



Grassland Society of NSW Inc

Newsletter

Welcome to another edition of the Grassland Society of NSW newsletter. Preparations for the annual conference are in full swing and this years committee have organised a great program of speakers and bus tours (see page 2). Conference registrations close Friday July 10 - for details on how to register refer to page 3 or go to www.grasslandnsw.com.au - I hope to catch up with you at the conference.

As we draw close to another conference we must thank our sponsors for the 2014/2015 year - without their support events such as the annual conference and the pasture updates would not occur.

The sponsors in 2014/2015 were;

Premier: NSW Department of Primary Industries

Major: Incitec Pivot and Local Land Services Northern Tablelands

Corporate: Agrimix, Heritage Seeds, AusWest, Wengfu Australia, Ag Innovations, Evergraze and New England North West Landcare

Pasture Update Series: Meat and Livestock Australia

Hay and Silage Competition: New Holland, Pioneer H-Bred Australia, Integrated Packaging.

The Society has recently held three events in the 2015 Pasture Update Series at Nimmitabel, Berry and Glen Innes – page 4 has a report and some photos from a great, but chilly day at Glen Innes.

Two Pasture Updates are planned for later in the year in the Central West and Central Tablelands – more details will be available in the next newsletter or keep an eye on the Grassland Society website www.grasslandnsw.com.au

Carol Harris

Editor



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To find out go to page 6

Membership subscription due now for 2015/2016

Annual Grassland Society of NSW subscription of \$60 for 2014/2015 is due July 1 2015.

Payment methods: Cheque, Credit Card (Mastercard or Visa) or electronic*

Account Name:
Grassland Society of NSW

BSB: 032 833
Account No: 421 690

Bank: Westpac

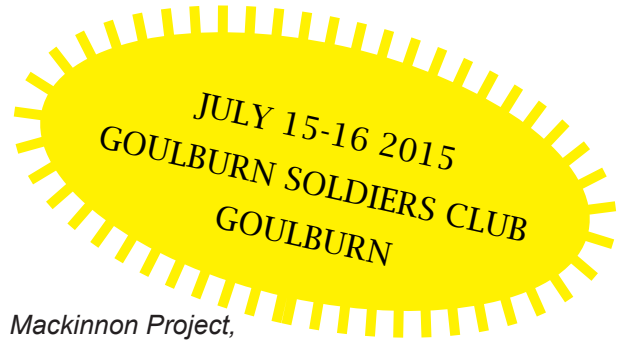
Reference: 'Surname' and then 'first name'

* If paying by electronic banking, don't forget to email the Secretary (secretary@grasslandnsw.com.au) with your details





2015 Annual Conference - Making Pastures Pay



Wednesday 15 July

8.00 am **Registrations**
9.00 am **Welcome and Welcome to Country**

Session 1 - Business profit drivers

Opportunities to maximise livestock profitability - *John Webb Ware, Mackinnon Project, Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Melbourne*

Managing the production potential of the soils of the Southern Highlands and Central Tablelands – key messages from the Landscan program – *Luke Pope, Local Land Services South East*

Soil phosphorus fertility management on grazing farms – closing the phosphorus efficiency gap - *Richard Simpson, CSIRO Canberra*

1.00 pm **Bus Tours Depart Goulburn Soldiers Club to visit farms in the following localities**

Tour A – Crookwell district

Visit “Rosedale” a mixed farming enterprise close to Crookwell, which highlights award winning landscape rehabilitation work, established over 15 years. A feature of “Rosedale” is the successful integration of sustainable farming practices in highly productive livestock and horticulture enterprises of the region.

Tour B – Lake Bathurst district

Visit successful mixed farming operations in the Lake Bathurst district that include innovative broadacre cropping enterprises. These properties demonstrate successful adaptation of broadacre cropping to the Tableland environment to complement and benefit livestock production systems.

Tour C – Tarago/Collector district

Visit the Woodlawn Bioreactor site located near Tarago. This was previously an open-cut mine, but is now one of the largest bioreactor landfill projects in the world. It features bio-energy production using energy recovered from waste material to produce electricity; aquaculture utilising generated energy for tropical fish farming; a 50 MW Windfarm harnessing natural wind energy; and a 6,000 ha grazing operation producing wool and meat.

