

2024 / Issue #4

Agriculture Digest



*A MAGAZINE FOR THOSE ON THE LAND: AGRICULTURAL ISSUES, INSIGHTS,
INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY, THE ENVIRONMENT, MACHINERY, PEOPLE, TOWNS...*

SOW ITALIAN RYEGRASS AT OPTIMISED SOWING RATES FOR A HIGHER ROI AND QUICK WINTER FEED

Get the most of your operation and increase your return on investment by optimising sowing rates and sowing an Italian ryegrass instead of an annual ryegrass this Autumn.

Both annual and Italian ryegrasses have an important fit in agricultural pasture feed systems. Whilst annual ryegrasses are seen as one of the main quick feed options, sowing an Italian ryegrass with an optimised sowing rate instead of an annual ryegrass this Autumn will provide quick feed early and produce feed at the end of the season, which can increase profitability under different farming systems.

Blair McCormick, DLF Seeds National Technical Service Manager explains “Annual ryegrass usually persists for 1 year, are suited to areas with 500mm+ of annual rainfall/irrigation, withstand wet feet and are generally sown for quick winter feed, silage and hay production. The downside is regrowth potential through the late spring and early summer is limited compared to Italian ryegrasses and aside from the seed cost, an Italian in many cases, will end up more economical.”

What really sets Italian ryegrasses apart from annual ryegrasses in many instances is the late season quality and growth they can provide after an annual ryegrass has finished and put up a seed head. Depending on location, an annual ryegrass can finish growing in October-November, whereas an Italian ryegrass could still grow quality feed into November-December, depending on seasons, weather and stresses.

As the highest yielding diploid within DLF Seeds Agricom range and with outstanding dry matter production, Manta is a fantastic example of a diploid

excellent regrowth potential late in the season if conditions are favourable. Most varieties are best suited to high rainfall areas of 600mm+ of annual rainfall/irrigation, with good fertility” says Blair.

Optimising the sowing rates of an Italian ryegrass can also make a big difference on your return of investment. The trial discussed below demonstrate the ideal sowing rate to improve and grow more feed in to winter.

Throughout the trial (featuring Feast II), it was determined that farmers could increase their return on investment and achieve an extra \$120/ha, by increasing their sowing rate from 25kg/ha to 35kg/ha.

Sowing rate	Total yield	Increase in yield from lower sowing rate	Incremental seed cost	Supplementary feed saving	Incremental profit	Cumulative profit
kg/ha	t DM/ha	kg DM/ha	\$/ha	Based on a supplementary feed cost of \$300/t DM		
25	10.69	240	\$32	\$72	\$40	\$89
30	10.91	220	\$32	\$66	\$34	\$123
35	11.09	180	\$32	\$54	\$22	\$145
40	11.24	150	\$32	\$45	\$13	\$158

Figure 2: Cost of increasing seed per hectare and the cumulative change in profit from increasing sowing rate



Figure 1: Italian ryegrass sowing rate comparison trial: Leigh Creek, Victoria-Sowing rate of Feast II Italian ryegrass directly affect yield at first cut.

Italian ryegrass that has late season quality and growth that will ultimately provide farmers with a higher return on investment compared to an annual ryegrass. On top of late season quality and growth, Manta’s explosive speed of establishment allows farmers to plant with confidence, growing quick feed before winter sets in – negating the need for a “quick feed option” such as oats or an annual ryegrass.

“Many farmers are finding that Italian ryegrasses such as Manta, are providing the best balance between quick winter feed, quality spring options for grazing, hay or silage, then late season growth. Italian ryegrasses such as Manta, Concord II, Feast II, Mona and Jackpot are providing more flexibility than annual ryegrasses for many and if managed correctly/seasons allow, will provide quality feed for longer and a higher return on investment” explains Blair.

“Italian ryegrass is a growing market in Australia year on year. Generally, an Italian’s pasture life is 1–3 years (a third year is sometimes possible with mild conditions, quality genetics, AR37 endophyte and correct management) and are able to give enormous growth over a short period. They are ideal for silage and hay making and, offer bulk winter feed and

At first harvest, yield was directly linked to increased sowing rates. For example, Feast II yield increased from 1221kgDM/ha at 20kg/ha to 1620kgDM/ha at 40kg/ha. By the third harvest there was no significant difference between the sowing rates. This confirms that the sowing rate directly affects autumn and/or winter growth rates in Italian ryegrass.

Blair explains that “Based on this trial, we recommend sowing Italian ryegrass pastures at 35kg/ha if you are looking for more early seasoned growth, which can achieve a positive change in profit referenced in this article.” For full trial, visit dlfseeds.com.au

Consider Italian ryegrass instead of an annual ryegrass for your farming system to provide flexibility of options from providing quality feed for longer, throughout the season.

To find out more about DLF Seeds varieties or for the full set of the trial data and economic analysis, contact your local DLF Seeds Sales Agronomist on 1800 619 910 or at dlfseeds.com.au.



SEEDS & SCIENCE



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WELCOME

Agriculture Digest

WELCOME
TO OUR
FOURTH ISSUE

As we stand at the intersection of tradition and innovation, it becomes increasingly apparent that the future of agriculture hinges on our ability to adapt, innovate, and collaborate. With global challenges such as climate change, food security, and resource scarcity on the horizon, the need for sustainable agricultural solutions has never been more pressing.

We hope you enjoy this issue.

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sow.italian ryegrass

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*Beefed up protection that
builds your bottom line*

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AGRICULTURE DIGEST

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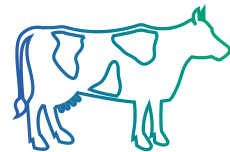
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VIDEO: Dairy farm experience (Leigh Western)



IMAGE: DLF Seeds Sales Agronomist, Jake Frecklington

GRAND CHAMPION FEMALE: Blue Spark H6 Exquistie P05



**Embryos
For Sale**

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CATTLE CO

Kelly Krieg: 0428 463 423 | Paul Hourn: 0476 172 194
kellannecattleco@gmail.com | Heathcote Junction VIC

KELLANNE CATTLE CO

Over the past decade, Speckle Parks have been a passion project for me, tracing back to the acquisition of a couple of Speckle Park bulls in 2013. Breeding F1 crosses with Angus and Gelbvieh females on our feedlot, we faced initial challenges due to the breed's novelty. However, the tide turned as Speckle Parks gained recognition for their superior feed conversion, rapid growth, and exceptional taste.

My affection for raising show steers led me to introduce my children to the world of showcasing our home-bred Speckle cross steers at local events. Initially unfamiliar to judges, Speckle Park steers swiftly transitioned from obscurity to victory.

Working in a butcher shop provided me with firsthand exposure to Speckle Park meat quality. The standout attributes—high yield, even fat coverage, light bone density, and tenderness—solidified my commitment to producing Speckle Park cattle.

Three years ago, in collaboration with my partner Paul Hourn, we established our own Speckle Park stud. Our journey began with the acquisition of top-tier foundation females, notably from the Blue Spark Mature cow disbursal in 2021.

The pivotal moment came at the Threeways disbursal sale, where I couldn't resist the allure of a captivating young heifer, Graceland's Q1. The record-breaking purchase, momentarily holding the title for the highest-priced female sold at \$70,000, underscored her exceptional quality.

Our adventures continued with Smokey Joe S16, who dazzled on the show circuit, earning accolades including Reserve Junior Champion in Adelaide and Junior Champion in Melbourne. His prowess extends to breeding, with plans to join him with our stud and Angus commercial females.

