



objective: to optimise whole farm feed supply while protecting the natural resource base

## Project Overview



**Grain & Graze is a national research program funded by Meat & Livestock Australia, Australian Wool Innovation, GRDC and Land & Water Australia. The program is aimed at improving the financial and environmental performance of mixed farming systems across Australia.**

The Murrumbidgee Grain & Graze project, one of 9 regional projects across Australia, is a collaboration between:

- Farmlink
- Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority (CMA)
- NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI)
- CSIRO
- Charles Sturt University (CSU)

**The focus of the Murrumbidgee Grain & Graze project is on managing the enterprise mix to optimise whole farm feed supply while protecting the natural resource base, particularly water use, ground cover and biodiversity.**

The project consists of three modules:

- **Research Trials** - aimed at filling the feed gaps with grazing wheats & short term pastures
- **Focus Farms** - monitoring the impact of mixed farming enterprises on production and natural resources
- **Communications** - including G&G Seminar Series, G&G Fact Sheets, Focus Farm Facts, field days and website

**For more information on the Murrumbidgee Grain & Graze project go to: [www.farmlink.com.au/gg.htm](http://www.farmlink.com.au/gg.htm)**

### 1) Research Trials

**Objective: to fill feed gaps in mixed farming systems (Fig. 1) through better management of grazing wheats and selection of high quality short term pastures**

Trials:

► **grazing wheat agronomy trials**

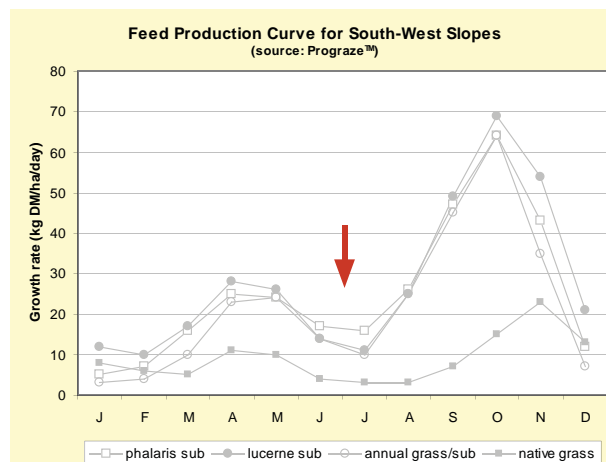
measuring dry matter production, feed value, water use, yield & grain quality of selected varieties

► **grazing wheat animal performance trials**

measuring lamb liveweight gain (with & without supplements), response to stocking intensity (stocking rate & duration), intake and grazing preference

► **short term pasture trials**

measuring dry matter, feed quality & water use of species including annual clovers, tetraploid ryegrass & forage brassica



**Fig 1: trials are looking at better management of grazing wheats to fill the autumn/winter feed gap (↓) in mixed farming enterprises**



**Grazing wheat management trial site at Wallendbeen, 2005**

Murrumbidgee G&G

## 2) Focus Farms

**Objective: to monitor the impact of mixed farming enterprises on production and natural resources**

Focus Farm activities\*:

▶ **5 Focus Farms located across the catchment**

Coolamon, Euroley Bridge (Leeton), Sebastopol (Temora), Tarcutta, Tootool (Lockhart)

▶ **4 paddocks representing a mixed farming system are monitored monthly on each farm**

- i) lucerne
- ii) annual pasture
- iii) native pasture
- iv) grazed cereal

▶ **monitoring includes** dry matter, feed growth rates, feed quality, water use and ground cover

▶ **biodiversity** (including vegetation, invertebrates & birds) is also being monitored through the National BiGG (Biodiversity in Grain & Graze) project

▶ **monitoring results updated monthly in Focus Farm Facts** (produced by NSW DPI, available at [www.farmlink.com.au/gg.htm](http://www.farmlink.com.au/gg.htm))

▶ results also contribute to **models** being developed to evaluate feed production and economics of mixed farming systems

\*in conjunction with the MCMA/NSW DPI project 'Best management practices for dryland cropping', funded by the National Action Plan for Salinity & Water



**Water use, dry matter, feed quality & ground cover is being monitored on the Coolamon Focus Farm (lucerne/chicory paddock), 2005**

## 3) Communications

**Objectives: to engage through communication, participation and extension activities at least 1500 producers in Grain & Graze related activities**

Communications activities:

- ▶ G&G Seminar Series
- ▶ G&G Fact Sheets
- ▶ G&G 'Farmwalk' & other field days
- ▶ website: [www.farmlink.com.au/gg.htm](http://www.farmlink.com.au/gg.htm)



**Condition scoring at the Fodder Budgeting Workshops (G&G Seminar Series), 2005**

## Project Contacts

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