6.30 pm **Conference Dinner & Entertainment (Robert Gorman – Bush poet)**

Thursday 16 July

8.00 am **Registrations and Trade Displays**
8.30 am **Session 2 - Matching product to future markets**

Which breeding directions for sheep on the Southern Tablelands – *Phil Graham, NSW Department of Primary Industries Yass*

Genetics, production objectives and the farm business's bottom line - *Grant Burbidge, 'Connemara' Tarcutta*

Session 3 - Maximising the returns from on-farm fertiliser investment

On-farm fertiliser planning – principles into practice - *Jim Virgona, Graminus Consulting*

Targeting fertiliser use to land capability - *Ollie Cay, 'Pineleigh' Bungarby*

Session 4 - Persistence of pasture species, sustainable pastures for the Tablelands

Persistence of perennial species at Blayney – *David Harbison, D R Agriculture Pty Ltd, Molong*

Grazing management options to boost productivity and secure healthy landscapes - Warwick Badgery, NSW Department of Primary Industries Orange

Panel session: Pasture persistence on the Tablelands

Session 5

Capitalising on the opportunities for agriculture in the tablelands of southern NSW - a farmer's perspective - *Garry Kadwell, 'Rosedale' Crookwell*

Angus Taylor MP (Member of Federal Parliament, electorate of Hume)

3.15 pm Conference Close

There are a number of ways to register for the conference.

Download a registration form from www.grasslandnsw.com.au and either mail or fax the completed registration form and payment to:

The Secretary
The Grassland Society of NSW
PO Box 471
Orange NSW 2800
Fax: (02) 6362 1556

You can also register using Try Booking - go to the following link and follow the prompts

www.trybooking.com/Booking/BookingEventSummary.aspx?eid=138032

Conference registrations close Friday July 10 2015



When registering don't forget to indicate your bus tour preference.

CONFERENCE PACKAGE

\$260 MEMBERS
\$330 NON-MEMBERS
\$60 MEMBERSHIP

Full conference package includes conference sessions on both days, conference proceedings, meals & bus tour

Individual day rates available

Annual General Meeting

The Grassland Society of NSW Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday July 14 2015 at the Goulburn Soldiers Club at 5.30 pm.

All members and non-members are welcome to attend and contribute to the meeting.

Interested in becoming more involved with the Society? Why not nominate for the state committee? For more information contact Janelle Witschi on 0408 612 235

There will be a Happy Hour and canapes at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting.

For more information please call Helen Burns for conference program and presentations on 0427 721 816 and Janelle Witschi for registrations 0408 612 235

Glen Innes Pasture Update a success

Over 80 farmers braved cold weather on Wednesday May 13 to attend the Grassland Society of NSW Pasture Update hosted by the Glen Innes Natural Resources Advisory Committee (GLENRAC) at the Glen Innes Agricultural Research and Advisory Station. There was something for everyone, with presentations, farm visits, and farm machinery brought in by local contractors on display.

Fiona Leech from South East Local Land Services discussed her research work investigating nine fertiliser products for use on native perennial pastures in the Yass district. "Farmers are always looking for more cost-effective ways to deliver phosphorus, given that it is a key driver of growth", she said. "With this work we wanted to determine through a replicated, scientific trial the effectiveness of a number of products including single superphosphate, and a number of 'alternative products'".

Lewis Kahn from AIMS Ag continued the conversation on fertiliser use, noting that "fertiliser use in the local area is

much less effective than on the Southern Tablelands. It is therefore so important to determine the deficiencies and toxicities that you need to address, prior to application of any soil treatment", he said

Mark Trotter from UNE talked to the group about current progress on precision agriculture in pastures. Of particular interest to much of the audience was electronic fencing in sheep and cattle grazing systems, and development of ear tags to track individual animals.

"This has the potential to not only track animals, but recording daily weight gains in commercial herds, detecting oestrus cycles, monitoring disease and predation through behavioural changes, are just some of the things we'll be able to do with this technology", he said.

The day included a bus trip to Sam and Bea Baker's property "Yirri North" to look at a newly sown pasture, and discuss the planning and operational process. Mick Duncan's (Agronomist, Armidale) presentation in the morning was focussed on pasture establishment, and he was able to talk to the group about some of

the practical considerations and things to monitor in the newly sown pasture on Sam's property.

The Burridge family's "Glendon Vale" was the final visit to look at tillage radish sown with Rasina vetch, where Henry and Ranald Burridge explained why they had included the radish in their cropping rotation. "The taproot pushes deep down into the soil and when radish dies, the root will break down. The decomposed root material will all go back into the soil contributing valuable organic matter, which will be beneficial to the following corn crop", Henry said.

