

Introducing **nbryo** TECH AMBASSADOR

AT A GLANCE

# Jemalong Pastoral Company



Siblings, Maree Bielby, Russell & Greg Bachmann



900ha across two properties (owned & leased)



Irrigated improved pastures, 900mm rainfall p.a.



Fullblood Wagyu seedstock herd & Wagyu cross commercial herd (460 head)



Our core selection focus encompasses maternal traits, milk, carcase weight & homozygous polled genetics.

We want to be early adopters of the technology Nbryo has under development, including embryo multiplication & genomic screening.

We have females in the top one per cent of the breed for marble score so would like to increase their genetics through embryo multiplication to significantly change the dynamics of the herd.

*Maree Bielby & Russell Bachmann*



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IVF program



Lewis Frost

0447 583 124



Rebecca Arnott

0427 900 021



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# Introducing nbryo TECH AMBASSADOR



## Jemalong Pastoral Company Collaborating on innovations in genetic technology

A desire to be at the forefront of leading artificial breeding technologies with their cattle herd has led a Queensland Wagyu operation to be announced as a Nbryo Tech Ambassador.

Siblings, Maree Bielby, Russell and Greg Bachmann, operate Jemalong Pastoral Company across 900ha at Mutdapilly and Coominya.

The family consider themselves as early adopters of agtech and were quick to partner with the Tech Ambassador Program offered by Nbryo, a company introducing bio-digital and robotic technologies to produce high-quality embryos at scale.

Working with herds over a long-term partnership, the Nbryo Tech Ambassador Program gives participants early and priority access to the latest technology platform, the opportunity to accelerate genetic improvement within their herds at low cost and benchmark their breeding herd.

Jemalong has 460 Wagyu fullblood stud and F1 and F2 commercial breeders running on irrigated improved pastures in a 900mm rainfall zone.

The family wanted to breed their own quality fullblood bulls using cost effective artificial breeding technology and superior semen to boost their productivity and profitability. They investigated IVF, completing several programs, and visiting Nbryo's sister company, Nindooindah, for field days and shared learning.

When the Bachmanns heard about the Nbryo Tech Ambassador Program, they were quick to embrace it off the back of their Nindooindah experience.

They aim to breed elite replacement heifers, steers with superior carcase traits, increase their herd size to 500 fullbloods and build the Wagyu content of their commercial herd to around 250 F3 and purebreds.

Russell said the core selection focus encompasses maternal traits, milk, carcase weight and homozygous polled genetics. "Across the board with our breeders we are happy with the level of marbling in their EBVs (estimated breeding values) so we felt the best gain for us is improving those areas where we are below our target EBVs," he said.

Maree said the potential of increased trait selection accuracy using the Nbryo Platform cemented their collaboration with the Nbryo Tech Ambassador Program. "We want to be early adopters of the technology Nbryo has under development, including embryo multiplication and genomic screening," Maree said.

"These are of great interest to us. While they are not available now, they may be in 12 months' time, so we want to be on the front foot," Maree said. "We are supportive of the goal of reducing the costing around ET programs through the multiplication of the embryo. If you have a superior embryo and can turn that into five or 10 superior embryos, that is attractive to us as breeders."

Jemalong has completed two ovum pick-ups (OPUs) with the resulting 62 embryos implanted into recipient females. The Bachmanns achieved a high success rate for their first synchronisation program with Nbryo.

"The Nbryo team was very helpful with suggestions and easy to work with. The cattle were handled well and remained quiet, which is important to us," Maree said. "We had a lab set up on site for them and once the oocytes were removed, we took them straight to the lab. With the IVF, there were no pre-treatments or stimulations used on the donors for harvesting the oocytes, and that really appealed to us."



**Jemalong's Maree Bielby & Russell Bachmann with Nbryo's bovine reproduction specialist, Rodrigo Rodrigues. Photo: Rebecca Arnott**

Russell has found the knowledge base on the Nbryo website ideal for expert tips and advice on running IVF programs in a beef herd. "Nbryo has many creditable and skilled people behind their technology platform and to me it was a no brainer with nothing to lose compared to what we were doing previously. Once this new technology is developed, we will be positioned to take advantage of that," he said.

"The company's push to lowering the cost and simplifying the process around IVF and ET is worthwhile being involved with. It will give us the ability to sex embryos and select embryos free of genetic conditions."

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