



Winter Pasture Newsletter

OCTOBER 2012

Feed Testing Opportunity

The Winter Pasture Project aims to build landholders capacity to manage their pastures. To facilitate this, the Project would like to offer subsidised Feed Tests to support decision making, feed budgeting and to allow further analysis of individual activity plans.

Feed Testing involves taking a sample of feed, in this case pasture, hay or silage, and testing the feed quality. Results will provide information on the sample's digestibility, crude protein, fibre and energy content.

The project will subsidise half of the \$50 test, resulting in a landholder price of \$25. To be eligible you must collect your sample using the kits provided, fill out your activity plan and send everything back to Georgie. Samples will be sent to the lab, in bulk, at strategic times every Wednesday throughout November.

For further information and kits please contact Georgie (details are on page 2).

Please take advantage of this opportunity to find out more about your pastures and to facilitate decision making in a difficult year.

Upcoming Events

- Step Up Soils Wkshop 3
Friday 7th December 9.30am
- Pasture 'Walk' Fleurieu Bus Trip
TBA- April 2013



Barossa 'Pasture Walk' Bus Trip

The 'Pasture Walk' bus trip on 19th October, provided an opportunity for farmers to review the successes and discuss the learning opportunities for the season. The day also provided a great networking opportunity with farmers and representatives from Landmark, Farmer Johns, NRM Board, Sheep Connect and seed companies.

The bus visited a variety of different pasture systems demonstrating how different varieties can provide grazing opportunities and help with the establishment of good perennial pastures in the long run.

Jen Light's recently germinated summer pasture trial containing varieties of millet, turnip and rape, will show a method of providing green feed over the summer months.

Hans Graetz's stand of lucerne provides good summer feed for his rams however needs a good season to establish properly. He also trialled plantain which has established well.

Another benefit was the opportunity to revisit previous 'pasture walk' paddocks.

Vic Patrick's perennial pasture which measured 60% ground cover after germination in July, had increased to 100% cover with a good variety of species.

Keynes' annual ryegrass pasture allowed them to add 300g/day to 670 composite lambs demonstrating a good return on investment.

The paddocks visited demonstrated the resilience of the farming community to continue to trial new ideas and innovations and succeed even through the tough years.

To follow up the success of this trip, the Winter Pasture Project, thanks to funding from the AMLR NRM Board's Community Action Grant, will visit the Fleurieu Peninsula in autumn next year.



Grazing Management using the RAPPA



The Rappa system in action rolling up the temporary electric wires. The system is now ready to be used around the district!

The Winter Pasture Project received a 'Caring for Our Country Community Grant' to look at manipulating grazing systems using temporary electric fencing to improve ground cover and productivity.

The Project has purchased a Rappa which bolts onto the back of a quad bike and rolls and unrolls up to four temporary electric wires. The tread-in posts can then be inserted to hold up the wires. The Rappa has been set up on Greg Koch's in Moculta on a phalaris, cocksfoot and sub clover pasture. Using the Rappa, Greg divided his 5 Ha paddock in half and grazed with 640 lambs, resulting in 140 DSE/Ha.

The lambs entered the pasture at 850kg DM/Ha and were moved after four days leaving 450kg/DM/Ha. They ate 740g/head/day with only 125kg DM accounted for wastage within the paddock. There was also 80% ground cover once the lambs had been moved out, indicating very little tracking and camping.

Greg has also used the Rappa to divide a hay crop, allowing grazing through one half, while the hay was being cut and baled in the other.

The project would like to trial the Rappa in local grazing situations. Please contact Georgie to help you make the most of your pastures!

Individual Activity Plan Case Study- Ian & Fiona Koch

Ian and Fiona Koch, at Moculta, have trialled a method of increasing the biomass for their individual activity plan as part of the Winter Pasture Project. By increasing the pasture biomass their aim was to compete against resistant ryegrass and provide late winter/ spring sheep feed.

The 30 Ha continuously cropped paddock was sprayed in April for salvation jane and ryegrass. It was then dry sown in May with wheat, barley, canola, chicory, peas, beans, sulla, apin turnip and 40kg DAP/Ha.

When visited in June on the Moculta Pasture Walk the paddock contained 300kg DM/Ha with 50% bare ground. Most of the varieties had germinated however the chicory and sulla in particular were difficult to find.

In July, Ian set stocked 430 lambs onto the paddock. The lambs will stay in the paddock until stubbles are available in early November. Ian noted that the lambs did not scoured when introduced to the lush green feed. Also, it took the lambs a while to eat the peas and beans in particular.

The paddock was visited again on the recent bus trip in October. Many of the plants have persisted, particularly the chicory, considering that since sowing the area has only received 188mm of rain. Ian and Fiona are very happy with the results of the trial and plan to resow the paddock again next year however will leave out the sulla and add more brassicas next year.



Hans Graetz and Georgie Keynes observing the different varieties in a pasture cage set up before grazing in Ian and Fiona's biomass paddock

From the INBOX

MLA's Bird's eye view of Southern Pastures

We circulated the opportunity to participate and now the results are back. The audit of pastures in southern Australia found the area planted to lucerne has risen considerably and South Australia had more fescue and burr medic. [Further Information](#)

SA Beef Cattle Assessment School

Focusing on bull selection and management- 20/21 November at Langhorne Creek. [Further Information](#)

Mooving Forward

Dairy SA is inviting women working in the South Australian dairy industry to apply for a hands on leadership development program running in 2012-2013. [Further Information](#)

Low Stress Stock Handling

Improve your stock management skills- 16/17 November at Mt Torrens. [Further Information](#)

Further Information

Winter Pasture Facilitator
Georgie Keynes

georgieandtoby@bigpond.com
(08) 8564 8378/0409 287 261