Much of the information presented on the day, including some of Fiona's research data, is on the GLENRAC website www.glenrac.org.au. There are also links to further resources discussed on the day. This event was held in conjunction with Meat and Livestock Australia, and the Grassland Society of NSW Inc. GLENRAC would like to thank everyone involved, with particular mention to the machinery exhibitors, the Baker and Burridge families for their contributions.



▲ Inspecting machinery at the Glen Innes Pasture Update



▲ Panel members (left to right) Lewis Kahn, Mark Trotter, Mark Pietsch, Fiona Leech and Mick Duncan



▲ GLENRAC Landcare Co-ordinator Kylie Falconer and presenter Fiona Leech.



◀ Ranald and Henry Burridge in their paddock of tillage radish near Glen Innes

Drought, flood and a whole lot else: the lived experience of farm households

Editors Note: This article is reprinted from the Conversation (<http://theconversation.com/drought-flood-and-a-whole-lot-else-the-lived-experience-of-farm-households-5952>)

Although it was first published in 2012 it is still relevant today especially given the recent weather events across the state.

It has been a summer of flooding for farmers in northeast Victoria and NSW. Reporters talk about the effect on crops, pastures and yields. But what about the effect on farming households? How do they cope with these severe weather events? We can get an insight from research into similar experiences in northwest Victoria in 2011.

The recently launched report "Critical Breaking Point? The effects of climate variability, climate change and other pressures on farm households" is a detailed picture of the diverse and far-reaching influence of the recent drought and extreme wet on farm households in the Wimmera-Mallee region of Victoria".

While results are diverse, the effect of the drought can be summarised as the erosion of reserves. Many businesses had adopted a range of valuable drought-proofing techniques. But virtually all reported that the long stretch of dry and drought years (more than 15 years in some cases) had eroded not only their financial reserves, but their physical reserves or capital (with lost soil fertility and failing equipment) and their social or personal reserves (they were suffering from reduced social interaction and demoralisation).

As one woman explained:

We lost confidence more than anything. We actually lost confidence in our ability to make the right decision, because everything we seemed to do was wrong [...] in the end it didn't matter what we seemed to be doing. We'd say "are we making the right decision here?" We just lost confidence.

By 2010, many farm businesses and households were in a relatively precarious position. The financial and mental risks inevitably involved in gearing up for the season that year were accentuated by the financial and mental strain under which many were already labouring.

As the season unfolded, their commitment began to be rewarded. Conditions were favourable: more favourable than they had been for a very long time. Hopes began to gather as rain fell in an uncommonly abundant and timely fashion. Many read the signs and decided to go for it, putting in more crops. Then locusts appeared, young ones proliferating among the plentiful foliage and spreading down through the Mallee into the Wimmera. For most, disaster was averted as farmers responded aggressively, investing weeks and considerable resources into monitoring and spraying the locusts as they appeared. For most, a bumper harvest – a record-breaking harvest – continued to beckon. So too did a bumper income.

Although the dollar was strong, prices were, unusually, on farmers' side and began to soar. People began to allow themselves rough mental calculations of the financial recovery they would enjoy, tempered by the substantial amount many had invested throughout the year.

All that was needed for them to cash in was for the heavy, mature grain heads to ripen ready for harvest. A stretch of warm, dry weather of the sort so regularly experienced in previous years was required.

What arrived instead was rain: lots and lots of rain. It was patchy, so not all were affected and some had their longed for bumper year. As one woman explained:

This year came just in time [...] Things are now much better but not good. We are on our way back but have a long way to still go.

By bringing longed for water, the rain also led to some jubilation. But for the many with promising, expensive crops still in the fields the immediate response was more disbelief and panic than celebration. Grain quality deteriorated rapidly under a series of heavy rainfall events.

Some farmers responded by quickly beginning harvest, doing their best among the difficult wet conditions, stopping and starting as conditions fluctuated. Others decided to wait for the crops to dry out, desperate to be rewarded for the top-quality product they had grown and perhaps disbelieving that such unusual rain would occur again. It seemed to work and drying began, but then more rain fell. Increasing numbers of farmers decided to harvest immediately to save what they

could. But the conditions for harvest deteriorated together with the grain quality. Contractors were quickly booked out. Neighbours helped each other as people worked day and night, fighting equipment failures caused by the wet and waiting impatiently in long queues at the local silos to unload each truck.

