

## CMBW/BL Pasture Walk 18/6/13 – Dean Harrington (Boort)

- Graze grasses when they are at the third leaf stage. For Clovers a rule of thumb is match box up, start grazing. Stop grazing when matchbox down.
- Dean is seeking to match paddock size to match the mob of ewes (or vice versa). Looking at a six week rotation this time of year. 36ha paddocks divided into 6 x 6ha.
- Spray pasture with ProGib (gibberellic acid is a natural occurring substance) to increase production.
- To control annual weeds use a clover selective herbicide. Best time to spray out barley grass is July...earlier than most. If large amounts of dry weeds such as barley and rye grass consider mulching with a mulcher. Cattle can eat ryegrass for roughage (however dry barley grass won't be eaten) but maybe pugging issues. Too much dry matter will inhibit growth of preferable fodder species.
- Don't graze clover too low into September as want the clover to set seed for next year.
- It takes three years to get the seed bank down from brome grass infestations
- Instead of sowing 20kg ryegrass and 5kg clover, sow 25kg/ha ryegrass and 5kg clover. There is a big increase in production from the additional seed sown and better competition against weeds. This is better than using chemicals.
- Winterstar is a good ryegrass. It is a tetraploid ryegrass variety. It has 4 chromosomes instead of two in a diploid variety. There will be sterile offspring if a tetraploid and diploid ryegrass breed.
- As soon as you see pasture growth @ dung heaps / urine, you know the pasture is screaming for N.
- Forage crop of brassica was planted in the dry. On sprayed out, moisture conserved ground.
- \$50 lambs from Tassie being brought by Dean's father.
- Fescues planted at 10kg/ha
- Stamina 5 Lucerne is a good Lucerne for persistence. It survived flooding and heavy grazing.
- Fescue KFA 482 is a summer active, winter dormant variety. Very palatable. Don't want too high. Nearly as good for protein as ryegrass. Don't want more than 15% protein anyway because sheep can't handle high P.
- Resolute is a Mediterranean fescue.
- Irrigating quantum over summer. Don't want Fescue over 15cm high or no feed value and will have to slash.
- Lucerne, chicory, fescue, barley sown in the same bays. Fescues active growth in spring to November, then Lucerne comes in.
- Fescue slow to establish. Fescues are a perennial that lasts a long time. **Will be @25% of land??**
- Ova-Stim. Around \$3 per shot. Wouldn't put in a Merino.
- A third of twinnings will twin every year on average.
- Sheep from Murgha Station near Muulamein carry the Booroola Merino gene. The Booroola strain is a good fertility / multiple birth strain which is passed on from the ewe only, not the ram.
- Dean had a mix of Poll Dorset / Suffolk / Hilderbrandt.

- About to sow rape at 2kg/ha (half rate). Won't sow until June 21, after the winter solstice, otherwise the plant will run out by October (go to seed). If plant after the winter solstice the plant will last until next October.
- Brassicas good for weed control and to mellow the ground for cropping after two years. The brassica has deep tap roots.
- Maybe don't have to self replace. Maybe source ewe lambs each year.
- The more breeds of sheep introduced, the more throwback from breeds occur. The next lot for Dean will be terminal. The terminal sire in mind is a **charlotte?**. Export lamb is the target.
- Mansfield wheat is a new forage variety that performs over a longer season and can provide feed to the end of August, instead of the start of August for other forage wheat varieties. It is only a feed wheat as it becomes a sticky doe.
- Revenue wheat is a bread wheat, not dual purpose.
- Fungicide used on wheat was Amastar, herbicide Treflam (trifluralin).
- 100kg MAP and 120 kg urea pre sowing and 80kg urea topdressed.
- Can graze anything, but all have different effects, some have winter habit due to vernalisation.
- Wedgetail has to have cold weather to trigger maturity.
- When oats are grazed it delays maturity by two weeks. The end of July, first week of August is the rule of thumb to finish grazing.
- Moby barley is a spring type, so don't want to sow too early. Match varieties with what you want.
- A good rotation is vetch, canola, then cereal. Clover also good to clean up weeds and add nitrogen to the soil.
- Weigh every lamb at least twice. When weaned and when sell. Is slow to check, weigh. If not 35kg in 9 months, then cull (too slow).
- Spring lamb, Autumn joining. Cycle better at this time and better for first lambing ewes.
- When no feed available, determine the value to purchase feed for the ewe or lamb – get a price on what the lamb will sell for. Maybe better to just keep the ewe in good condition for lambing the next year.
- Beans expensive at weaning, but may be able to get the lamb to market a month earlier for better prices. Get the lamb used to the beans early on so the rumen gets used to the feed (the rumen modification process). This will ensure grain conversion efficiency is twice as fast.
- If get the rumen development right at weaning it will set the ewe up for the next 5-6 years. If buying sheep out of a drought area, they might not have a developed rumen. The rumen may be full of dirt and won't be in a good condition to convert feed efficiently.
- Pre emergent herbicides for wheat. Atlantis restricts next year's crop and expensive. Crusader doesn't is less expensive and nearly as good.