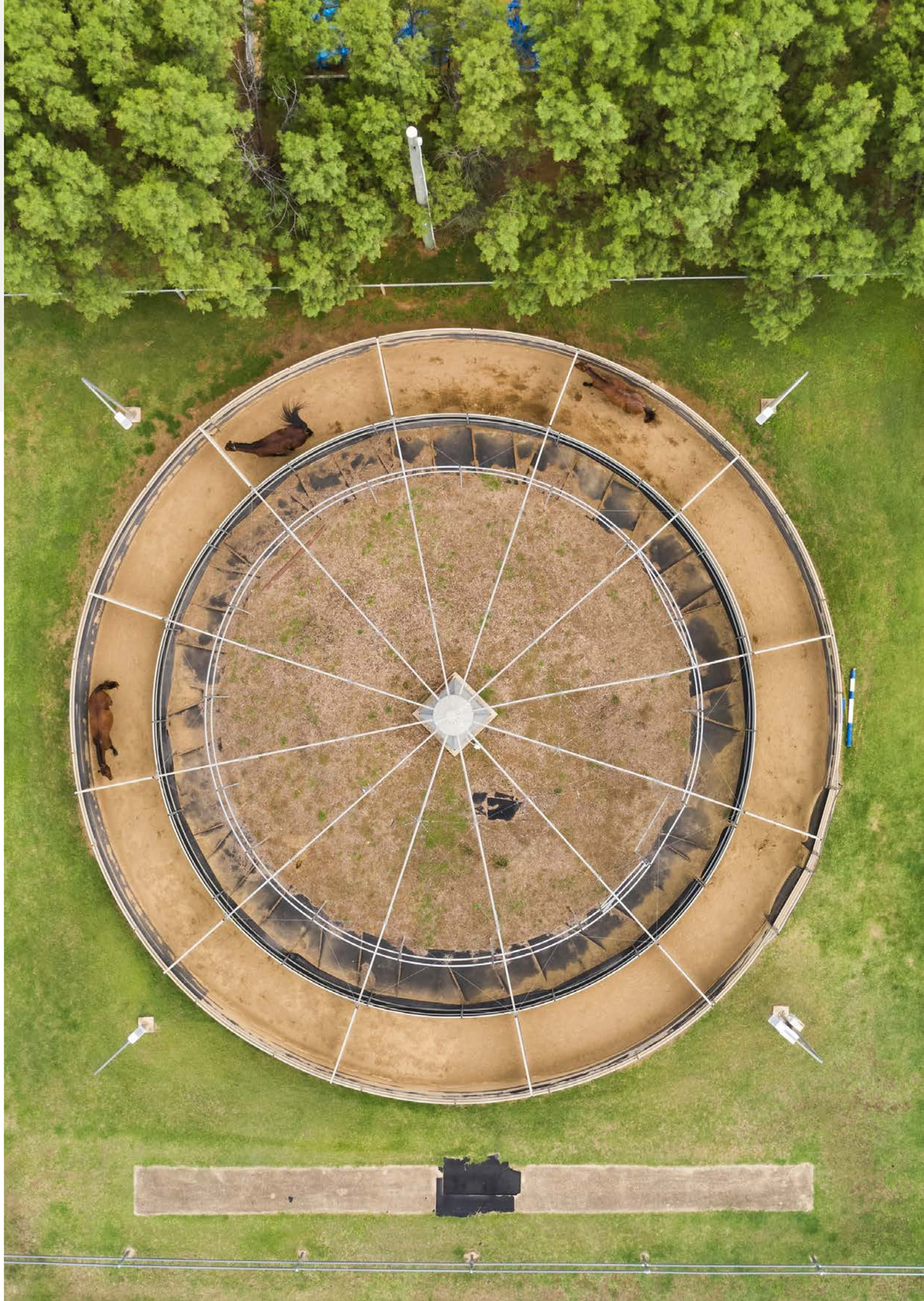
## Research support

BACKED BY EXPERIENCE

Whether you are conducting non-invasive behavioural studies or testing new feed systems, our experienced team can support your project with expert handling, data collection, and day-to-day animal care.