As the water accumulated, many of the huge crops sitting out in the paddocks simply became un-harvestable. Large areas of pasture were ruined.

This was especially the case for those who copped not only the local rainfall, but the results of the unprecedented falls further north. Any farmers near (or even not so near) water courses – including old water courses barely noticed or forgotten for years – found themselves fighting the more immediate challenge of flood waters spilling out of their local area or the broader catchment. Roads were cut off and harvesting equipment, trucks, houses and stock stranded. So too were vast areas of promising crops.

The rain brought a long series of flow-on effects: months of repairing fences and equipment; managing a proliferation of pests, weeds and disease, including flyblown sheep; the threat of locusts returning. These tasks were compounded by the need to work around damaged and closed roads, maintain existing off-farm work commitments, and cope with foregone holidays and rest.

And farmers had to rapidly prepare for the 2011 season, given the promise of soil moisture and the sense that the longed for recovery year may finally arrive if people could get ready in time.

In the aftermath, some people were shell-shocked by the magnitude of the losses they had suffered and the strange timing and manner in which they had occurred. Others were ebullient with the realisation that "it could rain again".

In some cases this was accentuated by the belief that the rains proved wrong the unwelcome messages about climate change (misinterpreted as a constant drying). The strangeness of the weather was for others further evidence that something is indeed happening to the climate.

Overall, farm households became more aware of the potential for extreme variability, and have accommodated it as a piece of farming lore.

Extreme conditions like drought and flood reveal the strengths and weaknesses of existing systems. Positives such as previously unknown depths of personal resilience or conservative cropping choices were brought to the fore.

Likewise, negatives such as the vulnerability of existing business strategies to unexpected downturns or dependence on road and train infrastructure for off-farm work or grain sales were also bleakly exposed.

The longitudinal nature of the research also challenged ideas of what is positive

or negative, with different system characteristics performing differently under different conditions. While some drought adaptations were valuable in increasing resilience to dryness and related loss income, some also inadvertently worsened the impact of the extreme wet. For example, because of their off-farm employment some people had to drive vast distances to avoid closed roads, while sheep (a popular insurance against drought-induced crop failure) created difficulties with lost fencing and flystrike.

The growing awareness of the need for a systemic and dynamic perspective among many farming individuals represents an important adaptation; one as valuable as the popularly promoted adoption of "drought-proofing" techniques.

This research was commissioned by the non-profit farming organisation Birchip Cropping Group and sponsored most recently by the Sustainable Agriculture Initiative Platform Australia

Grassland Society of NSW Travel Grants

The Society may, on an annual basis, allocate a sum of money to provide grants to encourage and assist members to attend other conferences or for any other worthwhile purpose.

The by-laws relating to the Society's Travel Grants are summarised below. Applications must be submitted using the Travel Grant Application form which is available on the Grassland Society of NSW website www.grasslandnsw.com.au

The completed form should be mailed to:

The Secretary
The Grassland Society of NSW Inc.
PO Box 471
Orange, NSW 2800

Summary of Travel Grant By-Laws

(please see the application form for complete By-Laws):

Grants will be subject to these by-laws or any amendments. The Society's travel grant "year" shall be the calendar year.

The amount allocated annually and for what purpose will be determined by the State Management Committee and announced at the Annual General meeting.

Money not expended in any one year will NOT automatically be carried over to the following year.

Grants will only be made to financial members with at least two years of continuous membership prior to the date of application.

A maximum of two grants will be made to any one individual, family or farm unit.

Members may not apply for travel grants in consecutive years.

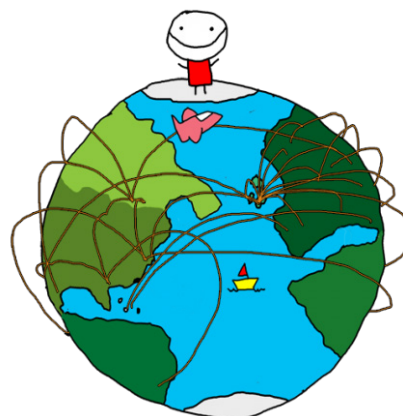
Retrospective grants will not be considered and grants are not transferable.

Application will only be considered if made on the Society's Grants Application Form and if lodged by the November meeting of the State Management Committee.

Decisions regarding successful applications will be made at the State Management Committee meeting in the November of the year preceding the uptake of the grant.

Applications for grants will be acknowledged upon receipt and a decision notified to applicants not later than 31 January, following deliberations at the November meeting.

