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BEEFSPECS BOLSTERS BEEF INDUSTRY

Minister for Primary Industries Niall Blair has launched an innovative new tool to help beef producers predict retail yields and increase profitability during a visit to Glen Innes today.

“This tool is a great example of the fantastic work by the Department of Primary Industries to really help farmers meet market specification in their beef,” Mr Blair said.

“This new technology brings beef cattle production into the 21st century, changing the way producers assess their cattle and make management decisions.

“It’s a wonderful use of practical technology help farmers increase profitability, minimise losses and plan for the future and I congratulate everyone involved for all their innovation and hard work.”

Member for Northern Tablelands, Adam Marshall said: “This technology is a great example of the skills we have up in the Northern Tablelands and fantastic news for our local beef producers.”

Beefspects drafting tool was developed by the NSW Department of Primary Industries in partnership with the University of New England and Meat and Livestock Australia.

It uses a number of measurements as well as ground breaking 3D camera technology, developed in collaboration with University of Technology Sydney (UTS), with the cameras also providing a reliable estimate of muscle score.

Highly skilled Local Land Services staff also contributed their expertise in cattle assessment to assist in the 3D image development.

The 3D camera technology will increase the accuracy of estimating fat and muscle scores that can be entered into BeefSpecs to predict the best market options, improve compliance rates and the returns per kilogram produced.

BeefSpecs drafting tool combines the predictive powers of animal growth and body compositional models of empty body weight changes at all stages from birth to maturing to determine fat specifications.

BeefSpecs will increase profitability for the State’s beef industry, with non-compliance to market specifications significantly reducing carcass value on average from $34 to $67 per carcass.

To learn more about Beefspects visit www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/livestock/beef/appraisal