

Keeping you up-to-date with progress and developments in EverGraze

Welcome to the EverGraze June e-newsletter issued to subscribers from our website. We welcome your feedback, contributions and comments.

EverGraze is developing new grazing systems to increase profits and improve catchment health. With more perennials and better livestock, EverGraze aims to increase profitability of livestock enterprises by up to 50% while simultaneously improving natural resource outcomes of improved water management, perenniality, biodiversity and soil health.

There are experimental sites in Western Australia, Victoria and New South Wales, with a network of Supporting Sites evaluating new ideas on farms.

EverGraze is a Future Farm Industries CRC, MLA and AWI research and delivery partnership.

Read on for the latest news and results.

Proof Sites	Supporting Sites	News & Events
Wagga ovulation results	High intensity grazing and winter cereals at Mandurama	EverGraze Fact Sheets now available
Chicory performs in WA	Casterton Supporting Site addresses persistence	EverGraze and Landmark combine to Make more from Sheep
Lucerne does the job at Hamilton		

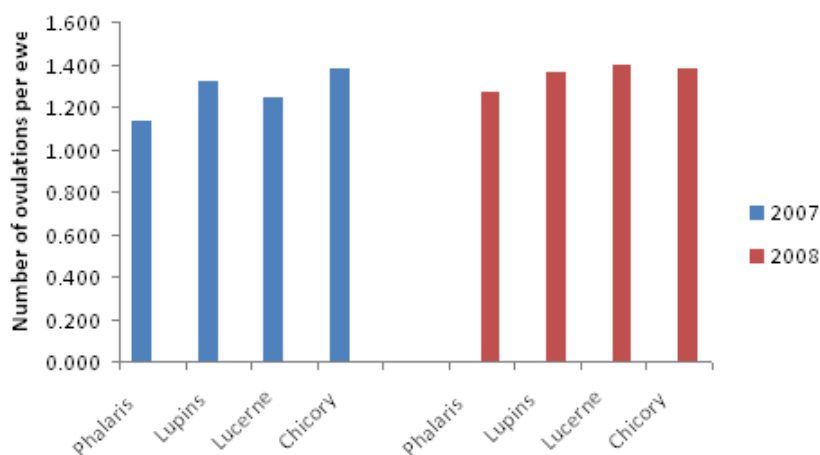
Proof Sites

Wagga Wagga Proof Site

Summer active perennials increase ovulation rates by up to 22%

Interestingly, results have shown the effect of lucerne and chicory was more reliable than if ewes were supplemented with 500g/day of lupin grain, a practice recommended to increase ovulation rates.

The greater response to chicory in 2007 is likely due to more available green feed (900kg/ha) than in lucerne (300kg/ha). While we need to determine whether this effect can be achieved in unsynchronised ewes, the results show the potential to use summer active perennials to boost lambing rates.



For more information contact Michael Friend, T: (02) 69 332 285, Emfriend@csu.edu.au

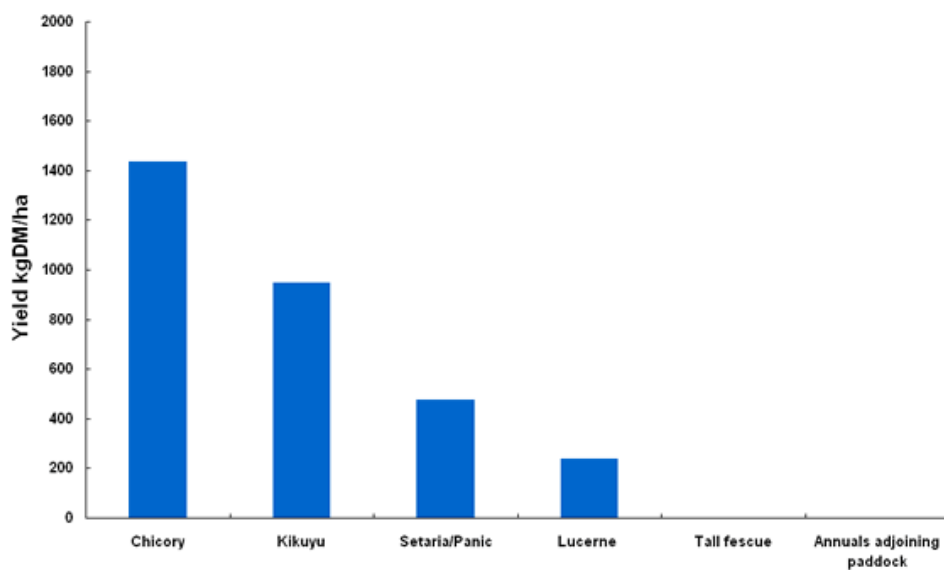
Chicory a strong summer performer

Chicory has shown itself to be a stayer over long hot summers at EverGraze's Proof Site at Wellstead 100 km east of Albany on the south coast of WA. All data collected to date at the Proof Site has shown Chicory is in front when it comes to being a high quality, summer-active pasture.