Noteworthy among our females is Exquisite P05, consistently producing exquisite offspring. Despite restrictions, her latest calf stands out as one of her finest, albeit unable to be shown independently due to its color.

Gigi L19, Exquisite P05, and Graceland's Q1 have all contributed to our embryo program, yielding promising prospects. Excited by the predominantly female offspring, we eagerly anticipate showcasing them on future show circuits.

DIVERSIFICATION

DIVERSIFYING
WITH
LIVESTOCK

Introducing a new animal industry to your farm doesn't just give you the opportunity to increase your productivity and profitability, it can also impact the quality of your farm itself. For instance, legume pastures grazed by livestock can boost the nitrogen and carbon in your soil. Here are some further ideas that may work for your farm:



DEER

Farmed for meat, hunting and velvet, deer will happily graze alongside sheep but require high fences complete with netting.



GOATS

Goats easily cross-graze with other livestock, and their preference for eating woody weeds helps with weed control.



ALPACAS

Alpacas thrive in similar conditions to Merino sheep and, if run with sheep or goats, will bond with them and protect them from foxes. Their soft feet are ideal for fragile soils.



BUFFALO

Farmed across Australia, consumer demand for buffalo meat and milk is growing. Buffalos produce a rich milk that is perfect to be made into cheeses such as mozzarella and yoghurt.



HONEY BEES

Bees are another growing industry, with beeswax, honeycomb and royal jelly just some of the additional hive products they can generate. They're also great for pollination.



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¹ Cerone SJ, Sansinenea AS, Streitenberger SA, Garcia MC, Auza NI. Cytochrome c oxidase, Cu,Zn-superoxide dismutase, and ceruloplasmin activities in copper-deficient bovines. Biol Trace Elem Res. 2000 Mar;73(3):269-76. doi: 10.1385/0725-269-76. PMID: 11049217.

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Dissolution process of a Cosecure® Cattle Bolus.



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such as the challenge and satisfaction of learning a new skill and starting a new business. Some also noted an increase in interest in their farm from other family members, such as their adult children.

PLANTING A NEW CROP

If you're looking to diversify by broadening your planting, you have plenty of options. In fact, there are more than 5,000 plant food species, many of which can have wider implications for your farm than just giving you a new revenue stream.

- Pulse crops such as lentils, chickpeas, fava beans and lupins have been shown to take less nitrogen from the soil than wheat or canola, reducing the need for fertilisers.
- The pasture seeds industry, focused on temperate species such as medics, lucerne, serradella, sub-clover and clover, produces around 20,600 tonnes of seed per year and continues to grow.
- Rice, ginger and tea tree oil are all expanding in Australia too.

SETTING UP FOR SUCCESS

But before rushing out to plant a paddock of chickpeas or buy a herd of deer, it's important

to consider which type of diversification is right for your farm. Factors to take into consideration include:

- Your farm's environmental conditions, such as size, location, soil quality, access to water and climate
 - Your stage of life and succession plans
 - Your tolerance for risk and debt
 - The workload involved in your potential diversification options
 - How the new crop or stock complements and integrates with your existing business.
- Remember to bear in mind the importance of marketing too. If you opt for a specialised product with a niche market, getting the word out and connecting with buyers will be crucial to making your diversification a success.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

If being at the cutting edge of Australian agriculture appeals to you, you could consider diversifying with one of several newly emerging agricultural industries.

AgriFutures Australia has identified several new industries with high growth potential, including native flora such as seaweeds, Kakadu plum, and native pepper, as well as

recent additions to Australian agriculture like coffee, quinoa, hazelnuts and industrial hemp. Emerging animal industries include working dogs, game birds, sea urchins, camel milk and crocodile.

AgriFutures Australia has even gone so far as to identify the next generation of potential agriculture industries. Asian vegetables, hydroponic hops, medicinal marijuana, hemp milk, hydroponic berries and insect farming all make the list.

These nascent industries are well placed to meet changing global and local demand and may well one day have an important economic, social and environmental impact on Australia and the world.

IN SHORT

While diversification has always been with us, changing tastes, emerging markets and a growing population means that there has never been a better time to try something new.

Best of all, many of these ideas require little upfront capital, meaning the downside is small but the potential gain is enormous.

SAVE YOUR HEADERS

Fire Prevention Shield – Helping to prevent fires during harvest

The **Fire Prevention Shield** has been created to assist in the prevention of fires associated with grain harvesters. The Fire Prevention Shield successfully reduces the temperature of the muffler, and the gear case drive box below the muffler, whilst keeping all the left hand side of the machine cooler and clean from debris.

Heath Rowe is an experienced headerowner/operator who has been around the harvesting scene since he was a child, following in his father's footsteps. Heath has harvested from North Queensland to the bottom of Victoria. This has given him insight into the different styles of farming and the differing conditions and challenges faced by each farmer. Heath has experienced and seen first-hand what fires on headers can do. He knew something had to be done to help. This was the start of the Fire Prevention Shield.

Many harvesters have been destroyed by fires caused by debris buildup around hot engine components. These incidents have not only destroyed expensive machines, but have also destroyed acres of crops and have caused serious personal injury. The Fire Prevention Shield was designed to help reduce this risk.



All Harvesters use a cooling fan assembly. This draws air through the engine's heat exchange and circulates it past hot engine components such as the exhaust manifold. The Fire Prevention Shield takes advantage of this air current.

The Fire Prevention Shield is made out of aluminum sheet. This has been chosen as it has a higher thermal conductivity rate which is an advantage in keeping the Shield at an acceptable temperature. A ceramic impregnated paint has been applied to the shield which reduces heat even more and also protects the shield for a longer life. Also, to help remove hot gases from the muffler the exhaust flapper lid is removed and replaced with a 90 degree elbow outlet, this is also positioned to reduce cabin noise.

Different models of grain harvesters have been accessed, including John Deere, CASE IH, and New Holland, and it is possible to retro fit this product to the majority of current production models.

For more information, or to order your Fire Prevention Shield please call Heath Rowe on 0429 403 828.



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AGRICULTURE DIGEST

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"UBCO Electric Motorbikes: Transforming Farming Efficiency"

In today's challenging agricultural landscape, where rising costs and unpredictable climate shifts loom large, farmers are seeking innovative solutions to maintain efficiency and sustainability. Enter UBCO Electric Utility Motorbikes.

Designed to meet the rigorous demands of farming, UBCO 2X2s offer farmers a safe, efficient, and environmentally friendly alternative to traditional internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles. With these electric motorbikes, farmers can anticipate a staggering 97% reduction in operational fuel costs, accompanied by a remarkable 97% reduction in carbon emissions.

UBCO worked with independent carbon-measurement specialists The Lever Room to validate these cost and carbon saving benefits.

"We did extensive research into the fuel economy and GHG emissions for these vehicles," says Rebecca Mills, the Lever Room's managing director. "This included modeling different use cases, both on- and off-road, effectively creating a carbon model for UBCO

to compare the performance of different vehicles across the same conditions."

These savings, combined with the reduction in servicing costs (the result of an advanced design with fewer moving parts), means that each vehicle will pay for itself in operational savings alone multiple times during its lifetime when compared to alternative forms of on-farm transport.

But it's not just the positive cost savings and environmental impact of these bikes that's turning heads.

JJ Bruce, a dairy farmer from Northern NSW, attests to the practicality of these bikes in his daily farm routines. Whether it's transporting tools and equipment or conducting stock checks and mustering, UBCO bikes have become indispensable for Bruce's operations, especially on rough terrain.

