

# EverGraze

More livestock from perennials

More perennials

Better livestock

Healthier catchments

## Perennial grazing systems to increase profits & improve catchment health

EverGraze - *More livestock from perennials* is a project with ambitious goals. Where advances in farm productivity and environmental enhancement usually proceed in small steps, EverGraze is aiming to use perennials in grazing systems to increase profits of livestock enterprises by 50%, while simultaneously improving farm environments through improved water management, ground cover, biodiversity and soil health.

To achieve these targets, EverGraze looks at the whole farm system (the soils, pastures, the animals and the management) and how they relate to the catchment. It brings the knowledge and experience of top farmers and catchment managers together with leading researchers in soil science, agronomy, environmental science, hydrology, animal production and ecology. EverGraze then strategically plans landholder engagement activities to ensure adoption by producers of more profitable and sustainable grazing systems.

EverGraze is a Future Farm Industries CRC, Meat and Livestock Australia and Australian Wool Innovation research and delivery partnership. Together, this adds considerable 'fire power' to EverGraze.

### Proof Sites

EverGraze has established six research (Proof) sites where new farming systems that increase profits and improve the environment are being tested. Proof Sites graze sheep and cattle on a range of native and introduced pastures (lucerne, perennial ryegrass, phalaris, tall fescue, chicory, kikuyu) that are positioned to make best use of the soils and landscapes available. For example; lucerne on well drained soils and tall fescue on lower lying areas. In turn the livestock systems make best use of the perennials through increasing ovulation, lamb survival and growth

rates and running more livestock per hectare.

EverGraze grazing systems respond to summer rainfall and so reduce the need for supplements. These systems use species and management that increase forage quality to finish lambs or boost live-weights prior to mating. Summer growing perennials use more water than annuals or temperate perennials and provide higher ground cover, reducing the risk of soil salinity and erosion.

### Supporting sites

EverGraze also has more than 50 demonstration (Supporting) sites on farms that allow producer groups to trial new grazing systems in their local environment at a commercial scale. Supporting Sites are managed in collaboration with Catchment Management Authorities, state agricultural agencies and consultancy groups.

With Proof and Supporting sites in five states, EverGraze is developing and testing new farming systems in different environments, giving the project relevance across the whole of the high rainfall zone of Southern Australia. At the same time, there are similarities between these environments, so major benefits will come from sharing results and experiences.





**Key contacts for EverGraze are;**

**EverGraze Extension Leader**

Kate Sargeant  
T: 03 5735 4352  
E: kate.sargeant@dpi.vic.gov.au

**EverGraze Research Leader**

Angela Avery  
T: 02 6030 4578  
E: angela.avery@dpi.vic.gov.au

**Program 1 Leader**

Michael Friend  
T: 02 6933 2285  
E: mfriend@csu.edu.au

**EverGraze Communications Coordinator**

Gillian Fry  
T: 03 5573 4539  
E: gill.fry@networksw.com.au

STATE & REGION	PROOF SITE LEADER	EXTENSION COORDINATOR
<b>South West WA</b>	Paul Sanford T: 08 9892 8475 E: psanford@agric.wa.gov.au	Paul Omodei T: 08 9777 2980 E: paul@agvivo.com.au
<b>Southern Vic</b>	Ralph Behrendt T: 03 5573 0900 E: ralph.behrendt@dpi.vic.gov.au	Anita Morant T: 03 5573 0732 E: anita.morant@dpi.vic.gov.au
<b>North East Vic</b>	Meredith Mitchell T: 02 6030 4579 E: meredith.mitchell@dpi.vic.gov.au	
<b>Southern NSW</b>		
<b>Central NSW</b>	Warwick Badgery T: 02 6391 3814 E: warwick.badgery@industry.nsw.gov.au	Luke Beange T: 02 6881 1294 E: luke.beange@industry.nsw.gov.au
<b>Northern NSW</b>	Sean Murphy T: 02 6763 1244 E: sean.murphy@industry.nsw.gov.au	Luc Farago T: 02 6728 8051 E: luc.farago@cma.nsw.gov.au
<b>South Australia</b>		Nick Edwards T: 08 8762 9196 E: edwards.nick@sa.gov.au
<b>Tasmania</b>		Eric Hall T: 03 63365449 E: Eric.Hall@utas.edu.au

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