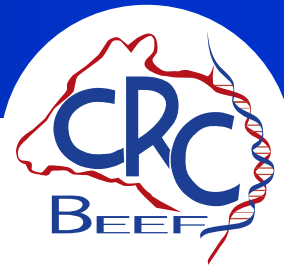


# Cooperative Research Centre for Beef Genetic Technologies

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## **Australian beef industry recognised as a leading example for the world**

Australia's beef industry and its Research and Development (R&D) are a leading example for the world's beef industry according to the Chilean Minister for Agriculture, Dr Alvaro Rojas.

Dr Rojas and representatives of the Chilean Ministries of Agriculture and Foreign Affairs, including the Chilean Ambassador to Australia and representatives of the World Trade Organisation visited the Beef Cooperative Research Centre (Beef CRC) to take a closer look at Australia's largest integrated beef research project.

"Australia is not just a model for Chile, but also the world," said Mr Rojas, "and we hope this trip can help us learn more about the industry as well as establishing trade and agency contacts."

According to the Minister, the beef industry is the latest agricultural boom in Chile.

"The 70s were forestry, in the 80s it was fruit, wine in the 90s and now Chilean agriculture has turned its focus to the beef industry," Mr Rojas said.

But unlike neighbouring South American beef industries, Mr Rojas said Chile would like to follow in Australia's footsteps and create a beef industry recognised for producing good quality beef rather than volume.

"We really acknowledge Australia's beef industry and we aim to adopt the same high level in our emerging cattle industry," said Dr Rojas.

Accompanied by the Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry the delegation toured the Beef CRC research facility, 'Tullimba' west of Armidale, after attending the recent Cairns Group meeting.



*Chilean Minister for Agriculture, Dr Alvaro Rojas and Chilean Ambassador, Mr Jose Luis Balmaceda with Beef Cooperative Research Centre CEO Dr Heather Burrow*



*The Chilean Government and industry delegation take a look at research underway at the Beef CRC research facility 'Tullimba'.*

The delegates were interested to learn more about the latest beef research underway by the Beef CRC, as well as investigating how the CRC Program is structured, funded and managed.

“The Federal Government’s CRC Program is regarded worldwide as a leading example of R&D and many countries are now looking to ‘borrow’ its framework. Chile has already moved down the lines of forming their own ‘consortium’ for the Chilean beef industry,” Dr Heather Burrow, Beef CRC Chief Executive Officer said.

“The Chilean beef industry is in a similar position to the Australian beef industry: both countries have relatively few cattle numbers compared to Brazil and Argentina, and neither country could compete with the rest of North or South America on a volume market. Hence, the Chilean group was very keen to learn how Australia had been able to successfully position itself as one of the world’s largest beef exporters.” Dr Burrow said.

“The Minister was also very interested in our current and past research and also our efforts and new approaches to encourage the beef industry to adopt new technologies.”

“But we should not be worried about Chile stealing all of our ideas or technologies,” said Dr Burrow. “At the moment Chile imports more beef than it exports, importing in excess of 120,000 tonnes of boneless beef per annum, including some beef from Australia. So potentially this interaction could expand our existing market for Australian beef,” she said.

Ends

For more information or media enquiries contact Warwick Fraser on (02) 6773 3795 or 0408 776 673.

\*The Cairns Group is a coalition of 18 agricultural exporting countries representing Latin America, Africa and the Asia-Pacific region. The Cairns Group is an influential voice in agricultural reform and is currently pressing for finalisation of the Doha Round of agriculture trade negotiations.

#### Editors note:

- **The Beef CRC is Australia’s largest integrated beef research program bringing together leading beef researchers from State Departments of Agriculture, CSIRO and universities throughout Australia with prestigious national and international beef industry partners and biotechnology businesses including Meat and Livestock Australia and Meat and Wool New Zealand.**
- **The world class research underway by the Beef CRC aims to increase profits for Australia’s cattle industry by at least \$179 million per annum from 2012.**
- **To do this, the Beef CRC is focusing on ‘gene discovery and gene expression’ which will create precision breeding strategies aimed at improving profitability for all sectors of the Australian beef industry - breeding, growing, finishing, processing and retailing.**



**World class science creating first class beef**

*Established and supported under the Australian Government’s Cooperative Research Centres Program*