The yield of chicory and kikuyu in the first quarter of 2008 has been superior to all the other pastures reinforcing the potential of these species in summer.

At the Supporting Sites, Chicory has maintained a high density, good persistence and an ability to regenerate from seed. Indications are that Chicory could be used as a finishing system for lambs, as well as providing feed for lambing and lactating ewes.

Currently along the south coast, kikuyu is the most popular perennial pasture species as it is a summer-active grass that tolerates heavy grazing. However, kikuyu feed quality is lower than other perennial species. Lucerne, if there is sufficient summer moisture, is the second most popular choice. That said, Chicory is rapidly gaining popularity in the 400 - 600 mm rainfall zones of southern WA.



Yield (kgDM/ha) from January to March 2008 of perennials at the Albany EverGraze Site More information from Paul Sanford, T: (08) 9892 8475, E: psanford@agric.wa.gov.au



At Rob West's Supporting Site north west of Esperance area Chicory look very good, displaying a high density of plant, good persistence and an ability to regenerate from seed.

Hamilton Proof Site

Lucerne is an all round performer at Hamilton

Lucerne sub clover pastures at the Hamilton Proof Site produced almost 12 t/ha in both 2006/07 and 2007/08 despite very different rainfall patterns, with 2006 being 200 mm below average and 2007 average rainfall.

SARDI 7 Lucerne is grown on the crests of the Hamilton site as part of the Triple pasture system which also contains Avalon perennial ryegrass on the slope and Quantum tall fescue on the valley floor. The lucerne is rotationally grazed as part of the system.

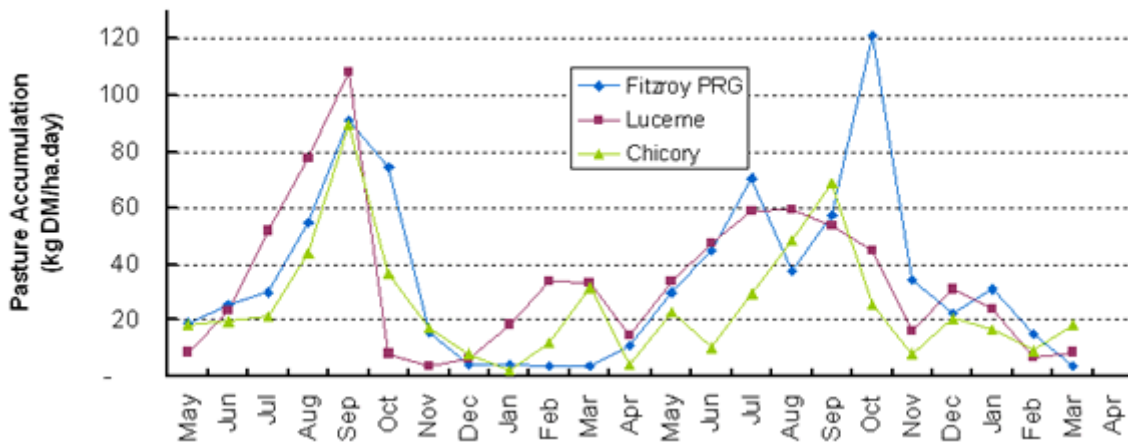
Winter growth rates in both years were around 50kg DM/ha/day, similar to that of the perennial ryegrass based pasture on the same land type.

Rain in January 2007 allowed growth rates of 20kg DM/ha/day in summer and early autumn.

Lucerne has used soil moisture with soil under lucerne being dryer between 1-3 metres than under perennial ryegrass. Lucerne's deep rooting nature has also shown up with reduced soil moisture up to a depth of 5m.

During active growth, the green material from the lucerne pasture is of high metabolisable energy and protein. In summer, more stem material lowers metabolisable energy a little).

Further information on lucerne growth and quality are available from the EverGraze Hamilton field day handouts at www.evergraze.com.au.



For more information contact: Ralph Behrendt, T: (03) 5573 0979, E: Ralph.Behrendt@dpi.vic.gov.au

Supporting Sites

Mandurama Supporting Site combines high intensity grazing and winter cereals

The use of high intensity grazing and oversowing winter cereals is being combined to increase productivity from native based pastures at a Supporting Site on John and Megan Rowlands property "Hilton" at Mandurama in the Central Tablelands of NSW.

The native pasture base is primarily *Microlaena* (Weeping rice grass), *Themeda* (Kangaroo grass), *Danthonia* (White top), *Elymus* (Common wheat grass) and *Bothriochloa* (Red grass), with Phalaris, Cocksfoot and sub-clover also present.

John and Megan have been using high intensity, time controlled grazing on "Hilton" for 10 years and in recent years have added oversown oats to the system to help fill a winter feed production gap.