Applications will be considered on their relative merits. The Committee's decision will be final.



Travel grants will be forfeited if not taken in the year for which they are granted.

Grants may only be used for the purpose for which they were granted.

Within two months of the completion of the purpose of the grant recipients will be required to submit a written report to the Society.

The written report (maximum total length, four pages) MUST use the Template and Guidelines provided so that it can be published in the Conference Proceedings and/or the Newsletter .

Research Update

Keeping you up-to-date with pasture and grassland research in Australia. Abstracts of recently published research papers will be reprinted as well as the citation and author details in you wish to follow up the full paper.

Monthly metabolisable energy feed requirements of crossbred ewes in accelerated and traditional lamb production systems

N. M. Fogarty, NSW Department of Primary Industries, Orange Agricultural Institute, Orange, NSW 2800, Australia. Email:neal.fogarty@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Abstract: The annual metabolisable energy (ME) feed requirements and patterns of monthly ME requirements for ewe maintenance, gestation, lactation and lamb growth to weaning were evaluated for 1175 crossbred ewes over 4 years at two sites (Cowra and Wagga Wagga). The study involved three lamb production systems: accelerated 8-monthly joinings, with two flocks joined 4 months apart (Ac8), spring joining with an autumn backup joining (SpB), and annual autumn joining (AuA). The Ac8 and SpB systems were evaluated at Cowra and the SpB and AuA systems were evaluated at Wagga Wagga. Two genotypes of ewes, Border Leicester × Merino (BLM) and Hyfer (Dorset × Merino composite), were used at both sites, with natural joinings to Dorset, Suffolk or Hyfer rams. The ewe liveweight, reproduction and lamb production data from individual ewes in the experiment were used to calculate monthly ME requirements using derived

simplified equations for ewe maintenance, gestation, lactation and lamb growth to weaning. Annual ME, dry sheep equivalent (DSE = maintenance for a 50-kg, 3.5-year-old ewe = 3030 MJ) and weight of lamb weaned per DSE were analysed and the monthly pattern of ME components presented graphically. The ewes in the Ac8 system had 11% higher ME than those in the SpB system because of their considerably higher annual lambing performance, which resulted in 16–47% greater efficiency of the Ac8 compared with the SpB system when expressed as weight of lamb weaned per DSE. There was also a lower proportion of ME for ewe maintenance in the Ac8 (58%) than SpB or AuA (68%) systems. There was little difference in the annual feed requirements or DSE for ewes in the SpB and AuA production systems, although ewes in the AuA system weaned 9–28% more weight of lamb per DSE than the SpB

ewes because of their higher lambing performance. The differences in ME and DSE between the BLM and Hyfer ewes were relatively small and mainly reflected the differences in lambing performance of the genotypes in the various production systems. The seasonal pattern of ME for the AuA and SpB systems showed a sharp increase from the last month of pregnancy to a high peak at weaning with a relatively low requirement for the rest of the year. Under the Ac8 system the ME requirements were more consistent throughout the year and at a lower level than the peak for the other systems. The results highlight the possible increased efficiency from an accelerated lambing system, provided the seasonal feed requirements throughout the year can be provided cost effectively.

Animal Production Science 55(5) 595-602
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1071/AN13456>

The economic significance of maintaining pasture production at its peak value

C. I. Ludemann^{A,B,D}, J. L. Jacobs^{B,C} and K. F. Smith^{A,B}

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Abstract: Persistence of pasture is considered an important trait by many farmers using pasture-based systems. Despite this, pasture persistence is generally poorly defined. This study includes an analysis of changes in farm operating profits (OP) when pasture persistence is improved. Persistence was defined as either a 1-year increase in years at peak dry matter (DM) production or a reduction in the rate of decline in annual pasture DM production after the year that peak

production occurred (duration of pasture life), both resulting in a 1-year delay in pasture renovation. Changes in OP for these definitions of pasture persistence were modelled for two dairy farms in temperate regions of Australia (Terang in south-western Victoria and Elliott in Tasmania). An increase in duration of peak DM production on the basis of economic theory increased OP more than an increase in duration of pasture life. Increases in OP for a 1-year increase in peak DM production were AU\$165 ha⁻¹

for Terang and \$202 ha⁻¹ for Elliott. This compared with \$21 ha⁻¹ for Terang and \$15 ha⁻¹ for Elliott for a 1-year increase in the duration of pasture life. Therefore, farmers and plant breeders could place more emphasis on improving the duration of time that pasture plants achieve peak DM production than improving pasture persistence at the end of the pasture plant's lifetime, to increase annual OP.

