



The Grassland Society of NSW Inc.

Grassland Farmers – Opportunities, Threats & Realities

26th Annual Conference
of The Grassland Society of NSW Inc.

BATHURST 26-28 JULY 2011



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The Grassland Society of NSW

A unique blend of people with a common interest in developing
our most important resource – our Grasslands

The Grassland Society of NSW was formed in March 1985. The Society now has about 500 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 fertilisers, seeds, chemicals and machinery.

The aims of the Society are to advance the investigation of problems affecting grasslands 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 has established regional branches throughout the State.

Membership is open to any person or company interested in grassland management and the aims of the Society.

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Contents

The Grassland Society of NSW	2
Conference Sponsors	4
Preface	7
Invited papers	11
<i>Threats, realities and opportunities of grassland farming</i> <i>in the central Tablelands</i> – K. Behrendt and J. Eppleston	12
<i>Farming the grass curve in the context of changing opportunities in the Australian lamb</i> <i>market – a central Tablelands perspective</i> – G.M. and G.J. Salmon	23
<i>Developing livestock preventive medicine programs with grassland farmers</i> – B.R. Watt	30
<i>Performance for profit</i> – M. Ryan	34
<i>Pseudo-science: a threat to agriculture?</i> – D.C. Edmeades	38
<i>Soil chemistry – facts and fiction and their influence on the fertiliser decision making</i> <i>process</i> – N. Menzies, D. Harbison and P. Dart	49
<i>The Pegala Pastoral Company – Vertically integrating cropping and beef production systems</i> – B. Hackney, P. Orchard, D. Kemp, B. Orchard	67
<i>Landscape and grazing management affects on pasture production and persistence on</i> <i>"Dunns Plains"</i> – B. Townson	74
<i>Collaborate to survive and thrive</i> – J. Gladigau	78
<i>Cereal based forage crops for hay and silage production</i> – J. Piltz, C. Rodham, J. Walker, P. Matthews, B. Hackney and J.F. Wilkins	81
<i>Optimising the intake of feed by pasture-fed sheep and cattle</i> – C.T. Westwood	88
<i>Varying sheep production from different pasture types</i> – J. Brien	99
Contributed papers	104
<i>Bioscapes – an introduction to biodiversity in grazing landscapes</i> – C. Edwards	105
<i>Surveys of grazing industry end-users in northern New South Wales</i> – G.M. Lodge	107
<i>On-farm monitoring of sheep and pasture production in the EverGraze northern New South</i> <i>Wales project</i> – G.M. Lodge, M.A. Brennan, P.T. Sanson, B.R. Roworth and I.J. Stace	111
<i>Developing pasture and livestock benchmarks for sheep production in northern New South</i> <i>Wales</i> – G.M. Lodge	115
<i>Comparison of methods for estimating herbage mass in small plots</i> – G. M. Lodge and S. Harden	119
<i>Using height and density to estimate the herbage mass of different pastures in northern New</i> <i>South Wales</i> – G.M. Lodge, M.A. Brennan, P.T. Sanson, B.R. Roworth and I.J. Stace	123
<i>"Trevenna" sheep production demonstration site of methane emissions on the northern</i> <i>Tablelands of NSW</i> – C. Edwards, M.J. McPhee, J. Meckiff, N. Ballie, D. Schneider and R. HegartyC	127
<i>Using near infrared reflectance spectroscopy (NIRS) to determine nutritive value of tropical</i> <i>perennial grasses</i> – S.P. Boschma, S.A. Sissons and M.J. Sissons	129
<i>Herbicides evaluated for tropical perennial grasses</i> – L.H. McCormick, S.P. Boschma, A.S. Cook and B.M. McCorkell	133

<i>The value of 'alternative' nitrogen fertiliser products on pasture.</i>	
1. Pasture production at three sites – C.E. Muir, N. Griffiths and P. Beale	136
<i>The value of 'alternative' nitrogen fertiliser products on pasture.</i>	
2. Pasture quality and carryover effects at Tocal – C.E. Muir, N. Griffiths and P. Beale	140
<i>The use of pig manure – a study at Wollun, NSW – C. Edwards and M. Duncan</i>	143
Poster papers	146
<i>Investigating the impact of cover cropping on a native pasture system</i>	
<i>in southern Queensland – L. Bailey, S. Murphy and C. Guppy</i>	147
<i>Managing tropical perennial grasses for livestock production – a case study</i>	
<i>– B.R. McGufficke</i>	149
<i>Benefits and uses of plantain (Plantago lanceolata) cv. Ceres Tonic in livestock production</i>	
<i>systems in New South Wales – H.G Judson and A.J.E. Moorhead</i>	151
<i>Australian breeding of persistent perennial ryegrass without endophyte – A. Leddin</i>	153
<i>Effect of ensiling on weed seed viability – J. Piltz, R. Stanton, C. Rodham and H.Wu</i>	156
Travel grant report	157
<i>Report of travel to New Zealand to attend the 15th Australian Society</i>	
<i>of Agronomy Conference and visit two NZ Agresearch Institutes – M.R. Norton</i>	158

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Preface

I extend a very warm welcome to all members attending this 26th annual conference of the Grassland Society of NSW.

An equally warm welcome to those who are not members of the Society. I encourage you to join us and enjoy the many benefits of membership, well worth the annual subscription of \$50.00.

This is the first conference to be held at Bathurst. We all look forward to a stimulating two days including the farm tours of the district. The tours are an important feature of our conferences and invariably provide visitors to the district with an insight into agricultural production at the local level.

Plant and animal production depend on new technologies to complement established agricultural science. The Grassland Society brings together producers, agronomists, agribusiness firms, animal scientists and teachers of agriculture to receive, discuss and exchange high quality information relevant to grassland farming. One important objective of the Society is to promote agricultural systems that combine improved efficiencies and environmental responsibility. Pastures, both native and introduced, are the powerhouse of all forms of agriculture across Australia. Above ground, pastures sustain grazing animals, suppress weed invasion and protect otherwise bare ground from erosion. Of equal importance, they provide for microbial activity under the ground. Pastures both depend on and improve soil health.

This conference examines aspects of soil fertility, pasture management and animal performance. In addition, threats to and realities of agricultural systems, from natural and human sources are discussed by prominent scientists and producers.

The organising Committee has put much time and effort into selecting expert speakers to bring delegates up to date with current and new aspects of pasture and animal science. The conference team is to be congratulated and

thanked for putting together such a stimulating program of formal sessions and farm tours.

I would like to acknowledge our many sponsors representing corporate and government sectors that regularly support the Grassland Society. Conferences of this nature do not happen without the substantial assistance of our sponsors. Furthermore, I encourage all conference delegates to visit the well-prepared commercial displays, exhibits and posters. They are full of current information on new pasture varieties, fertiliser products, herbicides and management strategies, all aimed at assisting producers and their advisers. Please take time to talk with representatives of the trade exhibits and poster authors. They are a valuable source of information and are always happy to discuss developments with conference delegates.

Finally, I thank all of you who are here to enjoy and learn from this conference. The Grassland Society is keen to maintain the high standards of previous years, and we invite suggestions to improve future activities. Please feel free to let any member of the Organising Committee know your thoughts in this regard. After all, the Grassland Society is only as effective as its members and depends on them for continued existence. I again encourage non-members to join and enjoy the many benefits of membership. Application forms can be printed from our internet site: www.grasslandnsw.com.au and are available from the registration desk at this conference.

Best wishes for a most enjoyable conference.

Mick Duncan
President