## Contact the Equine Unit

gatton.equineunit@uq.edu.au



# Equine agistment and rehabilitation services

**In addition to supporting cutting-edge equine research, the Equine Unit also offers professional agistment and rehabilitation services—providing expert care for horses recovering from injury, transitioning between work phases, or requiring specialised support in a safe, university-led environment.**

| Benefits | |
|---|---|
| **Priority intake availability** | Secure space for 10+ horses each intake period |
| **Cost-effective packages** | Single weekly fee covers feed, checks & reporting |
| **Individualised care plans** | Every horse receives tailored feeding and management based on its needs and history |
| **Trusted by industry** | Developed in collaboration with leading figures across racing, breeding and equestrian sport |
| **Transparent updates** | Monthly condition score, weight, photo & vet summary |
| **Veterinary expertise on-site** | Access to one of Australia's leading equine specialist hospitals if extra care is needed |
| **Farrier services on site** | UQ's expert farriers are world renowned, teaching the next generation of this important profession |
| **Experienced, dedicated team** | Specialist horse carers manage day-to-day care, taking the stress out for you |
| **Education in action** | Your horse contributes to hands-on learning for UQ veterinary and animal science students |
| **Biosecurity assured** | Facility follows strict protocols to protect horse health at all times |
| **Low-stress environment** | Calm, spacious setting with 80 hectares of improved pasture to support mental and physical wellbeing |
| **Future-ready horses** | Graduates leave fit, calm & prepared for retrainers |

Horses at UQ Gatton benefit from expert farrier care through UQ Skills' on-campus training program, delivered by nationally accredited instructors and supervised apprentice farriers.

## Contact the Equine Unit

gatton.equineunit@uq.edu.au

# Beef cattle industry research

**Partnering with UQ Gatton Farms and the Droughtmaster stud offers beef industry researchers access to a legacy of genetic excellence, cutting-edge facilities, and expertise in tropical beef cattle production.**

Darbalara Farm, located 10 kilometres from the main campus, spans 184 hectares and is home to UQ's Droughtmaster herd—one of the foundational breeding stocks for the Droughtmaster breed, now one of the largest tropical beef cattle breeds in northern Australia.

## Genetic excellence for research

UQ's Droughtmaster herd is a powerful resource for genetic research, with a long-standing reputation for innovation. Researchers can explore areas such as disease resistance, production traits, and environmental adaptation to enhance breeding programs and improve cattle resilience.

## Research facilities

The $1.7 million Darbalara Beef Cattle Teaching Facility is equipped with cattle yards and infrastructure designed to support advanced trials in cattle management, health monitoring, reproductive technologies, and feed management.

## Innovative research

UQ researchers at Darbalara are pioneering projects focused on enhancing cattle productivity, health, and welfare, including drone technology for pasture management, electronic monitoring systems, and precision agriculture techniques.

Research clients can develop and test these innovations for commercial application.

The Droughtmaster herd offers real-world applications in areas such as breeding for disease resistance, cattle handling for production efficiency, precision livestock management, and sustainability initiatives focusing on water and feed efficiency.

## Support and infrastructure

Darbalara provides seamless access to infrastructure like cattle yards, grazing land, advanced irrigation, and high-tech precision monitoring equipment. These resources support field trials, genetic studies, and production research, ensuring high-quality outcomes for beef industry clients.

## Bull sales

The UQ Droughtmaster herd is renowned for its long-standing genetic integrity and performance. Carefully managed and continuously improved through science-led breeding programs, the herd offers valuable opportunities for both researchers and commercial beef producers.

Each year, a select group of well-grown, vet-checked, semen-tested bulls is offered for sale. These bulls are selected based on key traits including temperament, reproductive performance, commercial soundness, and genetic merit—ensuring they meet a wide range of breeding objectives. Having been regularly handled as part of UQ's teaching programs, they are generally mild-mannered and accustomed to human interaction.

UQ's bull sales provide an excellent opportunity to enhance herd productivity, improve disease resistance, and drive genetic gain within commercial operations.

## Monitoring and technology

Darbalara incorporates innovative technology to support precision livestock research and management. This includes GPS-enabled geo collars and individual cow monitoring systems that track animal health, behaviour, and performance in real-time.

These technologies enable high-resolution data collection that supports in-depth research into animal welfare, grazing patterns, reproductive performance, and more—providing clear insights that inform better decision-making across the beef industry.