Crop and Pasture Science 66(2) 205-213
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1071/CP14162>



Winter crop variety sowing guide 2015 now available

The 2015 edition of the popular Winter crop variety sowing guide published by the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is now available to assist growers with their cropping decisions this season.

DPI grain technical specialist, Peter Matthews said the Winter crop variety sowing guide aims to assist growers to make better decisions and to select the most suitable variety for their farming system.

"The guide contains updated technical information from the latest research and industry programs on major winter crops including, wheat, barley, oats, triticale, cereal rye, canola, chickpeas, faba beans, field peas and lupins," Mr Matthews said.

"Research results on yield performance and disease data are provided from the National Variety Testing program, which is a Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) initiative.

"In spring 2014 six new milling wheat varieties and three new long season winter feed wheat varieties were released.

"Three new potential malting barley varieties were also released, which are in the early stages of malt accreditation and some have limited quantities of seed available in NSW for the 2015 sowing.

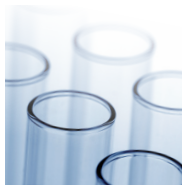
"Twelve new canola varieties have been released, bringing the total to 52 varieties available to growers. One new faba bean variety suited to southern NSW, and one narrow-leaf lupin has also been released.

"Growers are reminded that when they are considering a new variety, it is important to compare the yield potential, grain quality and disease resistances and tolerances with the currently grown varieties."

"The 2015 season has started much drier than 2014 but paddock preparation is well advanced with paddocks in need of a good rainfall event in April to allow sowing to get underway. Predictions of above average rainfall through April and May is encouraging," Mr Matthews said.

"The guide provides valuable information to growers on varieties susceptible to other cereal leaf diseases, including stem rust, leaf rust, crown rot, yellow leaf spot and barley powdery mildew and how to combat them to reduce production losses."

The Winter crop variety sowing guide 2015 is available from all major agribusiness stores, Local Land Services offices and DPI, and can be downloaded on the DPI website.



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Are you the next Nuffield?

Applications for the 2016 Nuffield Scholarships are now open. From meeting innovative producers around the world to drilling down into a research topic that will make a real, on-the-ground difference, Nuffield scholarships offer many opportunities.

The scholarships give Australian primary producers and managers the chance to travel the world, firstly as a group on the renowned 'Global Focus Program', and then individually to investigate the best agricultural practices in the world.

Nuffield is taking applications for the 2016 scholarship program until 30 June 2015. A \$30,000 bursary is provided to successful applicants to carry out their study over a two-year period.

Nuffield Australia has been selecting Scholars for over 60 years. It is the leading program for primary producers in Australia which identifies new leaders in industry and the community. It is also part of a global network of over 1,400 Scholars from many other countries. Scholars represent many rural industries and are selected on merit as people committed to their industry sector and are typically engaged with their regions and communities.

Scholarships available in 2016 include:

* A grain grower in northern New South Wales or Queensland (GRDC Northern Region), supported by the Grains Research and Development Corporation

* A grain grower in southern New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia or Tasmania (GRDC Southern Region), supported by the Grains Research and Development Corporation

* A grain grower in Western Australia (GRDC Western Region), supported by the Grains Research and Development Corporation

* A grain grower anywhere in Australia, supported by Grain Growers Ltd

* An aquaculture producer or a wildcatch fisher anywhere in Australia, supported by the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation

* A viticulturist anywhere in Australia, supported by the Australian Grape and Wine Authority

* A rice grower anywhere in Australia, supported by the Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation, Rice R&D Committee

* A chicken meat grower or livestock manager anywhere in Australia, supported by Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation, Chicken Meat Program

* A vegetable levy paying grower anywhere in Australia, supported by Horticulture Innovation Australia Limited using the National Vegetable Levy and matched funds from the Australian Government

* A levy paying banana grower anywhere in Australia, supported by Horticulture Innovation Australia Limited using the Banana Industry Levy and matched funds from the Australian Government

* A cattle, sheep or goat producer anywhere in Australia, supported by Meat & Livestock Australia

* A woolgrower anywhere in Australia, supported by Australian Wool Innovation

* An egg producer anywhere in Australia, supported by the Australian Egg Corporation Limited

* A dairy producer anywhere in Australia, supported by Dairy Australia

* A primary producer anywhere in Australia, supported by Rabobank

* A primary producer in New South Wales, supported by John Deere Limited

Eligibility

The Scholarships are open to men and women, who are:

- Between 28-40 years of age. (Nuffield understands that there may be people outside this age range who would benefit from the Scholarship experience. We encourage them to apply);
- Ordinarily a resident of Australia;
- Engaged in farming or fishing as an owner or manager or an active member of a farming business; and
- Intending to remain involved in primary production in Australia.