Similarly, on the Cape York Peninsula in Queensland, the Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council's ranger team relies on UBCO bikes to navigate challenging terrains efficiently while minimizing environmental impact. Acting senior ranger Brayden Collins

praises the bike's two-wheel drive system for its remarkable performance in sandy stretches.

For kiwifruit grower Mark Ericksen, the quiet operation of UBCO bikes is a standout feature, providing him with a more satisfying mode of transport around his orchard. Ericksen emphasizes the agility and stability of the bikes, which enable him to manoeuvre through steep slopes and tight spaces with ease, enhancing productivity in his horticultural endeavours.

Waikato dairy farmers, Pete and Ann Morgan, say that switching from a standard bike that is noisy, heavy, and hot has been amazing. They use the bikes in tandem with Halter, a farm-management system that utilises smart collars and an app rather than physical fencing.

"The way this technology dovetails together has been transformative for our farm," says Morgan. "It ties everything together, from the way we can respond immediately to external forces such as weather, to the comms we use to flick photos, screenshots and plans between staff and the other groups we're working with — all while we're sitting on the bikes."

Beyond agriculture, local councils like Queensland's Moreton Bay Council are leveraging UBCO bikes alongside AI technology to streamline essential tasks such as pavement inspections. By reducing labour requirements and accelerating the inspection process, these councils are embracing smart, green solutions to enhance efficiency and sustainability in urban infrastructure management.

UBCO's Australian Sales Manager, Brian Wilson, underscores the versatility and cost-effectiveness of UBCO 2X2s, originally designed for rugged New Zealand conditions but proving equally effective in various applications across Australia. With minimal operating costs and robust performance, these electric utility motorbikes are poised to revolutionize transportation in agriculture and beyond. "UBCO delivers unprecedented carbon and fuel savings compared with traditional combustion-engine farm bikes and quad bikes. It's a farm-tested product that's lightweight, tough, and designed for a wide variety of agricultural applications," says Wilson.

Australia's variable weather conditions have always posed a challenge for our agricultural sector. Recently, however, farmers have been using the power of agricultural technology (AgTech) to de-risk the effects of the weather and optimise their day-to-day operations.

REDUCED COSTS DRIVING A DIGITAL REVOLUTION

Digitisation has already disrupted industries such as financial services, logistics and retail. Now agriculture is in the midst of its own tech revolution, says Chris Mendes, Chief Technology Officer at The Yield Technology Solutions.

"You hear about digital transformation in other industries, and we are living through that now in agriculture," he says.

Mendes, whose business aims to transform food and agricultural practices at the farm level, speaks from a position of authority. The Yield, which taps into the power of artificial intelligence (AI) and smart sensors to collect masses of hyper-local weather data, has attracted the attention of high profile partners. These include Yamaha, UTS Sydney and tech giant Microsoft, which featured The Yield in a global ad campaign demonstrating the potential of AI.

Another Australian AgTech entrepreneur,

Agronomeye CEO and co-founder, Stu Adam, says the reason the digital revolution is happening right now is that falling costs have put cutting-edge tech within the reach of average farmers.

"Until recently people haven't been able to engage in digital technology because it was too expensive, but that is all changing with the creation of data sets that can be reused," he says.

"Anything that can be digitised will be," Adam says. "Agriculture is no exception."

WEATHER THE MAIN GAME

The main factor that many of today's AgTech companies have in common is that they're targeting ways to mollify the effects of Australia's notoriously challenging weather patterns.

While some weather technology may seem 'out there', from nanosatellites to supercomputers, most agricultural digital platforms are rooted at ground level, on the farm. They require the input of farmers themselves and aim to supplement and build on their existing knowledge

and experience. Central to how they operate is collecting masses of relevant data using sensors, which can be attached to everything, from infrastructure to animals and plants.

Sensing technology has advanced significantly in recent years with data now transmittable through the Internet of Things (IoT) – a network of objects that can be connected wirelessly. This data can then be processed and analysed by AI and converted into usable information with practical on-farm applications.

Mendes says that the sheer volume of data that farmers can now gather with little effort should allow them to detect even the smallest changes and factor them into their planning.

"From data to decision, we turn complex information into key insights by giving growers the right digital tools to consistently and accurately manage risk, and that has a huge impact," Mendes says. "There's definitely a drive from growers who are experiencing the effects of climate

change. What we do is important, because something that may have been reasonably predictable in the past, just isn't so anymore."

GETTING INTO THE MICRO DETAIL

The Yield's patented technology observes and forecasts microclimate conditions right on the farm, providing a level of precision and accuracy not obtainable through normal satellite imagery. Sensors measure conditions in real-time, from air temperature to humidity, sunlight, wind speed and direction, rainfall, leaf wetness and soil moisture. This information is collated with other relevant data such as gridded weather forecasts and customer data, then analysed by AI to provide hyper-local forecasts that farmers can use to make better decisions.

"With a gridded forecast you're generally getting predictions for a four-kilometre by four-kilometre cell. It's a big area and just because the weather bureau says there is rain in the cell, it doesn't mean your farm will have any," Mendes explains.

ONE OF THE LARGEST FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED GRAIN TRADING COMPANIES IN AUSTRALIA

Robinson Grain was established in 1981 starting in the Central Western town of Tottenham NSW. RGT has grown consistently over the years to now have an active footprint Australia wide.

Robinson Grain Trading is a competitive buyer across all major grains produced in Australia. We work with growers to make grain marketing simple.

RGT has been supplying quality grain to the Australian domestic market for over 30 years as well as exporting containerised and bulk grain across key international markets.



“People have been putting weather stations on farms for decades but now we are able to translate that directly into what a grower needs to know.”

Mendes says The Yield has proven to be particularly beneficial for spraying, with one recent study showing microclimate data gave farmers 20% more opportunity to spray than relying on standard weather forecasts. This can have a major impact on harvest volume and can be the defining difference between an A- and B-quality crop. Knowing the right time to spray also results in less chemistry, less wastage and easier compliance with environmental issues.

For Tahbilk, Victoria's oldest family-run winery and vineyard, The Yield has brought multiple benefits, including reducing water usage.

“The Yield enables us to track the number of variables, so we can analyse the water available to the vines across different profiles,” says Lachie Thomas, Tahbilk's Environment & Vineyard Research Analyst. “This knowledge means we can run our irrigation with greater efficacy, only watering when necessary.”

“Understanding soil moisture also means we can time our fertigation so that valuable nutrients don't simply leach through the profile and disappear below the root zone.”

BRINGING WATER TO A DRY LAND

Based in Goondiwindi, Goanna Ag has been leading the way in the sensing business for 15 years and is committed to solving the challenges Australia's agricultural sector poses when it comes to cost and connectivity. One solution has been to adopt LoRaWAN (Long Range Wide Area Network) technology. Already widely used on European farms, this low power, long-range, on-farm gateway can connect to thousands of sensors.

Goanna Ag recently collaborated with another Australian business, Myriota, a global leader in low-cost nano-satellite technology, to help farmers better manage their water resources. To help stream data more rapidly, the two businesses connected remote sensors with an ever-growing constellation of nanosatellites orbiting the earth at an altitude of 600 kilometres.

The resulting products, GoRain and GoTank, allow farmers to continually monitor widely distributed water assets, from rainfall gauges to water tanks and troughs and receive real-time information, notifications and alerts.

