



# Winter Pasture Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2013

## Jen Light's Summer Pasture Trial

## Upcoming Events

To provide summer feed and clean up a paddock prior to sowing a perennial pasture, Jen Light of Eden Valley, trialled a summer pasture using varieties of millet, rape and turnip. For comparison, Jen planted half of a 3 Ha paddock to the trial and the remainder consisting of annual grasses was left as the 'control'.

The pasture was direct drilled on 10 October 2012 receiving 17mm rain immediately! Nine days afterwards it was observed to be germinating on the Pasture Walk Bus Trip.

On 19 December the paddock was divided using the Rappa, a temporary electric fence system, to allow the areas to be grazed separately ensuring the trial area could be grazed intensively without overgrazing it. Jen's 150 Border Leicester x Merino ewes were unimpressed they could not graze the greenest crop in the district however they did respect the fence!

To encourage tillering, the sheep grazed the trial pasture at a DSE of 100/Ha for less than 24 hrs, eating 200g/head. A feed test from the pasture showed a Dry Matter of 28%, ME of 10.5 MJ/kg DM and protein 12.8 which is higher than that of the control area.

The ewes grazed the pasture on 7 January 2013 for 24 hrs. Two weeks afterwards, after receiving only 51mm of rain since mid October, the pasture, although patchy, had regrown by approximately 200kg/DM/Ha.

In late January it was still displaying signs of growth with the turnip plants producing large turnips under the ground (Figure 3).

Due to the season, the production of the pasture will not pay for the establishment costs, however Jen will have a clean paddock to sow either an annual ryegrass pasture or a perennial pasture into later in the year.

The trial has demonstrated the persistence of some varieties to withstand dry summers, hopefully we will have the chance to trial it again in a more average season this year.

- Step Up Soils Wkshop 4  
Thursday 7 March- Nuri

- Pasture 'Walk' Fleurieu Bus  
Trip TBA- April 2013

- See Page 2 'From the Inbox'  
for further events



Figure 4: Mid January turnips  
Figure 3: (below) Georgie rolling up the  
temporary electric fence with the Rappa.



Figure 1: Mid December- control on the left  
and trial on right- before the first grazing



Figure 2: Early January- after the second  
grazing





# Sarah Weaver- New Project Support Role



Sarah Weaver will be working with the Winter Pasture NRM Project this year

Please look out for the new face working with the Winter Pasture NRM Project! Sarah Weaver has taken on a part-time project support role helping Georgie to manage the projects associated with the Winter Pasture Project.

At this stage she will be working on the Sustainable Soil Focus Paddock Project with the Dairy Discussion Group. This will involve undertaking pasture and soil measurements and organising the on ground works. She will also be writing articles and coordinating events.

Sarah has a keen interest in animal nutrition, with both industry and research experience.

Since completing a Bachelor of Agricultural Science (Hons) in 2006, she worked locally as an animal nutritionist, specialising in ruminant and equine nutrition.

In 2010 she relocated to the United States and undertook a 12 month research internship in Kentucky for an equine research company, Kentucky Equine Research, focusing mainly on nutrition and physiology research. She returned to Adelaide where she worked for both Rural Solutions SA and University of Adelaide facilitating events and lecturing/demonstrating in animal nutrition.

She is now at Adelaide University as a post graduate student completing a PhD in animal science. This project focuses on animal physiology and the role nutrition and endocrinology play in fetal development using chickens as a model for a range of species.

## Winter Pasture Project- on Facebook!

For those of you who are interested in keeping up with the latest updates, events and agricultural projects occurring in the regions please join the Barossa Winter Pasture Project Facebook Page!

If you are already a Facebook User, simply search for 'Barossa Winter Pasture NRM Project' and then 'like' the page.

If you are not a Facebook user you can still access the page by clicking [Barossa Winter Pasture NRM Project](#).

If you would like your own events, pictures or updates added please email Georgie the information!



## From the INBOX

### Angaston Hogget Competition

27 March, Keyneton Park. Pen of 3 commercial ewe hoggets. Everyone welcome to compete or just come along to the 'healthy and well-fed' workshop beginning at 1.00pm. Further information- Ian Koch, 85639 051

### Mt Barker Clover Tour and Mac Troup Lecture

20 March, Adelaide Hills. A historical tour of the clovers used in the Adelaide Hills followed by a dinner in Hahndorf with guest speaker Tom Gubbins from Tia Mania Angus. Further Information Tim Prance on 0427 812 655

### SAFF Livestock Meeting

12 March, Mt Pleasant 7.30pm at Mt Pleasant Hotel. Discussing Livestock Producers SA Draft Constitution and Business Plan. Further information- Joe Keynes 0428 648 235

### Ram Select Practical Workshops

Manoora on 7 March or Kapunda on 8 March. Make sure you buy the genes to match your breeding objectives. Further Information

### Production Animal Health Centre

at the Adelaide Uni has a new facility enabling livestock to receive detailed investigations, treatment and aftercare. Further information Mandi Carr- 8313 1999.

## Further Information

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