## Our edge in beef cattle research and production

60 breeders + replacement Droughtmaster cattle on campus

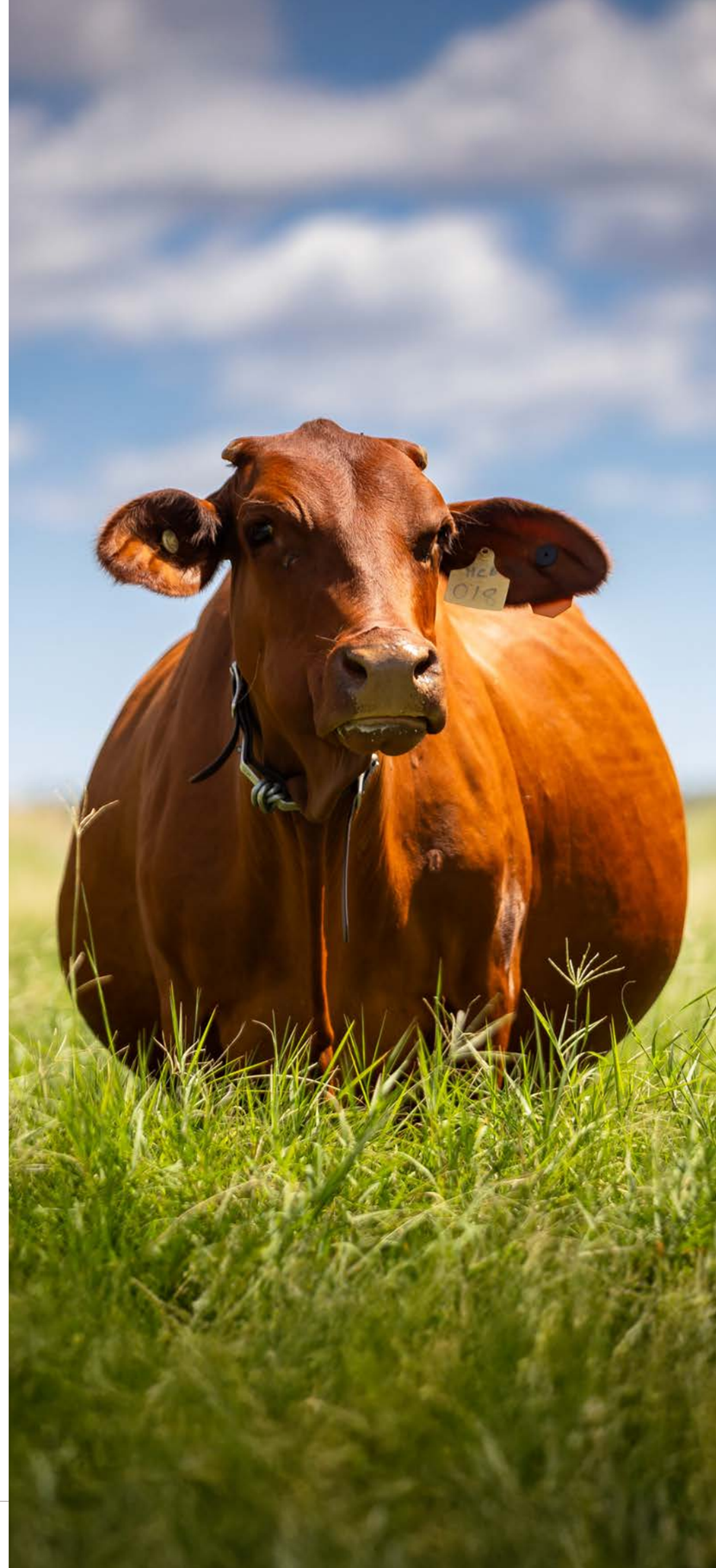
A foundational breeding herd for the Droughtmaster breed

185 hectares of irrigated and dryland pastures with temperate to tropical climates

$1.7 million research and teaching facility

## Contact the Grazing Unit

gatton.grazingunit@uq.edu.au



# Sheep research

**Our Small Ruminant Unit provides an ideal environment for research into sheep management, animal welfare, and sustainable farming practices. Whether you are working on genetics, nutrition, parasite or disease control, or behaviour studies, our facilities are designed to support a wide range of research needs.**

## Livestock

GENETICS IN FOCUS

Our diverse flock includes 160 sheep, comprising of ewes, wethers, and nine specialised rams—featuring Merinos, White Suffolks, and four crossbreed sires for reproduction research. This carefully selected genetic mix offers a rich resource for research in breeding, genetics, animal health, and production performance.

