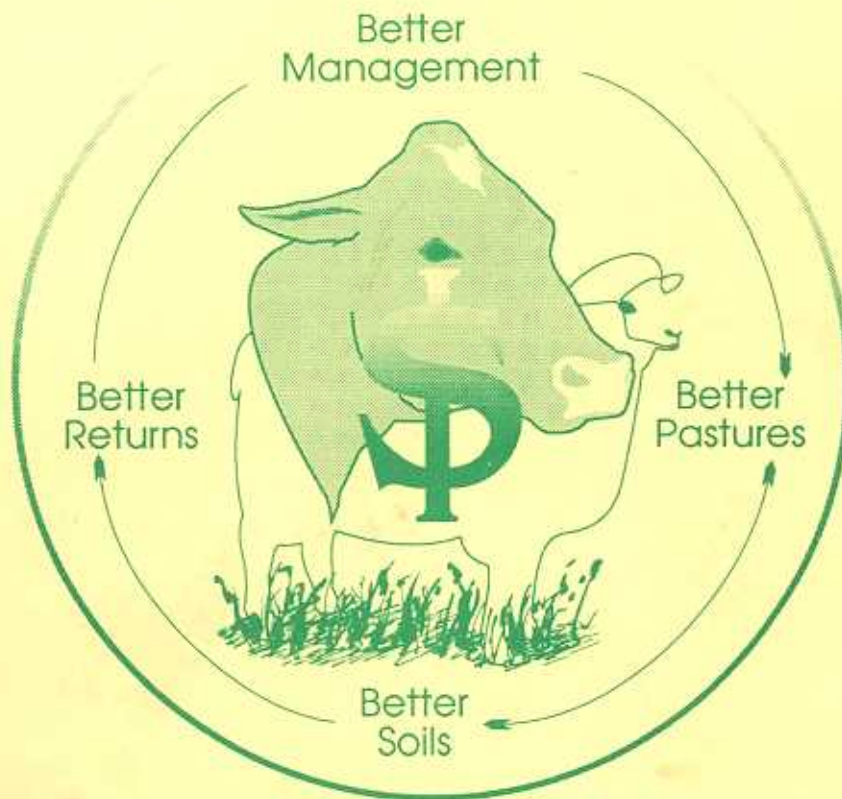




THE GRASSLAND SOCIETY OF NSW INC.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE



Wednesday 8th July
Thursday 9th July
1992

Tamworth & District Workman's Club
Tamworth N.S.W. 2340

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 7TH CONFERENCE

***MANAGING SOILS
FOR BETTER PASTURES***

***MANAGING PASTURES
FOR BETTER SOILS***

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE SEVENTH ANNUAL
CONFERENCE OF THE GRASSLAND
SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES**

**Invited Papers and Poster Summaries from the Conference
Held at Tamworth & District Workmans Club,
TAMWORTH, NSW
July 8- 9, 1992**

Edited by David Michalk
NSW Agriculture
Agricultural Research & Veterinary Centre
ORANGE NSW 2800

THE GRASSLAND SOCIETY OF N.S.W INC.

**A unique blend of people with a common interest
in developing our most important resource - our
Grassland**

The Grassland Society of NSW was formed in March 1985. The Society now has 770 members and associates, 75% of whom are farmers and graziers. The balance are agricultural scientists, farm advisers, consultants, and executives or representatives of organisations concerned with fertilizer, seeds, chemicals, and machinery.

The aims of the society are to provide opportunities for members to meet in conference, at field days or socially, to exchange information, ideas and experiences relating to grasslands.

Other aims of the society are to advance the investigation of problems affecting grassland husbandry and to encourage the adoption into practice of results of research and practical experience. The Society holds an annual conference, publishes a quarterly newsletter, holds field days, and is establishing regional branches throughout the State.

Membership is open to any person or company interested in grassland management and the aims of the Society. Ordinary (including family or farm units), student, and corporate membership is available.

OFFICE BEARERS OF THE NSW GRASSLAND SOCIETY - 1991/92

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Central Representatives:
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Robert Eccles, Chris Snell

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PREFACE

The past couple of years have been as different and difficult for Australians as any years in living memory. People's resources - physical, emotional, physiological and economic - are being stretched as never before. As we cope with these situations, it is important that all of us do not lose sight of the *basic skills and resources* which the farming community has to draw upon to survive in these troubled times. Equally, the support systems for agriculture must be maintained and extended so that we can be confident that the decisions made today will be the right ones, not only in the short-term, but also to ensure a viable agricultural sector for our children's children.

The theme of this conference - "Managing Soils for Better Pastures - Managing Pastures for Better Soils" is timely in terms of the sustainability debate for two main reasons:

- the community at large for some time has been questioning certain agronomic practices which are currently widely used; and,
- the appropriateness of the policies of Governments to create an economic and social environment to enable the necessary adjustments to proceed are also being questioned, especially by the agricultural sector.

It is certain that if the public push for sustainability is to be achieved, the cost of the necessary adjustment must be borne equally by city and rural Australians, not just by the farming community.

Conferences such as this provide people with the opportunity to share ideas and technology, thus providing the "tools" to attack the situation. The cross-section of farmer,

research and industry papers presented at this conference certainly contain pertinent information and management practices to address one of the most pressing problems facing agriculturalists in this nation - the degradation of our soil.