Agronomeye is also helping farmers manage water assets through its 3D modelling technology, joining

***“FROM DATA TO DECISION, WE TURN COMPLEX INFORMATION INTO KEY INSIGHTS BY GIVING GROWERS THE RIGHT DIGITAL TOOLS TO CONSISTENTLY AND ACCURATELY MANAGE RISK, AND THAT HAS A HUGE IMPACT.”
– CHRIS MENDES, CTO, THE YIELD***



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“FARMERS NEED CLARITY AND CONFIDENCE TO MAKE DECISIONS, OR TO BE PREVENTED FROM MAKING THE WRONG DECISION, AND TECHNOLOGY CAN PROVIDE THE TOOLS TO HELP THEM DO WHAT THEY WANT TO DO.” – STU ADAM, CEO AGRONOMEYE

forces with Microsoft and CSIRO, to provide farmers with an engaging, ultra-high-resolution, bird’s eye view of their farms.

Their digital foundation, known as AgTwin, provides a highly detailed view of the landscape – or digital twin – that Adam describes as, “a dynamic, living, breathing version of the farm which can be analysed to give great insight to farmers, from where to build a dam, to livestock monitoring to the placement of gravity-fed pipes.”

Once the digital foundation – or home base – is laid, all kinds of software and hardware integrations can be added, from soil data to sensors to forecasts and satellite imagery.

“We look at how the landscape is physically formed to see how water flows across it, and from that, we can determine where we could be more efficient,” Adam explains. From preventing erosion and land degradation to moving water away from waterlogged areas to better placement

of dams and creating shade belts for livestock, the model has endless applications for farmers.

“Digital transformation isn’t going to solve problems overnight, but it can help those on the land secure the land for future generations. We want to unlock the future of farming, by delivering critical data in a way that enables landholders to see more and do better,” Adam says.

“Farmers need clarity and confidence to make decisions, or to be prevented from making

the wrong decision, and technology can provide the tools to help them do what they want to do.”

“What if your farm could be kept out of drought longer, or brought out of drought sooner?” Adam asks.

For many Australian farmers, the answer could be the difference between profitability and precariousness.

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THE BENEFITS OF AGROFORESTRY AND PLANTING TREES ON FARMS

HOW PLANTING TREES
CAN HELP FARMERS INCREASE
PRODUCTIVITY AND CREATE
A REVENUE STREAM

w: Emma Sorensen

THE ROLE OF TREES IN AGRICULTURE AND FARMING

There are benefits to planting trees on farms that stretch well beyond economic and environmental, and the fight against climate change is just one of the many motivating factors behind the recent push for 'agroforestry'.

Planting trees on farms can improve habitats for biodiversity, which adds to natural pest control and helps sustain the ecosystem in which the farm exists. Trees have also been shown to increase productivity by providing shade, shelter and other benefits for stock, crops or pasture. One study from Forest and Wood Products Australia found tree planting had the potential to increase pasture productivity by 30%.

Data from not-for-profit, Soils for Life, shows that trees planted as shelterbelts can reduce wind speeds by up to 50%. Tree planting can also decrease soil erosion and salinity, improving both soil and water quality.

These days, tree planting can also provide a genuine

additional income source, either as a commercial harvest or as a means through which to store carbon, as a 2018 paper from the CSIRO *Agroforestry: realising the triple bottom line benefits of trees in the landscape* argues.

Strong financial incentives exist in the burgeoning area of private forestry. Tree Alliance, a marketing campaign run by Private Forests Tasmania, quotes World Bank data that says global demand for timber is expected to quadruple by 2050, thanks to growing demand from industries as diverse as building, biofuels and biochemicals.

All these positives exist alongside the less tangible, but equally important, social and community benefits of a regenerated landscape. And proponents argue that agroforestry has the potential to help on another level, by addressing big global challenges in food production, environmental protection and climate change.

THE IMPORTANCE OF TREES FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

Tree planting is front and centre when it comes to fighting the climate crisis. As humanitarian organisation World Vision argues, tree planting is one of the simplest and most effective ways of tackling climate change caused by greenhouse gas, because trees are natural carbon capture and storage machines. Through the process of photosynthesis they absorb carbon dioxide (CO₂) as they grow.

But, as the number of failed afforestation attempts around the world show, it's not as simple as just popping a seed or seedling into the ground. While many tree-planting initiatives boast large numbers of plantings, what you plant, and where and how you plant it, is just as important – as is maintaining tree health.

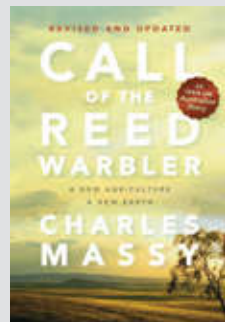
In fact, according to Yale Environment 360, scientists argue that: "failed afforestation projects around the world threaten to undermine efforts to make planting a credible means of countering climate change by reducing carbon dioxide in the atmosphere or generating carbon credits for sale to companies to offset their emissions."

IN NOVEMBER 2022, DELEGATES FROM THE NATIONAL FARMERS FEDERATION AND AUSTRALIAN FOREST PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION JOINTLY ATTENDED COP27, TO DEMONSTRATE HOW CLIMATE SMART FARMING AND FORESTRY COULD HELP AUSTRALIA REDUCE EMISSIONS, FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE AND INCREASE FOOD, FIBRE AND TIMBER PRODUCTION.

CHARLES
MASSY

Charles Massy, regenerative farming advocate, author and fifth generation farmer has planted over 60,000 trees since the 1980's on his sheep farm outside of Cooma, NSW, transforming it in the process.

Made famous with his groundbreaking 2011 book, *Breaking the Sheep's Back*, more recently he published a new book which outlines his now successful regenerative, ecological mission.



CALL OF THE
REED WARBLER:
A NEW AGRICULTURE
- A NEW EARTH
by Charles Massy

CORPORATE
INVESTMENT
IN TREES

Keen to hit ESG targets and make a tangible difference, many big name corporations – and individuals – are behind other tree planting and reforestation programs. Australian dairy and grocery producer, Bega Group, has been encouraging dairy farmers to move to sustainable practices, including funding tree planting on farms, since 2014. At last year's COP27, food giant Nestlé announced that, as a part of a global program, it will plant 10 million trees in Australia by 2025.