What truly sets us apart is our team of expertly trained rams used for semen collection, elevating the unit's capacity to deliver cutting-edge genetic and reproductive studies. With this unique combination of quality livestock and advanced reproductive technology, our unit provides an exceptional platform for driving innovation and achieving outstanding research outcomes.

## Research opportunities

PURPOSE-BUILT FACILITIES

Our Small Ruminant Unit is equipped with high-quality infrastructure designed to support a wide range of research activities.

The shearing shed is fitted with industry-standard equipment, while the combi clamp and drafting race enable efficient handling and data collection for individual animals.

These facilities create ideal conditions for studies into wool quality, parasite resistance, animal behaviour, and overall productivity.

Beyond the yards, our irrigated paddocks and well-managed pastures support forage trials, grazing studies, and research into sustainable livestock systems. Whether you're working on genetics, nutrition, or welfare, our purpose-built environment ensures your research is backed by practical, flexible, and professional-grade facilities.

## Animal welfare

CARING FOR LIVESTOCK

Our dedicated team is expertly trained in low-stress stock handling, prioritising animal wellbeing at every stage to ensure your research is conducted under the highest ethical standards. With routine and thorough welfare checks built into daily operations, you can concentrate fully on your scientific work knowing the animals are cared for with compassion and professionalism.

Additionally, our facilities provide a unique opportunity to study parasite management using drench-resistant barber's pole worm strains—an invaluable resource for cutting-edge research in parasite resistance.

Complemented by on-site support staff and convenient vehicle access, we offer seamless logistics to keep your projects running smoothly and efficiently.

160 sheep cared for on campus

Merinos and White Suffolk x Merino sires

Shearing shed, undercover and fully powered drafting race and combi clamp

Solar panels provide shade for grazing paddocks

Team trained in low stress stock handling

## Contact the Small Ruminant Unit

gatton.grazingunit@uq.edu.au

# Goat research

**Our facilities support innovative research into all aspects of goat production, from reproductive efficiency and feed conversion to welfare and health management. With flexible infrastructure and experienced staff, the Small Ruminant Unit offers an adaptable and well-resourced environment for both intensive and extensive goat research projects.**

## Livestock

HEALTHY HERD

Our herd of 54 Boer goats, featuring 31 breeding does and 23 replacement does, provides a robust and versatile population ideal for cutting-edge research in goat breeding, nutrition, and health.

Renowned worldwide for their rapid growth, high fertility, and exceptional adaptability, Boer goats are a meat-focused breed originally developed in South Africa, prized for their hardiness and excellent carcass quality.

Carefully managed to ensure genetic diversity and herd vitality, this group offers researchers the flexibility to explore a wide range of studies aimed at improving productivity and animal welfare.

With our well-established herd and expert support, you'll have the perfect foundation to advance innovative goat research and deliver impactful results.

## Research opportunities

INNOVATIVE SPACES

With full predator-resistant fencing around the entire paddock and fully powered goat yards, our facilities provide a secure and flexible environment ideal for experimenting with a wide range of breeding systems, varied feed types, and innovative management practices. These controlled conditions enable researchers to fine-tune strategies that enhance both productivity and animal welfare.

In addition, our shared teaching space and versatile combi clamp offer exceptional setups for hands-on research into animal handling, behaviour, and welfare assessment. Together, these facilities combine practical functionality with advanced technology to create a comprehensive research environment that supports both scientific discovery and real-world application.

## Animal welfare

DEDICATED TEAM

Our skilled team employs low-stress handling techniques that prioritise goat wellbeing throughout every stage, ensuring your research meets the highest ethical standards.

Regular welfare assessments are integrated into daily care routines, so you can focus on your research with confidence that the animals receive compassionate and professional attention.

Our facilities also support advanced studies in parasite control, including work with drench-resistant barber's pole worm strains—providing a valuable platform for innovative research in parasite management.

