



# Winter Pasture Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2012

## Winter Pasture Project Advisory Committee

In early November the Winter Pasture Advisory Committee met to review the first year of the project and plan for 2013. The Committee consists of members of the local producer groups (Mt Pleasant Beef, Nth Rhine Sheep, Angaston Ag Bureau and Mid North Dairy Discussion Group) and key stakeholders and has a role in providing advice, direction and motivation to the project.

In its first year, the Winter Pasture Project has been successful in meeting all of the anticipated targets including running three pasture walks, two workshops and a bus trip. These events totalled 148 participants including dairy, sheep and cattle farmers. There has also been the adoption of individual project activity plans which are currently being assessed and reported on.

The project has also been successful in securing four extra funding grants to run smaller projects on improving grazing management using the Rappa, development of 'Soil Focus Paddocks', 'Pasture Walk' bus trips and Step up Soil Condition workshops. There are many exciting events being planned for 2013 including a Pasture Forum, Fleurieu 'pasture walk' bus trip and two more 'Step up Soils' workshop. We are also in the process of scoping future project opportunities to provide local producers with further opportunities to improve pasture management and NRM outcomes.

If you wish to provide feedback or have any comments regarding the project or future opportunities please let Georgie know or speak to your Advisory Committee Representative.

## Upcoming Events

- Step Up Soils Wkshop 4  
Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2013
- Sustainable Pastures Forum  
TBA- March 2013
- Pasture 'Walk' Fleurieu Bus  
Trip TBA- April 2013



## Feed Testing Opportunity

Please remember that the Winter Pasture Project is still offering subsidised Feed Testing. This has been extended until the end of December 2012. The project will subsidise half of the \$50 test resulting in a landholder price of \$25. Feed Test kits are available through Georgie so please take advantage of this opportunity to find out more about your pastures and to facilitate decision making in a difficult year.

Michael Evans tested the pasture in his annual Tetila ryegrass and perennial pasture paddock with resulting 23.5% Dry Matter, 12.4 % Crude Protein, 58% Neutral Detergent Fibre (NDF), 66% Digestibility and 9.8 MJ of Metabolisable Energy (ME). This information allows him to ensure the pasture quality is enough to maintain the weight of his dry ewes as they require 8MJ/KgDM ME, 8% protein and 55% NDF, and as long as he has enough kg/head ,at this stage he will not need to supply supplementary feed.





**Plasback bin and liner used to recycle silage wrap, covers and twine on the Fleurieu Peninsula.**  
Photo by Glen Rowlands

On the Fleurieu Peninsula, Dairy SA have partnered with Tapex, Australia's largest manufacturer of twine and other plastic products, and the Adelaide and Mt Lofty NRM Board in a pilot program to remove and recycle silage wrap and twine waste from dairies and livestock producers. Current disposal methods include burying and burning or general landfill disposal which creates litter, animal hazards, toxicity and expense. From October this year, Fleurieu farmers can deliver their wrap and twine into special 'Plasback' bags to selected Fleurieu Regional Waste Authority site at no charge. Each bag

can fit about 16 silage wrap covers from round bales.

Tapex recycles the plastic waste to make commercial products such as Tuffboard shed wall linings, mobile calf pens, horse stalls and Tuffdeck woolshed flooring. The program operates across 34 council areas in NSW and Victoria however is the first in SA.

The Winter Pasture NRM Project will visit one of these sites on the Fleurieu 'Pasture Walk' Bus Trip in Autumn next year to see and discuss this system in action. For further information please contact Monique White, Dairy SA on 0400 972 206.

## Sustainable Soil Focus Paddocks- Ben & Murray Klemm

The Winter Pasture Project, with funding from the State NRM Community Action Grant Scheme and Dairy SA, is setting up 'Focus' Paddocks to look at soil health on dairy farms in the region. Ben and Murray Klemm are hosting one of the paddocks to demonstrate the use of dairy effluent on soil and pasture health. As dryland dairy farmers, Ben and Murray rely on maintaining soil health. Over the past 10 years they have been spraying the liquid from their effluent ponds onto pasture paddocks. The effluent ponds collect the water which has been used within the wash-down of the dairy.

To prevent the effluent water escaping from the ponds and entering the local watercourses, Ben and Murray hire a 20,000L tanker to remove and spread it over pasture paddocks. The solids from the ponds are also removed and composted on site before being sold to local nurseries.

This process is seen as a 'bonus' to the enterprise as the effluent ponds must be emptied, however the effluent is not used as a substitute to fertiliser. The Project will test the effluent and soil over summer to determine what benefits the effluent is providing to the soil and pastures. The findings will be demonstrated at pasture walks through the district with local producer groups.



**Tim Prance and Ben Klemm observing the pasture where the effluent is spread**

## From the INBOX

### Sheep CRC launches new WormBoss Website

As part of a major upgrade, WormBoss now stands alone after previously being hosted on the AWI web site. Sheep CRC, who developed WormBoss with AWI, has completed a major upgrade with new, improved and easy to use features and a vibrant design. WormBoss now offers real help for producers with drenching decisions and regional worm control programs together with a substantial library of information on worm control. [Further Information](#)

### Weed Management Videos Online

AMLR NRM Board has developed videos to help landholders understand best weed control techniques. Weeds covered include Blackberry, Caltrop, Gorse, Brooms, Wild Olive, Willow, Bridal Creeper, Cape Tulip and Gazania. [View Videos.](#)

**MLA's Stocking Rate Calculator** The stocking rate calculator is designed to determine the number of cattle or sheep you should put into a paddock based on its carrying capacity. [Further Information](#)

## Further Information

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