

# Fact Sheet...

**Grain & Graze**<sup>TM</sup>  
Profit through knowledge  
MURRUMBIDGEE

## Project Update:

(for more details go to [www.farmlink.com.au/gg.htm](http://www.farmlink.com.au/gg.htm))

### R&D trials

- a) **grazing wheats** (*Guy McMullen, NSW DPI*)
- lambs went onto grazing management & liveweight (LW) trials on 21st Aug at ~750kg DM/ha
  - lambs on **LW trial** being offered ad lib supplements of salt, lime, casumag and hay combinations; expect to de-stock ~20th Sept (yield compromised)
  - lambs on **grazing mgt trial** stocked at 25 and 12 lambs/ha (38kg LW); early de-stock occurred on 11th Sept, late de-stock expected ~20th Sept
  - lambs went onto **grazing wheat/canola agronomy trials** at Eurongilly on 23rd Aug (~750kg DM/ha) and Ganmain on 30th Aug (~1000kg DM/ha). Stock removed on 12th Sept & 8th Sept respectively. Sheep (Dorper X weaners) at Eurongilly grazed canola hard, but wethers at Ganmain only lightly grazed canola compared with wheat.

### b) short term pastures

 (*Felicity Gummer, FarmLink*)

- Winfred brassica and Winterstar ryegrass doing well at both Illabo & Henty (re-sown June); recovery of Antas subclover slow; poor recovery of balansa & HDLs

### Focus Farms

- August editions of **Focus Farm Facts** are now available on the web at [www.farmlink.com.au/gg.htm](http://www.farmlink.com.au/gg.htm). (Summary pg 2). E-mail [craig.muir@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:craig.muir@dpi.nsw.gov.au) to receive these directly.

### G&G Seminar Series

- **Lamb Cost of Production Workshops** (funded by MLA) to be held at Yerong Creek, Ardlathan and Grenfell on the 24th, 25th & 26th October respectively. Presented by Sandy McEachern of Holmes Sackett & Assoc.

## Silage Seminar

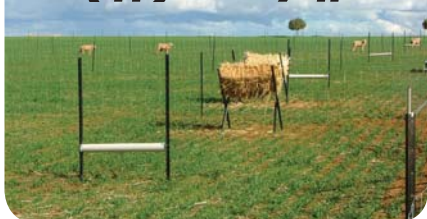
~40 people attended the G&G Silage Seminar at Junee Reefs earlier this month. Following are some of the key messages noted by attendees:

- **quality** is the key - "quality in, quality out". it costs the same to make good or bad silage!
- **timing** is essential - for cutting, wilting, getting it from paddock to pit - to achieve quality
- **silage pits** are a cost effective way of storing fodder (eg. compared with hay shed)
- specialty silage crops such as peas & wheat are a good option for **cleaning up paddocks**
- **know your costs** - compare grain, hay & silage on a \$/t and c/MJ energy (ME) basis



Silage pit at Curry's, Junee Reefs

Grazing wheat LW trial at Marrar - mineral (in pipe) & oat hay supplements



Short term pasture trial at Henty - (front to back: Winfred brassica, Wedgetail wheat, Sardi 10 lucerne, Winterstar ryegrass)



G&G Silage Seminar - Marombi wheat & Morgan pea crop



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Murrumbidgee  
G&G partners:



## Focus Farms - August growth rates

Most farms are currently running lactating ewes (spring lambing) or weaned lambs (April lambing) on lucerne pastures. Using August pasture data taken from lucerne paddocks on the Focus Farms as a guide (Table 1), the following fodder budgets indicate how long these paddocks are likely to provide feed for. The GrazFeed runs indicate potential weight gains.