With dedicated on-site support and easy vehicle access, we facilitate smooth project delivery and effective collaboration.

54 goats cared for on campus

Boer breed built for resilience and performance

High fertility rates with frequent twinning

Fully powered undercover goat yards with combi clamp

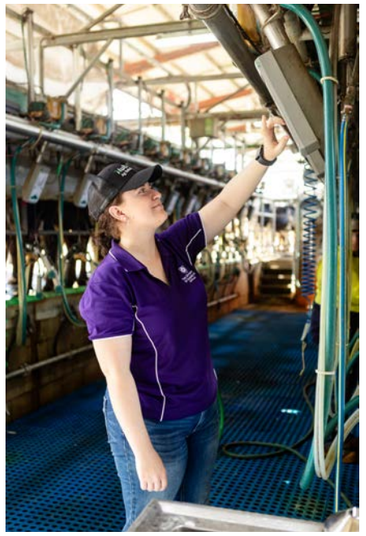
Advantage creep feeder improves nutrition delivery for kids

## Contact the Small Ruminant Unit

gatton.grazingunit@uq.edu.au

# Next-generation **infrastructure**

Our Darbalara teaching facility gives students access to modern, practical spaces for animal handling and livestock education.

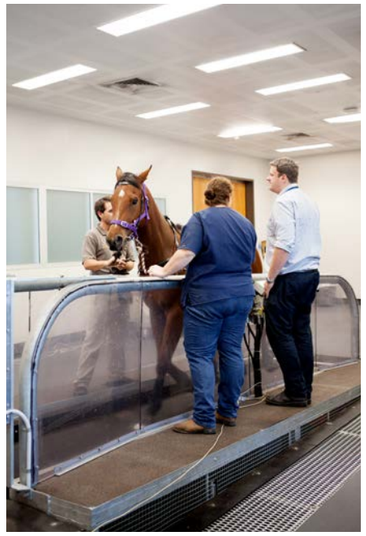


The fully operational dairy milking parlour features advanced, commercial-grade equipment that supports efficient milking, animal welfare and data collection.

Equipped with GPS and precision agriculture tools, our machinery fleet support commercial farming operations across the campus.

Our state-of-the-art glasshouses provide controlled conditions for plant research and teaching, supporting innovation in crop production and biosecurity.

Drones support everything from crop monitoring to mapping, giving students and researchers hands-on experience with precision ag technology.



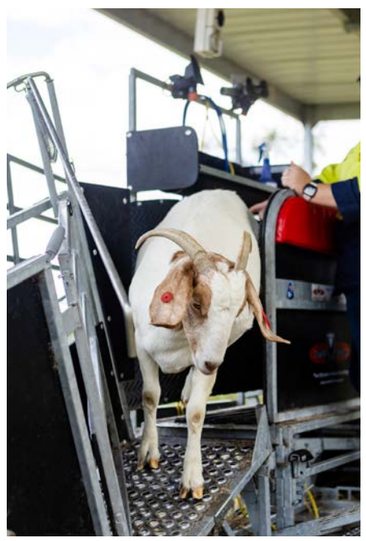
UQ's equine specialist hospital and veterinary clinic at Gatton campus support our research teams with advanced care for livestock animals.

Advanced irrigation systems enable precise water management for research and teaching, promoting sustainable and efficient agricultural practices.

Our horse facilities—including walkers, stables, and training areas—provide a supportive environment for care, rehabilitation, learning, and research.

Sheep grazing beneath solar panels demonstrate innovative integrated farming systems that boost sustainability and land use efficiency.

Our dairy feed pads provides a controlled setting for research and training in cattle nutrition, health, and sustainable feeding practices.



Our facilities support small ruminant research with controlled environments and efficient feed storage advancing welfare and nutrition management.

These netted structures support research and teaching in horticulture, providing secure and controlled environments for high-value crop production.

# Connections

At UQ Gatton Farms, we understand that research needs vary widely—there's no one-size-fits-all approach.

Gatton Farms is part of a broader network of UQ research infrastructure, offering pathways for collaboration, innovation, and practical support across multiple disciplines.

If your project requires specialised expertise or facilities beyond what we provide, our team can connect you with the right partners across the University.

Contact us to discuss your research goals and we'll help you find the best teams and facilities to support your work.

