

New videos shed a light on horticulture exports

Four new [video producer stories](#) have been released to help agribusinesses improve their understanding of how to export horticulture produce and become 'export ready'.

The main message to producers is—exporting horticulture products is achievable and should be considered as part of the business strategy.

Hear about:

- [Wallaroo Produce](#) (kabocha)
- CJZ Farms (cauliflower, broccoli and celery)
- [Sunnyspot Packhouse](#) (avocados)
- [Sunny Spot Farm](#) (blueberries and grapes)
- [Moffatt Fresh Produce](#) (carrots, onions, celery, beetroot), awarded the [2021 Queensland and Australian Horticulture Exporter of the Year](#).



Picture: Bronwyn Ford, DAF, is pictured with Calvin Zischke from CJZ Farms

COVID-19 update

Critical workers

To ensure the continued supply of essential goods and services to the community, some critically essential workers can now provide essential services even while classified as close contacts, provided they are fully vaccinated and asymptomatic and can meet the necessary requirements.

Employers should self-assess whether their organisation or business falls under the narrow list of critical industries. Then they should identify the roles within their organisation that are critical, and follow the process and use the 'Critical worker list template' found in Resources on our [Critically essential roles and business continuity planning eHub](#), to notify the Queensland Government.

Vaccine boosters

People aged 18 years and over are now eligible for their [COVID-19 booster](#) four months after receiving their second vaccine dose. You can book or walk in to get your vaccination or booster at any [Queensland Health COVID-19 vaccination clinic](#), or you can check the [Vaccine Clinic Finder](#) to find an approved General Practice (GP) or pharmacy to visit.



Disaster funding

Wide Bay-Burnett

Eligible primary producers impacted by the recent unprecedented rainfall from ex-Tropical Cyclone Seth across the Wide Bay-Burnett region can access [Category B assistance](#).

If your primary production business has suffered impacts, you can report damage to the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries on 13 25 23 or to your local industry group.

AgForce is collecting information from producers using an [online map](#), which provides access to a survey where producers can report the flood extent on their property, animal welfare concerns and damage assessment. These reports will help determine the need for additional assistance to support the recovery needs of the impacted communities.

Individuals who have suffered significant damage from the floods outside of the activated areas are able to apply for an [Individual Disaster Stricken Property \(IDSP\) declaration](#).

If you engage with farmers in the Wide Bay Region who are hit by drought or floods and find yourself in the role of 'counsellor', you may wish to attend the free, online **Accidental Counsellor Foundations** workshop hosted by Bundaberg Fruit & Vegetable Growers on 24 February. [Register now](#).

Central, southern and western Queensland

Category D [Recovery Grants of up to \\$50,000](#) are available for eligible primary producers in activated local governments in Central, southern and western Queensland to help with clean-up and repairs.

[Recovery Grants of up to \\$25,000](#) are also available for eligible small businesses in the Goondiwindi Regional Council area.

Assistance is being provided through the jointly funded [Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements \(DRFA\)](#). For more information on grants and concessional loans visit grida.qld.gov.au or free call 1800 623 946. For information on natural disaster freight subsidies, contact DAF at info@daf.qld.gov.au or call 13 25 23.



Mouldy mungbean mystery solved

Our plant pathologist Lisa has cracked the case in a 60-year mungbean mildew mystery.

Powdery mildew has been present in Australia for at least six decades, but the cause of the disease has remained a mystery until now.

As part of her PhD studies with the University of Southern Queensland, [Lisa identified two culprits in this crop disease](#).

We'll now work with Queensland growers to choose the most suitable varieties to grow and manage crop rotations to minimise the spread of disease.

Mungbean has an export value to Australia of more than \$100 million and is mainly grown in Queensland and Northern New South Wales.



Get a taste of agritourism in 2022

Looking to expand your farm's offerings? Maybe you could offer visitors a 'pick-your-own' fruit and veg experience, or take them on farm tours to meet your animals?

Agritourism is growing in Queensland, providing farmers with other income streams while giving farm visitors great experiences and memories.

Join us for an agritourism development workshop where you will:

- make new connections with successful agritourism operators and hear their stories
- share and explore ideas, identify opportunities and barriers, and gain an understanding of your regulatory obligations
- develop your own 100-day plan with your next steps mapped out.

Find out if you're '[agritourism-ready](#)' for the 2022 workshops.