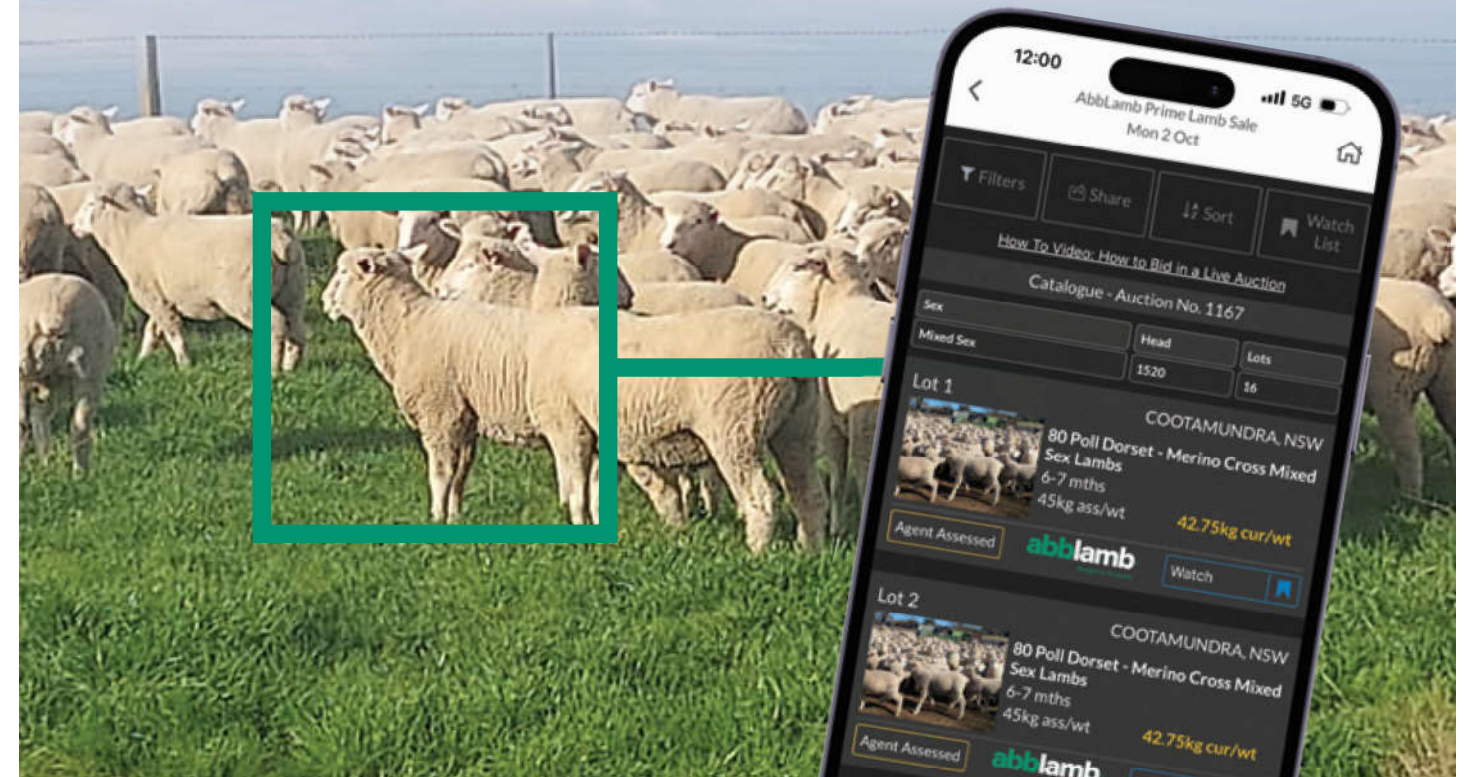


Nestlé entered into a 28-year partnership with tree-planting organisations Greening Australia, One Tree Planted and Canopy, to ensure that the carefully chosen biodiverse mix of native plant species will be maintained and cared for as they grow.

At the time of the announcement, Nestlé Oceania CEO Sandra Martinez said: "Our long-term commitment is about more than just planting trees. The reforestation program works to conserve local biodiversity, and advance regenerative food and farming systems – delivering environmental and economic benefits to communities."

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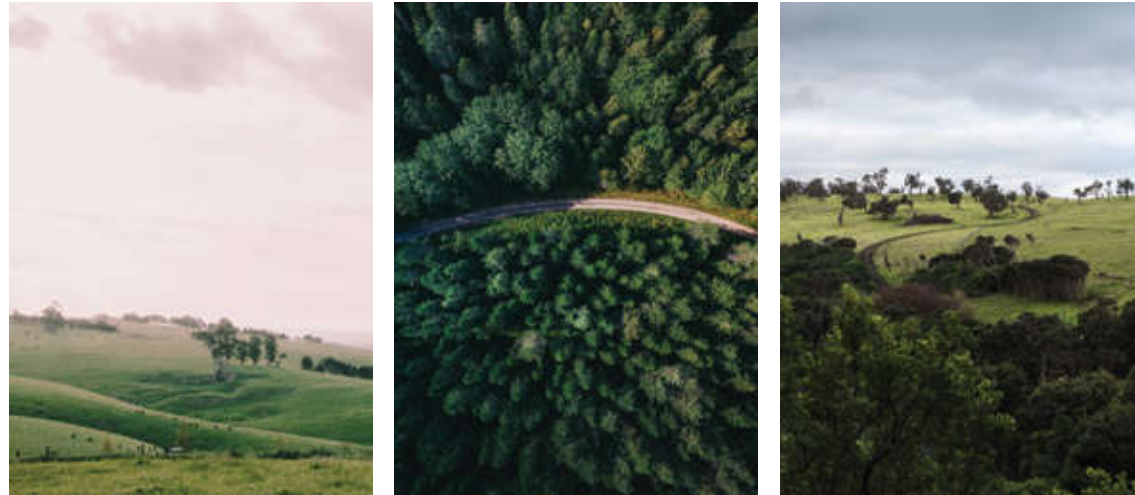
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“DATA SHOWS THAT OVER HALF OF AUSTRALIA’S LAND IS AGRICULTURAL, SO FARMERS HAVE A CRITICAL ROLE TO PLAY WHEN IT COMES TO ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT.”

GOVERNMENTS ENCOURAGE TREE GROWTH

In 2020, the World Economic Forum launched One Trillion Trees, which aims to mobilise a global movement to conserve, restore and grow one trillion trees globally by 2030.

Federal, state and local governments across Australia have similarly announced many tree planting initiatives over recent years, not all of which have been fully realised due to issues including bushfires.

The Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, with assistance from Landcare, is behind The 20 Million Trees Program, initiated in 2014 to re-establish green corridors, urban forests and threatened ecological communities.

In mid-2021, a review found the program had regenerated over 30,000 hectares establishing 29,508,062 trees of over two metres.

GET PLANTING

Data shows that over half of Australia’s land is agricultural, so farmers have a critical role to play when it comes to environmental management.

There are many grants available to encourage agroforestry and biodiversity by supporting farmers to plant trees. These range from those encouraging the regeneration of native ecosystems to more economically minded forestry initiatives with the potential to provide an additional income stream.

In 2022, the federal Clean Energy Regulator invited farmers to get involved in its Environmental Plantings Pilot, by establishing a tree planting project and selling Australian carbon credit units (ACCUs) to the Australian Government. There are also several pilots underway across the country, from Queensland to South Australia, through the Australian Government’s Agriculture Biodiversity Stewardship

Package, which encourages private investment in biodiversity and other sustainability opportunities.

Niche organisations such as Bee Friendly Farming also offer tree grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000 to farmers across the country.

Schemes also exist to connect landowners with trees or tree planting organisations. The University of Melbourne’s Trees on Farms is an online portal connecting landowners with investors to grow timber, carbon or increase biodiversity on their property, for conservation or for profit. And other local organisations, including the Otway Agroforestry Network in Victoria, are helping farmers in a particular region embrace the benefits of increasing tree cover on farms.

There are also forestry initiatives, like the Farm Forestry Assist Grants that are available for Western Australian farmers to plant radiata pine.

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Techspan invite our readers to view more information about Agrispans kit sheds, including the 3 step configurator and kit shed specifications, by visiting; www.techspanbuilding.com.au/agrispan

*Want to talk to one of the team about your new Agrispans kit shed?
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*The honest reality of
being a female business
owner in the
agricultural industry*

As winter approaches, the farm undergoes a transformation, marked by the shift in seasons. After what feels like a lengthy spring and summer, our eyes are now on the skies, hoping for the rain that seems to elude us when we need it most.

We, as Australian farmers, find ourselves at the centre of various governmental decisions, such as live export policies, where promised reports are yet to materialise. Live export vessels are returned to port, leading to full and closed processing plants, all without clear explanations. It's puzzling why these issues go unnoticed by mainstream media.