## School of the Environment

Focuses on ecosystem management, conservation, and sustainable natural resource use.

Ideal for projects related to environmental impact and biodiversity.

Located at St Lucia campus with wildlife teaching and research components at Gatton campus.

## School of Agriculture and Food Sustainability

Leading research in crop production, soil health, and sustainable farming practices to support resilient food systems.

Located at UQ Gatton and St Lucia campuses.

## School of Veterinary Science

Provides expertise in animal health, welfare, and clinical research to support livestock and companion animal studies.

Located at UQ Gatton campus.

## Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation (QAAFI)

A world-class research institute based at Gatton Campus specialising in agricultural innovation, crop improvement, and biosecurity.

## Collaborative Research Platforms (CRPs)

CRPs are shared research facilities that bring together specialised equipment, infrastructure, and technical expertise to support collaborative projects across the University of Queensland and with industry partners.

### Queensland Animal Science Precinct (QASP)

Focuses on advanced animal science research, including nutrition, genetics, and health management across livestock species.

Located at UQ Gatton campus.

### Drones CRP

Supports precision agriculture, crop monitoring and livestock research.

Utilised by Gatton Farms team for practical applications.

### Plant Growth CRP

Extends beyond Gatton, integrating research from controlled environment facilities such as glasshouses

Enables research in crop performance, plant physiology and environment management.

# From the Director

**At UQ Gatton, we're proud to offer more than just outstanding facilities—we offer a community dedicated to supporting your research from concept to completion. Whether you need help coordinating events, navigating compliance requirements, or connecting with local industry, our team is here to make it happen. With access to expert operational support and strong ties to the agricultural community, Gatton is a place where ideas grow and research makes a real-world impact. We look forward to supporting your journey.**

As Campus Director, I'm incredibly proud of the teams we have here at Gatton Campus. Our farm staff are some of the most skilled and dedicated people you'll meet. They bring deep industry knowledge, professionalism, and practical expertise to everything they do—whether it's supporting research trials, managing livestock and cropping operations, or maintaining the specialised infrastructure that underpins this campus. They work closely with researchers, students, and industry partners every day, and are always willing to share their knowledge and experience to help your project succeed.

That spirit of support extends right across campus. From admin and events staff to operations and compliance, everyone here is committed to making your time at Gatton smooth, productive, and enjoyable.

## Gatton campus facilities

The University of Queensland Gatton Campus is more than just a research hub—it's a vibrant, fully equipped environment designed to help you focus on what matters most. From purpose-built labs and trial sites to industry-grade infrastructure and hands-on support, we've created a space where research can thrive.

**Susan Frost**
Campus Director
UQ Gatton

## Amenities

With cafés, medical services, and childcare on site, you'll have everything you need to maintain a healthy work–life balance while conducting your research. You'll also have access to the sports centre and pool to help you stay active, refreshed, and focused throughout your time on campus.

## Convenient services

Whether you need access to libraries, transportation, or office space, Gatton has the services in place to support your work. Our security, post office, and concierge services ensure a safe and seamless experience every step of the way, so you can concentrate on your research with confidence.

## Collaboration and community

Collaboration is at the heart of everything we do at Gatton. Our strong culture of teamwork and shared purpose brings together researchers, industry partners, teaching staff, and professional teams across the campus. Whether you're here for a short-term project or a long-term research partnership, you'll find a welcoming community ready to support your goals, share insights, and celebrate progress together.

## Location and environment

Located in the Lockyer Valley, one of Australia's most productive agricultural regions, UQ Gatton offers a unique environment where research is grounded in real-world challenges and opportunities. The rural setting provides access to large-scale field sites, commercial livestock herds, and crop trials, while still being within easy reach of Brisbane and Toowoomba. It's the best of both worlds—space to work, and the connections to drive your research forward.

## Success stories and impact

Over the years, Gatton has been the starting point for countless successful research collaborations, industry innovations, and student-led projects. From breakthroughs in animal nutrition to advances in crop management and sustainable farming practices, the impact of work done on campus extends across Australia and beyond. We're proud of the role Gatton plays in shaping the future of agriculture, animal science, and environmental sustainability.

## Contact the Director's Office

gatton.eso@uq.edu.au

THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND
AUSTRALIA

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# Contact Us

## Location

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