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Society to welcome the National Australia Bank as a *MAJOR* sponsor. One of the "spin off's" the Society sees in corporate sponsorship is to foster, develop and strengthen relationships between various bodies in the agricultural sector. An example of this is the recent launch of the PRIME PASTURE PROGRAMME^(R) which is supported by the National Soil Conservation Programme, Rural Service Industries, NSW Agriculture and the Grassland Society. We congratulate all involved in this project, and hope that similar programs will be developed to support other activities in the agricultural industries.

The establishment of branches of the Society in the North West and the Central West will compliment the excellent work that has been carried out by the Southern Tablelands branch.

Our many thanks to the many sponsors and supporters and to the Organising Committee for arranging this conference.

Graham R. Brown

President.

STUDY TOUR OF NEW ZEALAND, NOVEMBER, 1991. FERTILISER USE IN NEW ZEALAND

M.R. Duncan

District Agronomist, NSW Agriculture, ARMIDALE 2350 NSW

During November, 1991, I undertook a short duration study tour of New Zealand substantially assisted by the Grasslands Society of NSW.

The objectives of the study tour were:

1. to attend the 53rd annual conference of the New Zealand Grassland Association held at Whakatane on 5-7th November, 1991; and,
2. to visit selected agricultural research institutes, Universities, private farms and commercial firms in the North and South Islands for the purpose of collecting information on fertiliser developments, pasture species and grazing management.

The eleven day tour was an outstanding success in meeting these objectives. In addition, valuable contacts were made with research and commercial people that will provide for future associations and information. A report of the study tour has been completed and is available. It provides details of the itinerary and a summary of research and extension findings gathered from the various institutions that were visited.

By way of summary, the study tour embraced the following locations, institutions and topics:

1. Ruakura Agricultural Centre

- Reactive phosphate rock research and developments.
- Soil cadmium levels.

2. 53rd Annual Conference of the NZ Grassland Association

- Conference papers on a wide range of topics.
- Two field day sessions.

3. B.O.P Fertiliser Company Mt. Maunganui

- Fertiliser developments.

4. *Stipa neesiana* control at Waipawa

- This perennial grass is an emerging weed problem on the NSW Northern Tablelands.
- Control strategies used at Waipawa were investigated.

5. Massey University, Palmerston North

- Reactive phosphate rock.
- Soil testing for P & S.



Bill Hely (Incitec), Mick Duncan (NSW Agriculture) and Alex McKay (DSIR, NZ) inspect species trials at Ballantrae, near Palmerston North, New Zealand.

6. DSIR Grasslands, Palmerston North

- Pasture species research and evaluation.
- Grazing management on hill country.

7. Coated Seed Company, Christchurch.

- Seed coating technology.

8. Private farm visits, Canterbury area

- Dairying, prime lambs and deer on highly improved pasture.

9. Ravensdown Fertiliser Company, Dunedin

- Fertiliser industry developments.

10. Invermay Agricultural Centre, Mosgiel

- Sulphur research and soil testing.
- *Hieraceum*, an increasing weed problem.

11. Tara Hills Research Station, Omarama

- Pasture species evaluation.
- Grazing management.

The assistance of the Grassland Society of NSW in making this study tour possible is gratefully acknowledged.

ANNUAL TRAVEL GRANTS

The Grassland Society of NSW allocates funds for travel grants to assist members to attend local, interstate or overseas conferences, or for any other purpose that the Executive and the Grants Sub-Committee determine to be in the interests of the Society. At present, up to seven grants totalling \$4,000 are offered each year. This includes: 4 grants of \$250 each; 2 grants of \$500 each; and 1 award of up to \$2000.

These awards are open to all members with at least two years membership prior to date of application. Applications may only be submitted on official forms which can be obtained from Dr Malcolm Campbell, the Secretary of the Society (see page 2 for address). Dr Campbell can also be contacted at the Agricultural Research and Veterinary Centre, Orange (063-636728).

To assist members in determining their eligibility for these awards, the By-Laws governing the granting of awards are outlined below.

SOCIETY BY-LAWS GOVERNING FINANCIAL GRANTS TO MEMBERS

1. The Society may, on an annual basis, allocate a sum of money to provide grants to encourage and assist members to attend conferences, other than those conducted by the Society, or for any other purpose that the Society may determine.
2. The amount allocated annually and for what purpose will be determined by the Executive and announced at the Annual General Meeting of the Society. Details and application forms will be published in the first Newsletter thereafter.
3. Money not expended in any one year will NOT be carried over to the following year.
4. A maximum of two grants will be made to any one family, farm unit, corporate body, Government Department or an other organisation.
5. Grants will only be made to financial members with at least two years membership prior to date of application.
6. Applications will only be considered if made on the Society's Grant Application form and if lodged by the due date.
7. Grants will be paid by way of reimbursement after attendance at an event on receipted actual expenditure.
8. Applications for grants will be acknowledged upon receipt and a decision notified not later than four weeks after the closing date of applications.
9. Grants will be subjected to these by-laws or any amendments thereto and any conditions that the Society may impose on any particular grant.
10. Applications will be considered on their relative merits. Approval or otherwise will be made by the Society on the recommendation of the Grants Sub-Committee. The Society's decision will be final.
11. Within two months of the completion of the purpose of the grant recipients will be required to submit a written report to the Society and if requested will be expected to make themselves available to assist in the promotion of the Society, its aims and objectives. Such assistance will be of a practical nature and by mutual agreement.
12. Members of the Executive Committee shall not be eligible to receive a grant during their term of office.