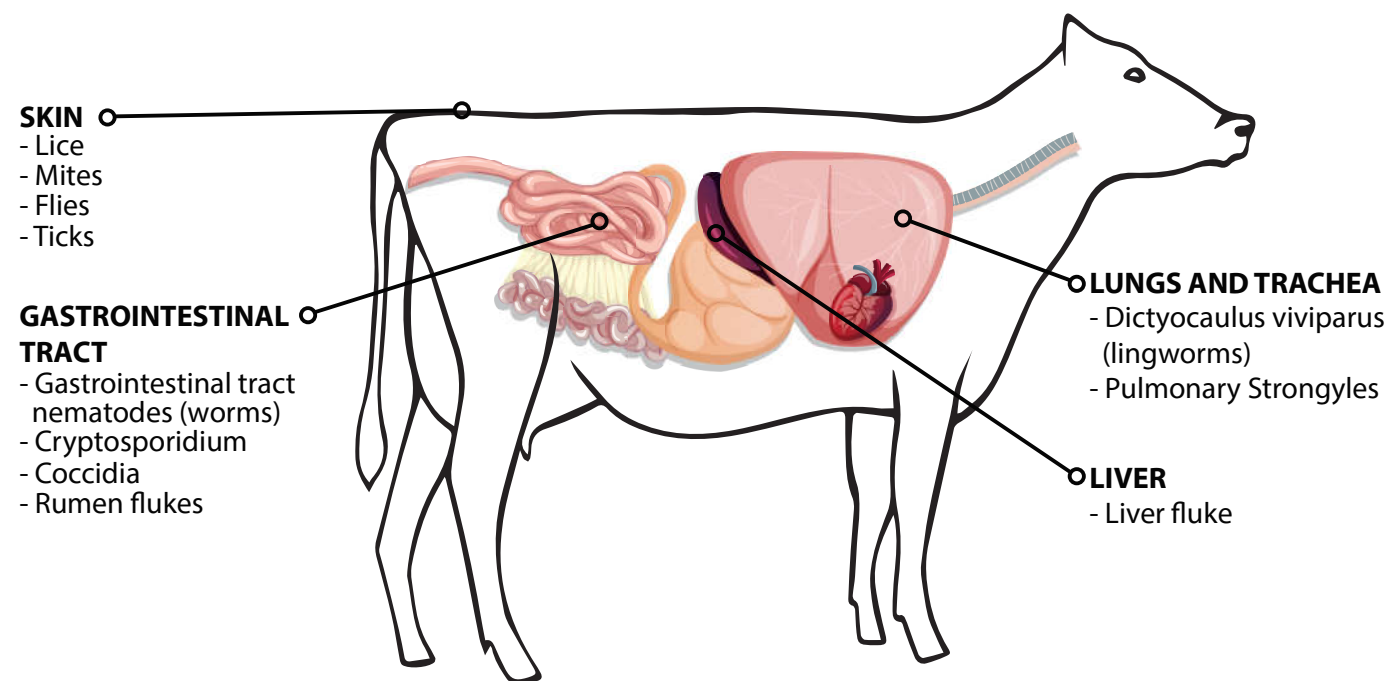
The ongoing pricing inquiry into supermarkets and China's removal of tariffs on wine, though welcomed, raise questions about the transparency of decision-making processes and their impact on our livelihoods.

We are urged to adapt to climate change and prioritise ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) issues. Simply being "clean and green" is no longer sufficient; we must also implement ecosystems and comply with work health and safety regulations for ourselves, contractors, and staff. Despite knowing our responsibilities, many of us feel excluded from the decision-making tables.

Farming presents a multitude of challenges, as diverse as the sector itself, affecting people of all cultures and genders. Droughts and floods are part of our reality, often overwhelming due to the complexity of farming practices. I've witnessed the breadth of skills farmers possess, from mechanical and manual labour to engineering and driving various vehicles. My husband, for instance, can work wonders with machinery and has a sixth sense for anticipating weather patterns, crucial for our decision to dry sow and grow hay despite the risks posed by our unpredictable climate. In all of the skills he has, I know he would have forgotten more than he can ever teach me, this is his gift to me, to keep me safe, to keep me engaged and to have me continue being a farmhand when he needs it.

Farmers don't wait for governmental or external changes to adapt; instead, we rely on our own collaborative networks, always hoping for fairness. While support is usually forthcoming, there are times when disasters strike, and we must turn to the government for assistance.

If you ever feel overwhelmed and need someone to talk to, remember that many of us are facing similar challenges and can offer support or guide you to resources. To all farmers, whatever you do, whatever you farm and who you do it with, I see you



Safeguarding Your Livestock: A Guide to Cattle Parasite Protection Introduction:

Introduction:

Cattle parasites pose a significant threat to the health and productivity of livestock worldwide. These tiny organisms can lead to decreased feed efficiency, weight loss, decreased milk production, and in severe cases, even death. Therefore, implementing an effective parasite protection program is crucial for ensuring the well-being and profitability of your herd. In this article, we'll delve into the various types of cattle parasites, their impact, and strategies for effective protection.

Understanding Cattle Parasites:

Cattle parasites come in various forms, including internal and external parasites. Internal parasites, such as worms (e.g., roundworms, tapeworms) and protozoa (e.g., coccidia), reside inside the animal's body, primarily in the digestive system. On the other hand, external parasites, like ticks, lice, and flies, infest the skin and hair of the animal.

Impact of Parasites on Cattle Health:

Parasitic infestations can significantly impact the health and productivity of cattle. Internal parasites feed on blood and nutrients, leading to anemia, diarrhea, decreased appetite, and overall poor condition. In severe cases, they can cause organ damage and even death. External parasites contribute to discomfort, skin irritation, and can transmit diseases like anaplasmosis and Lyme disease.

Effective Parasite Protection Strategies:

Pasture Management: Implementing good pasture management practices is essential for reducing parasite exposure. Rotational grazing, where cattle are moved to fresh pastures regularly, helps break the parasite lifecycle by minimizing re-infestation from contaminated pastures.

Strategic Deworming:

Regular deworming of cattle is a cornerstone of parasite control programs. Work with your veterinarian to develop a deworming schedule tailored to your herd's needs. Avoid overuse of dewormers to prevent the development of resistance in parasite populations.

Grazing Management: Utilize pasture rotation and strategic grazing to minimize parasite exposure. Alternate between grazing cattle and other livestock species, like sheep, as they may help control parasite populations through different grazing patterns.

Nutrition:

Providing balanced nutrition to your cattle is crucial for maintaining their immune system and resilience against parasites. Ensure your herd receives adequate levels of essential nutrients, particularly minerals like copper and selenium, which are vital for parasite resistance.

Environmental Control:

Implement measures to control external parasites, such as maintaining clean living conditions, using insecticides, and providing access to shade and water for cattle to reduce stress. **Monitoring and Surveillance:** Regularly monitor your herd for signs of parasitic infestation, such as weight loss, diarrhea, and poor coat condition. Conduct fecal exams to assess parasite burdens and adjust management practices accordingly.

Conclusion:

Protecting your cattle from parasites is essential for maintaining their health, welfare, and productivity. By implementing a comprehensive parasite protection program that includes pasture management, strategic deworming, nutrition, and environmental control measures, you can safeguard your herd against the harmful effects of parasites. Consult with your veterinarian to develop a tailored parasite control plan that meets the specific needs of your operation and ensures the long-term well-being of your cattle.

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NEW HARD SEEDED PASTURE LEGUMES FOR WESTERN NSW

Since the turn of the century pasture researchers have been selecting and breeding annual legumes that perform better, as climate change and more intense cropping rotations exert pressure on sub clover and medic seedbanks. A suite of new winter legume varieties has gradually been released to farmers over the last decade. They cover a broad range of soils and climates common to the western plains of NSW and the wheatbelt of WA. These newer generation of winter legumes produce their seed aerially, unlike sub clover and medic, and can then be header-harvested when the seed matures. This means farmers can grow their own seed for large area pasture renovation.