At the Supporting Site, oats have been direct drilled into the existing native pasture, using a disc seeder with press wheels, creating minimal soil disturbance. The oats have been sown at 70kg/ha with 40kg/ha of DAP fertiliser and with no herbicide treatment.

John suggests sowing early to mid February to get a good establishment and growth before the cold starts to limit cereal growth, although this is depends on soil moisture in March and April.

Both pasture and oversown winter cereal treatments will be subjected to a high intensity/time controlled grazing, and the production and net returns compared. The Site will also monitor the persistence and recruitment of native

and exotic perennials as well as ground cover, biomass accumulation and soil biological activity.

John is confident that implementing an intensive grazing system combined with winter cereals will grow more feed, improve soil health and generate greater NRM benefits for his property.

"We believe increased production from the pasture cereal treatment will equate to increased profit in most years," said John Rowlands.

For more information contact: John Rowlands "Hilton" Mandurama, T: (02) 6367 5256,
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Luke Beange (DPI), Ian Packer (Lachlan CMA), landholder John Rowlands and Kieran Hawker discuss grazing management at the Supporting Site.

Casterton Supporting Site addresses persistence

Rick, Nancy, and Hugh Foster farm in partnership with Rick's parents Graham and Shirley at Wando Vale, near Casterton in South West Victoria. Their Supporting Site is a 14 hectare paddock with a hill top, slope and valley typical of the area. The Site is looking at improving persistence using perennial grasses, and demonstrating shelter belts of Tall wheat grass for lamb protection.

The paddock has been fenced into hill top, slope and valley floor to match species with landscape and reduce "camping" behaviour and improve pasture utilisation on the slopes.

The valley floor and part of the slope was ploughed and summer cropped to level the area and get good weed control before sowing with Banquet 2 this autumn.

Banquet 2 (15 kg/ha) and Leura sub clover (10 kg/ha) was sown dry on the 24 April, with 100 kg/ha of DAP and a further 140 kg/ha of SSP top dressed after sowing.

The valley floor was sown to Fetcher Max P Tall Fescue (16 kg/ha) and Leura sub clover (10 kg/ha), with 100 kg/ha of DAP and top dressed with 140 kg/ha of SSP.

The hill top has suffered loss of perennials over the last few tough seasons and has been topped up with 12 kg/ha of Kingston Perennial ryegrass.

The remainder of the slope will be sown to Holdfast phalaris in spring 2008. Shelter hedges of tall wheat grass will also be planted on both the slope and the hill top to provide shelter for lambing.



Nancy, Rick and Hugh Foster in their paddock of Banquet 2 ryegrass

News & Events

New EverGraze Fact Sheets now available

EverGraze scientists are developing a series of Fact Sheets to provide information to producers and extension agents from EverGraze Proof and Supporting Sites. The first three in the “EverGraze Actions” series are now available on the EverGraze web site, under the **Information** section.

EverGraze National Coordinator Geoff Saul said EverGraze will produce two types of Fact Sheets.

“**EverGraze Action** sheets provide straight forward *how to* information on managing pastures, grazing systems, shrubs or livestock to increase profits and improve environmental conditions” Geoff said.

“**EverGraze Exchange** sheets provide more of a discussion around topics such as improving lamb survival where the answer is not clear cut” Geoff added.

The first three **EverGraze Actions** cover “Growing and Using Chicory” (with versions specific to southwest WA and eastern Australia), “Tall Wheat Grass Hedges to provide shelter at lambing”, and “Growing and using Tall Fescue”.

To download these **EverGraze Actions**, go to the EverGraze web site www.evergraze.com.au, click on Information, Fact Sheets and the link to the required information.

Fact sheets under development include, management and use of lucerne, perennial ryegrass and phalaris, split joining systems with merino ewes, increasing lambing performance and shrubs to provide shelter at lambing.

For further information on EverGraze Action and Exchange sheets contact Geoffrey Saul, geoff.saul@bigpond.com

EverGraze and Landmark combine to ‘Make more from sheep’

Sheep producers responded well to a recent *Healthy and Contented Sheep* workshop at St Arnaud.

Delivered under the *Making More From Sheep* banner, the workshop took a collaborative approach with key speakers from EverGraze, Landmark and Plantech providing information on filling the feed gaps, feeding sheep for production and forage crops and pastures for production.

Additional workshops will be held in Victoria in the coming months. For more information on the program and activities visit www.makingmorefromsheep.com.au.

Making More From Sheep was launched by Australian Wool Innovation and Meat & Livestock Australia in January. The centrepiece of the program is the comprehensive guide titled, *Making More From Sheep – A sheep producer’s manual* which is made up of 11 modules that cover all aspects of sheep management and production.

Making More from Sheep – A sheep producer’s manual costs \$65+GST for AWI levy-payers and MLA members and can be ordered from the AWI Helpline on 1800 070 099 or the MLA membership line on 1800 675 717 or on the program website www.makingmorefromsheep.com.au.