### Lucerne Fodder Budgets - how long will it last?

#### Assuming August Focus Farm data -

ave. 1600kg DM/ha, growing at 20kg DM/ha/day:

- feed available: 1600kg (start) - 1000kg (end) = 600kg DM/ha
- pasture growth rate: 20kg DM/ha/day

#### ► How long will it last running 20/ha weaned 2nd-x lambs\*?

\*32kg LW lambs; assume grazed down to 1000kg DM/ha:

- lamb\* intake: (1.7kg/hd/day x 20hd) = 34kg/hd
- change in DM: (20kg - 34kg) = -14kg DM/ha/day

→ **DM lasts for: (600kg ÷ 14kg) = 43 days\*\***

#### ► How long will it last running 12/ha lactating 1st-x ewes\*?

\*60kg ewes with singles; assume grazed down to 1000kg DM/ha:

- ewe\* & lamb intake: (2.6 kg/hd/day x 12hd) = 31 kg /ha/day
- change in DM: (20kg - 31kg) = -11kg DM/ha/day

→ **DM lasts for: (600kg ÷ 11kg) = 55 days\*\***

#### ► How long will it last running 18/ha dry 1st-x ewes\*?

\*60kg ewes; assume grazed down to 1000kg DM/ha:

- ewe\* intake: (1.6 kg/hd/day x 18hd) = 29 kg /ha/day
- change in DM: (20kg - 29kg) = -9kg DM/ha/day

→ **DM lasts for: (600kg ÷ 9kg) = 67 days\*\***

\*\* note lucerne survives best under rotational grazing but can be set stocked in spring where annual species are present

### Lucerne GrazFeed Runs - what weight gains could be expected?

#### Assuming August Focus Farm data -

ave. 1600kg total DM/ha, 1000kg green DM/ha, 74% digestible (green), 33% crude protein (green):

#### ► What weight gains could be expected from these weaned 2nd-x lambs\*?

\*32kg LW lambs, 6 months old:

- intake = 1.7kg/day
- wt gain = 311g/day

#### ► What weight gains could be expected from these lactating 1st-x ewes\*?

\*60kg ewes with singles, lactating for 35 days:

- intake = 2.6kg/day
- ewe wt gain = 41g/day, lamb wt gain = 361g/day

#### ► What weight gains could be expected from these dry 1st-x ewes\*?

\*60kg ewes:

- intake = 1.6kg/day
- wt gain = 149g/day

Table 1: August pasture data - Focus Farms

Pdk DM (kg/ha) & growth rate (kg DM/ha/day)		Cool-amon	Euroley Bridge	Sebas-topol	Tarcutta	Tootool
annual	DM (green)	1000 (900)	1200 (300)	1500 (1200)	300 (300)	1700 (100)
	growth rate	30	15	23	19	5
lucerne	DM (green)	1400 (1000)	1100 (900)	1900 (1000)	1800 (1300)	1600 (1100)
	growth rate	29	23	17	15	21
native	DM (green)	1900 (500)	1300 (100)	1600 (1300)	1200 (600)	2100 (200)
	growth rate	9	1	16	12	11
grazing wheat	DM (green)	200 (200)	200 (200)	200 (200)	100 (100)	600 (600)
	growth rate	16	5	9	2	36

Feed Quality dig/protein %; energy MJ		Cool-amon	Euroley Bridge	Sebas-topol	Tarcutta	Tootool
annual	digest.	81	65	75	81	88
	protein	29	19	26	28	34
	energy	12.3	9.5	11.3	12.2	13.4
lucerne	digest.	72	76	77	72	71
	protein	31	33	33	32	22
	energy	10.8	11.5	11.6	10.8	10.7
native	digest.	68	50	87	73	77
	protein	18	11	27	25	25
	energy	10.2	7.0	13.4	10.9	11.7
grazing wheat	digest.	89	90	91	90	89
	protein	33	37	29	34	29
	energy	13.7	13.8	14	13.8	13.7

(source: Craig Muir, NSW DPI; refer August Focus Farm Facts for more detail on each location)

## Bird Monitoring on Focus Farms

Sheila de Lange, Murrumbidgee CMA Catchment Officer (Grain and Graze)

Recent bird surveys undertaken on the Focus Farms as part of the Biodiversity project returned very positive results, with native vegetation patches on three of the five farms supporting populations of the **Superb Parrots, Brown Treecreepers or Grey-crowned Babblers**.

These bird species are listed as vulnerable in NSW, meaning they are likely to become endangered unless the circumstances threatening their survival or evolutionary development cease to operate. In NSW the survival of these vulnerable bird species is threatened by the clearance, fragmentation and degradation of woodland habitat. Preserving and increasing on-farm native vegetation will help to



ensure the future survival of these species.

**Superb Parrot (Polytelis swainsonii):** Their total population is estimated to be only a few thousand.