A selection criterion for researchers has always been to select hard seeded legumes. This hard seed protects the legume from false breaks, and sets them up for crop rotations, during which they can self-regenerate. But in a huge breakthrough researchers have now released several varieties whose seed can be sown off the header, without the need to first process or scarify this hard seed. A great example of this remarkable type of pasture legume is the new bladder clover just released in NSW called Diaman₂ti. And the way to sow the direct harvested seed is called "Dormant Summer Sowing". In simple terms, the hard seed collected off the header can be sown the next season into dry soil in late February or early March in NSW.

The day/night temperature fluctuations then act to soften the seed in time for an autumn break. This "natural" breakdown of most of the seed provides for a very good early germination in the year of establishment. But first, to set this up, farmers must sow a special "nursery paddock" with high quality, certified and scarified seed (ideally after a weed control exercise), to produce their own seed for dormant summer sowing in following years.

Diaman₂ti bladder clover is suited to medium soils in the pH range 5-8 and grows exceptionally well with growing season rainfall as low as 275 mm. Diaman₂ti is a very high nitrogen fixer, which means it enriches the soil for the following season. It is well suited to a 1:1 pasture crop rotation.

The combination of header harvesting a nursery paddock, then dormant summer sowing this seed the next season into a larger paddock, allows farmers to produce sufficient seed after the initial purchase to rapidly sow large acreages.

For more details on these issues see a new publication by the researchers that outlines optimal management of the new winter legumes at <https://grdc.com.au/resources-and-publications/all-publications/publications/2023/pasture-legumes-manual/>



Picture by Peter Burdon on unsplash

The Impending Harvest: How Climate Change Threatens Australia's Food Supply

Australia, renowned for its vast agricultural landscapes and diverse produce, stands at a crossroads in the face of climate change. As temperatures rise, rainfall patterns shift, and extreme weather events become more frequent, the nation's food supply hangs in the balance. From the sun-scorched plains of the Outback to the fertile valleys of the southeast, no corner of the country is immune to the impacts of a changing climate.

Rising Temperatures and Water Scarcity
One of the most significant threats posed by climate change to Australia's food supply is the rise in temperatures. As heatwaves become more frequent and prolonged, crops are subjected to increased stress, leading to reduced yields and lower quality produce. In regions already prone to aridity, such as parts of Western Australia and South Australia, rising temperatures exacerbate water scarcity, further challenging farmers' ability to sustainably irrigate their crops.

Altered Rainfall Patterns
Another consequence of climate change is the alteration of rainfall patterns across the continent. While some regions may experience increased rainfall and flooding, others are projected to face more frequent and severe droughts. These shifts in precipitation pose a significant risk to Australia's food production, as they disrupt planting schedules, reduce soil moisture levels, and increase the likelihood of crop failure. In Queensland, for example, erratic rainfall patterns have already resulted in decreased yields for staple crops like wheat and sugarcane.

Extreme Weather Events
Australia's susceptibility to extreme weather events, such as bushfires, cyclones, and heatwaves, is amplified by climate change. These events not only pose immediate threats to agricultural infrastructure and livestock but also have long-term implications for the resilience of the

food supply chain. In recent years, devastating bushfires have ravaged agricultural land in states like New South Wales and Victoria, destroying crops, livestock, and essential infrastructure. **Adaptation and Mitigation Strategies**
Despite the daunting challenges posed by climate change, Australian farmers and researchers are pioneering innovative solutions to safeguard the nation's food supply. From the adoption of drought-resistant crop varieties to the implementation of precision agriculture techniques, efforts are underway to enhance the resilience and sustainability of agricultural systems. Additionally, investments in renewable energy and carbon sequestration technologies aim to mitigate the impacts of climate change while reducing agriculture's carbon footprint.

Policy Imperatives and Collaborative Action
However, addressing the complex interplay between climate change and food security

requires more than just technological innovation; it demands robust policy frameworks and collaborative action at all levels of government and society. Policies that support climate-smart agriculture, promote sustainable land management practices, and incentivize carbon farming can help build a more resilient and adaptive agricultural sector. **Looking Ahead**
As Australia confronts the realities of a changing climate, the imperative to secure a sustainable and resilient food supply has never been more urgent. By embracing innovation, fostering collaboration, and implementing sound policies, we can navigate the challenges posed by climate change and ensure that future generations inherit a food system that is both productive and sustainable.

In the face of adversity, let us heed the lessons of the land and work together to cultivate a future where Australia's agricultural abundance endures, even in the shadow of climate change.

Alpine Angus celebrate their 25th Anniversary year



Top priced Bull Spring 2022 Alpine 38 Special So21 marketed by ST Genetics, Albury



Dam of Alpine 38 Special So21 – Alpine Lowan Moo3



Top priced Bull Spring 2021 Alpine Rip Wheeler marketed by Genetics Australia

Alpine Angus are celebrating the 25th Anniversary year since their inception in 1998.

On Wednesday 20 September 2023 at 1 pm Alpine host their 8th Annual Spring Bull Sale presenting 60 Alpine Bulls to be held at the Alpine Sales Complex, Rosewhite Victoria.

Alpine Principal Jim Delany “The Alpine herd has progressed in leaps and bounds over the last decade with the dedicated focus on pursuing genetics to produce fault free, responsibly framed cattle with fleshing ability, good temperament and consistency combining EBV’s promising calving ease and explosive growth”.

Chris Oswin “We place extensive production and structural pressure on the Alpine female herd and are proud of the female base we have developed. From this we aim to breed bulls with the physical and structural quality traits that allow them to last and proliferate their genetics over multiple mating seasons. In turn producing sound, functional daughters in clients herds that will breed on and flourish in the vast array of conditions thrown up in our commercial clients beef environments.”

Chris Oswin “One of the true strengths of our program comes from not simply relying solely on trait leading AI sires to produce Alpine progeny. We are constantly seeking to minimise risk by augmenting these high performance genetics with sires sourced from leading Australian herds, out of dominant cow families with the physical attributes and qualities we rely on for longevity and consistency. Coonamble genetics among others have played a significant role in aiding Alpine Angus to produce fault free, strong, balanced cattle that allow clients to present long lines of consistent progeny that will breed on and grow well.”

Over the recent past Alpine Angus are now gaining widespread industry acceptance with Alpine Main Event Q192, Alpine Rip Wheeler R144, Alpine Real Deal R163, Alpine Ronaldo R232 and Alpine 38 Special So21 all featuring in main stream AI catalogues. Chris Oswin “Whilst this was not the objective as our clients are our prime focus it is a rewarding albeit a humbling outcome. All are sound, well balanced bulls and pleasingly represent a range of genetics

from our herd incorporating different sirelines and cow families.”

The 2023 Spring Sale line up features sons of home bred sire Alpine Pablos Pulse P348 displaying deep bodied well fleshed sons who promise calving ease with great birth weight to growth credentials.

USA AI Sire Sitz Stellar 726D has a line of sons in the sale. Extremely popular in the United States due to his ability to produce long, deep bodied cattle with first class structure and foot quality. Stellar’s sons and grandsons have topped numerous bull sales for the highly regarded Sitz program as well as numerous other renowned Stud sales throughout the USA.

Lawsons Momentous also has sons in the Spring Alpine sale. Momentous is a highly proven, elite numbered IMF sire with over 4,000 progeny. And has been used by Alpine over the last few years to increase marbling propensity with his sons being well received. Alpine Junior M205 is another home bred sire with sons in the sale. Chris Oswin “M205 is a thick bodied, sound, docile sire we sold in our 2018 sale and used after viewing him as an

older bull. He incorporates high IMF with body, fleshing ability and an elite pedigree. Sire Coonamble Junior produced numerous quality progeny throughout Australia, and his dam H142 is a high marbling female with a great production record.”