Weeding out plant pests to unlock potential new crop

We've made [an exciting discovery](#) that will help us control weeds in pigeonpea and minimise crop production losses.

There's great potential for pigeonpea production in Queensland, but up until now it's been limited due to lack of knowledge around effective weed control.

This new breakthrough will be a gamechanger, providing a major opportunity to capitalise on global markets for healthy, trusted and sustainable plant-based protein.

Our researchers experimented with agronomy techniques in Kingaroy and Emerald, and identified safe-to-use herbicides, to deliver this win for Queensland.

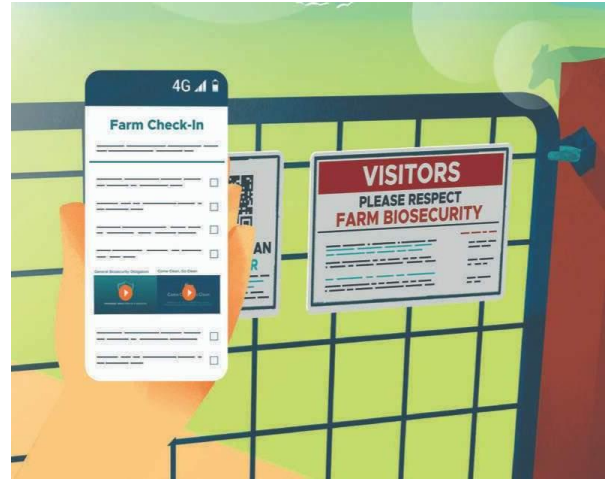


Visitors can 'check-in' on your farm

The [Farm Check-In tool](#) is now available to assist visitors with [managing biosecurity risks](#) whilst on your property.

By encouraging visitors to 'check-in', it will help them recognise potential biosecurity threats, undertake practices to minimise risks, and acknowledge they are meeting their general biosecurity obligation.

Signage with a QR code is available and can be downloaded from our website. By scanning the QR code, it will direct visitors to a form which features prompts, links and videos to assist them with practicing good biosecurity while on your property.



STEM students investigate food for the future

How do we feed the planet in the year 2050? Using small grant funding from the Queensland Government, Ferny Grove State High School will invest in a Grow Chamber allowing students to grow produce on site for their student café and engage with local rural food producers.

The Grow Chamber's lighting, humidity and carbon dioxide levels can be controlled, allowing students to optimise food production using less resources than traditional farming methods. It will be a valuable tool used to connect STEM learning and help students see the potential of agriculture as a STEM career.

Ferny Grove SHS is a participant in the [Agribusiness Gateway to Industry Program](#) and applied for grant funding of up to \$10,000 for projects that support agriculture studies in schools.



Destination Food coming to Bundaberg

[Destination Food 2022](#) will hit Bundaberg this coming February. It's an event for people working in, or with an interest in, food tourism, including tour operators, restaurateurs, primary producers, agritourism operators, tourism destinations and tourism consultants.

It will create a space to network, share ideas and inspire you to take marketing and development of culinary experiences to the next level.

The exciting speaker program includes sustainable restaurateur Joost Bakker, media leaders Susannah George and Barbara Sweeney, and agritourism operator Tina McPherson from [Tinaberries](#).

To find out more about farm and food tourism in Queensland, visit [Taste farm life](#).

[Book for Destination Food 2022 now](#)



Independent Environmental Protection Agency for Queensland

Consultation is under way about the possible establishment of an independent Environmental Protection Agency for Queensland. [The consultation](#) seeks to understand the views and needs of the community and stakeholders about the future of environmental regulation in Queensland.

[The community survey](#) takes about five minutes to complete. The survey is supported by a [community summary publication](#), designed to help interested Queenslanders understand more about environmental regulation.

Consultation closes Sunday 6 February 2022.



Ag machinery purchasing guidance

Purchasing agricultural machinery can be a significant investment and agribusiness operators need to know their rights when a fault occurs.

The [ACCC](#) market [study into the agricultural machinery market](#) found that access to remedies when a fault occurs was a major concern for purchasers.

Consumer guarantees generally do not apply to agricultural machinery and this forces some purchasers to rely on manufacturer warranties, of which many have significant limitations and are often misunderstood by purchasers as a result.

The ACCC has developed [guidance materials](#) to assist



purchasers in understanding the differences between [warranties](#) and [consumer guarantees](#) to make an informed decision.

