

Around the grounds

GROWING PEANUTS WITH ANOTHER PURPOSE GRAIN AND GRAZE NORTH

Our Peanut Farming Services team is partnering with the CRC for Developing Northern Australia and CQ University, to test the use of the peanut crop as livestock feed. The project is evaluating different peanut varieties from our peanut breeding program. While these varieties have proven to be good nut producers, they also produce large amounts of biomass which can be used to feed livestock. This may provide two income streams for peanut growers – one from early season fodder and another when the peanuts mature to harvest. This will also provide improved feed security for the beef cattle industry in Northern Australia and greater opportunities to finish cattle for sale into higher value markets.

The trial commenced in January 2022 to test the timing of cutting biomass and determine its impact, if any, on the growth and yield of the peanut crop. Six trial locations were identified, four in Queensland – Emerald, Ayr, Tully, Georgetown – and two in the Northern Territory – Katherine and Douglas Daly.

The research includes direct participation of peanut growers in three overlapping stages to link growers with scientists, agronomists, economists and marketers and develop farm level decision support tools for both graziers and peanut growers. The overall project budget is just over \$3 million and will be completed by February 2025.



Isaac Cardillo, Research Assistant sampling peanut biomass in the CRCNA Dual Purpose Peanut Trials in Emerald, Queensland