Regard will be given to the value of the experience that the applicant should gain through his or her studies. All Scholars will be expected to resume residence in Australia after completion of their scholarship and must write a report of their studies (see Scholar's agreement). This report remains the property of Nuffield Australia and may be published at Nuffield Australia's discretion. Reports are published at the expense of Nuffield Australia and remain the property of Nuffield Australia.

 nuffield.com.au - For more information and to download an application

Canadian Forage in the International Year of Soils – Capture the Intensity!

November 17 – 19th, 2015
Sheraton Cavalier Hotel,
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

With the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization having declared 2015 as the International Year of Soils, what better opportunity to showcase the contribution of forages to profitable livestock production, healthy cropping systems, and overall ecosystem health for Canadian society.

The 6th Annual CFGA conference will highlight the profitability of intensive forage production systems and the potential of forages to provide ecosystem goods and services for all Canadians. Join us this November 17- 19th, 2015 in beautiful downtown Saskatoon, Saskatchewan for Canadian Forage in the International Year of Soils – Capture the Intensity!

 www.canadian.fga.ca for more information

Target 100 celebrates 3rd birthday

Since Target 100's launch three years ago, the program has made great inroads to ensure the Australian community continues to trust the cattle and sheep industry.

"This is reflected in the fact that the percentage of people reducing beef and lamb consumption for perceived environment or welfare reasons hasn't crept up from 5% over this time despite significantly more noise around the issues," said MLA's Community Engagement Manager Pip Band.

Target 100 was set up by the beef and lamb industry to connect with the community about how beef and lamb is produced and to debunk the myths about the environmental impact and animal welfare.

"It's not a topic that everyone is interested in. So unlike the marketing programs for beef and lamb, Target 100 isn't trying to reach the mass public but rather the 5-10% of the Australian population who have concerns about the environmental or animal welfare performance of the industry," said Pip.

"To reach this section of the community and the key influencers who ultimately lead the trends, we have a very targeted program to ensure they are aware of how beef and lamb is produced in Australia and are across the local research on things like water use, emissions and animal welfare.

Target 100 consists of the website, social media, events and a schools program that all seek to have genuine conversations with the community.

Some key highlights over the past three years include:

- Over 230 producer case studies telling the world how Australia produces beef and lamb with care for the environment and animals.

- The recent launch of the #Goodmeat series that is using YouTube stars to explore the industry. The first series with wild man and adventurer Andrew Ucles has surpassed expectations with over 22,000 views in just over a week.

- Over 20,000 urban consumers have been reached at events where producers get a chance to talk to crowds about producing beef and lamb sustainably at venues including the Sydney Opera House during TEDx, Taste of Melbourne and Sydney, The Sydney Festival and Regional Flavours in Brisbane.

- A strong social media presence with over 10,000 people now following Target 100 on Facebook and many others also following the program on Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.

- In the first year over two million people saw the Target 100 ad in cinemas, on Qantas flights and many others saw print ads in metro papers.

- Five primary and five secondary school study guides developed and delivered to teachers across the country and teachers reached at numerous conferences.

- 90+ of the Target 100 R&D initiatives have been completed and replaced by new initiatives.

- Tactical activity responding to anti-meat information (like the Cowspiracy movie) and releasing the Bettertarian campaign during Meat Free Week 2014 and also a campaign to coincide with Meat Free Week 2015.

- Partnerships with high-profile people to help build the Target 100 brand to the relevant audiences, including chefs Darren Robertson and Justin North, environmentalist Dr Tim Flannery and social media personalities Sarah Wilson and Rebecca Sullivan.

"A huge thanks to everyone in industry that has been involved to date and in particular to the 230 producers who have told their stories so far.

"If you want to help promote your industry and do your bit to ensure that consumers continue to feel good about eating beef and lamb in the future, it only takes five minutes to upload your story or get in contact with us and we can assist you," said Pip.

More information
www.target100.com.au

Rural Resilience Program - Drought preparedness survey.

The NSW Department of Primary Industries Rural Resilience Program has developed a drought preparedness survey to gather state-wide information on how rural communities and farmers cope with drought.

This short online survey will only take about three (3) minutes to complete and we want it to go out far and wide across NSW farming networks.

By answering the three (3) questions farmers, farm workers and their families will help us to build a clearer up-to-date picture of how drought-affected farming communities have coped personally as well as in their farm businesses.

This information is being collected by the NSW Department of Primary Industries' Rural Resilience Program, which aims to build connected viable farming communities. More information on the program is available at resilience.program@dpi.nsw.gov.au

It is important to note that this survey is confidential and no personal contact details are recorded.

Here is the link to the survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/droughtinformation>

**This survey closes
on the 30 June 2015**



WENGFU AUSTRALIA

The Efficient Advantage

From the President

Lucky for some, and not so for others is how April turned out. Unfortunately the north west of the state has again been on the outer, while the North and North East, Central region and most of the south has seen fair to good rainfall. Some through the Hunter have had a bit more than they would have liked, and unfortunately they haven't been able to organise a 'sharing' plan with those further west. Our thoughts go out to those who are consistently missing the rainfall events.

For those with livestock, it appears it only has to have 4 legs in the beef sector at the moment to be worth plenty. I hear there is plenty of agents even talking of a dearer market later in the year, so hopefully the season develops well enough for most to be able to take advantage of it.

In the sheep game, while the market is good, it appears not as hot as the cattle

game. That said, on the radio today I heard the wool market kicked nicely this week, and 'cardings' broke 1000 cents/kg for the first time ever.

The "Pasture Updates" are running again in 2015, with Nimmitabel, Bomaderry and Glen Innes already done, and Collerina (Central West Plains) and the Central Tablelands likely to conduct there's in July and September respectively. Great numbers attended Nimmitabel and Bomaderry, and are a credit to Luke Pope and Amanda Britton, both LLS officers, who convened these on behalf of the Grassland Society. I haven't heard a report from Glen Innes yet, but with a similar program to those in the south, I anticipate great numbers again. Keep an eye on the web site for the next "Pasture Update" near you.

Our 2015 Annual Conference (July 15 – 16) at Goulburn is all but upon us, with

only six weeks to go. Much work is being channelled into what looks to be a very comprehensive program. I encourage all those that can get to Goulburn to make the effort; it will be well worth while.

Here's hoping that Mother Nature finds a few spots she hasn't been to for a while very soon, and everyone can get a bit of relief. To those that have it, enjoy it and make the most from it. I look forward to talking with members and guests at Goulburn in July

All the best,
Regards,

David Harbison,
President.



XXIII International Grassland Congress IGC 2015

November 20-24, 2015, Delhi NCR, India

*Sustainable use of Grassland Resources for
Forage Production, Biodiversity and Environmental
Protection*

www.igc2015.org

Organised by the Range Management Society of India
& ICAR - Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Insitutum

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Inclusion of an advertisement in this publication does not necessarily imply an endorsement of the company or product of the Grassland Society of NSW.

The Grassland Society of NSW Inc is 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 approximately 500 members and associates, 75% of whom are farmers and graziers. The balance of membership is made up of agricultural scientists, farm advisers, consultants, and or 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 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. For membership details go to www.grasslandnsw.com.au or contact the Secretary at secretary@grasslandnsw.com.au or at PO Box 471 Orange 2800

Office Bearers of the Grassland Society of NSW - 2014-2015

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If you are interested in reactivating an old branch or forming a new branch please contact the Secretary at secretary@grasslandnsw.com.au or by mail at PO Box 471 Orange NSW 2800

Grassland Society of NSW News



Next Newsletter: The next edition of the newsletter will be circulated in September 2015. If you wish to submit an article, short item, a letter to the Editor or a photo please send your contribution to the Editor - Carol Harris at carol.harris@nsw.dpi.nsw.gov or DPI NSW 444 Strathbogie Road Glen Innes 2370. The deadline for submissions for the next newsletter is July 31 2015.



Electronic newsletter: Don't forget you can receive the Grassland Society of NSW newsletter electronically. Just email your details to Janelle (secretary@grasslandnsw.com.au) and you will be added to the list. Next newsletter you will receive an email notification with a link to the newsletter on the website.

Grassland Society of NSW - PO BOX 471 Orange NSW 2800, www.grasslandnsw.com.au

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