Coonamble Leader Q500 and Alpine Qualifier Q211 also have sons presented. Both sires are stout bodied with excellent phenotypes and are out of elite dams, with Q500 being out of one of the countries finest females in Lowan A61. Their sires Coonamble Leader L325 and Karoo Knockout both excelled at producing strong powerful cattle for Alpine and these two sons were selected to continue this influence on the Alpine herd.

A Sale Preview will be held on Sunday 17 September 11am – 3 pm at the Alpine Sales Complex, Rosewhite. Refreshments and lunch will be available at the Sale Preview and on Sale Day. Sale Bulls will be yarded by 10am on Sale Day Wednesday 20 September.

For more information please visit www.alpineangus.com.au

AVIX Autonomic laser keeps cockatoos away from macadamia farm

Mark Wolf is a macadamia nut grower from Bondville near Cox Harbor in New South Wales, Australia. Cockatoos were causing severe damage to the macadamia farm year round, from sunrise to sunset. The damage was worth a yearly cost of \$20,000, which was a significant loss for the small farm with only 400 trees.

Mark decided to invest in the automated laser bird deterrent AVIX Autonomic, designed and manufactured by the Dutch company Bird Control Group. He purchased one system from Bird Beam Laser Bird Control, the trusted Australian partner of Bird Control Group.

AVIX Autonomic uses laser technology to

effectively keep cockatoos and many other bird species away from crops by projecting a green light that the birds perceive as a physical threat and flee the area. The system was installed about 12 months ago and covered a total of five acres targeting specific areas, such as roosting trees.

At first, the laser system achieved a 100% reduction in bird number. However, the cockatoos are a highly cunning species, and they soon learn that the laser did not actually harm them. By changing the projection patterns and timing of the laser frequently, Mark was able to keep the birds at bay – achieving a steady 90% reduction in bird number. The AVIX Autonomic can be easily programmed and monitored via a user-friendly app.

The laser system has been a major success for the farmer. The yearly cost of bird damage had dropped to around \$5,000, 75% less than before, and helped pay for the bird deterrent system in less than a year. The number of birds causing damage on his farm has dropped by 90% from 200 to around 20 since the laser system has been active.

Used in broadacre, seed crops, lettuce crops, ground crops, vineyards, orchards, brassica, nurseries, AVIX is humane, silent, and sustainable game changer for Australian agriculture.

For more information please visit birdcontrolgroup.com



Willows Prime Lamb Genetics has a Commercial Focus

Jon and Tanya Harpley, owners of Willows Prime Lamb Genetics at Coolac which is situated in the Riverina district of NSW.

The operation includes an 1800 head Terminal and Maternal seed stock enterprise. The high-quality genetics from the seed stock operation are sold to other seedstock suppliers and to their commercial clients across Eastern Australia.

Jon believes, the key to their success has been to have a commercial focus as a point of difference. Clients remark, many other seedstock producers say the same thing but expect their clients to bid up at auction for rams where they feel pressured and rushed and don't know what they will have to pay.

Jon Harpley says, how we see it is Willows Prime Lamb Genetics, we walk the talk! we supply industry leading genetics at a set price per ram. Clients are provided a large range of rams that they can select from, they can tailor their

selection to exactly what they are looking for. Its rubbish that everyone wants the same ram says Jon. For example, Merino breeders may prioritise low birth weight rams. A trade lamb producer may select for early growth and muscle. A branded lamb supplier, through their feed lot system may select heavily for marbling. A client breeding ewes sourcing maternal genetics may focus on fertility and adult weight. Supplying industry leading genetics in a stress-free sale process, we believe is meeting our client's demands. We supply Maternal composite genetics for breeding prime lamb dams and Terminal genetics for producing prime lambs. We have clients who call our sheep clean faced Dorset's, we have others who call them White Suffolks, I always joke, so what do you call the lambs and they say just bloody good lambs!

For more information visit www.willowsplg.com.au



Awards in innovation and technology for SheerSpeed

In the eastern Clare Valley region, SheerSpeed Shearing Products, led by Director Steven Hein, is invigorating the shearing industry. Despite transitioning



from shearing to farming, Steven's unwavering passion continues to drive innovation. SheerSpeed has introduced a lineup of products aimed at improving safety, efficiency, and productivity within shearing sheds. Notable among these innovations are the 'Woolmaster Wireless Control Handpiece' and 'Counter.'

The 'Handpiece' which utilizes the 'Heiniger Icon' handpiece with unique enhancements, is powered by a standard overhead electric motor. The handpiece can be activated and deactivated effortlessly with a thumb-operated switch, eliminating the need for pull cords. Should any issues arise during shearing, such as a loose comb or a wayward sheep, it can be instantly shut down while still holding the animal, ensuring both safety and precision. This not only boosts efficiency but also enables higher tallies, particularly during tasks like crutching.

Complementing this is the 'Counter', which automatically tallies shorn sheep, eliminating the need for manual counting. The 'Counter' features an easy-to-read touchscreen and simple programming.

SheerSpeed's 'Magnetic Grinding Papers use a high-strength magnetic bond to attach to steel grinding discs, thus eliminating the need for glue or clamping. They can be replaced effortlessly in less than a minute. They are hard, perfectly balanced, and devoid of the softness associated with wet glue, ensuring precision in sharpening shearing combs and cutters.

Success at both the Sheepvention Rural Expo and Elmore Field Days this year, where they won top awards in innovation and technology, highlights their passion in improving efficiency and safety in the shearing industry. Positioned prominently at the front of their display at this year's Field Days were vintage shearing handpieces which proved to be a magnet for many shearers from yesteryear. Director Steven Hein expressed optimism for the industry's future, given the enthusiastic response from both seasoned shearers and aspiring newcomers.

For more information visit www.sheerspeed.com.au

Advertiser note

Advertiser note

Tandara's outstanding bulls

34 outstanding yearling Angus Bulls on offer meeting every market at Tandara Angus Stud's 6th Annual Bull Sale on Saturday 2nd September.

Tandara's ongoing emphasis is on genetic improvement in growth, calving ease and fertility traits, focusing on moderate birth weights. Significant pasture management consideration with minerals and trace elements has shown marked benefit in production programs. Temperament is paramount.

EBV figure identify bulls to improve overall profitability in commercial self-replacing herds where daughters are retained for breeding, plus grass and grain finishing production systems.

Bulls are vaccinated 7 in 1, Pestigard, Vibrio, sire verified and will have a fertility certificate.

Tandara's Open Day is an opportunity to view all Bulls prior to Sale Day. Inspection by appointment is welcome at other times

To find out more, please visit www.tandara.info

Hollywood Angus: strategic herd selection

A registered stud since 2000, Hollywood Angus offers bulls and heifers, for private sale, throughout the year. Herd selection is based on phenotype (structural correctness, tight sheaths, neat udders, eye appeal), EMA, docility, feed efficiency, calving ease. Scanned bulls have big EMA, heavy weights and high DWG.

ET (from superior home bred cows) and judicious use of AI, complement use of excellent homebred sires. Royal Show winning progeny and efficient paddock sires are the result.

Females exhibit longevity, high fertility, excellent mothering, kind dispositions and trouble free calving.

Bulls suitable for use over heifers available, as well as higher performing cow bulls. Heifers suitable for showing available now and ready for junior shows. Vaccinated and Breedplan recorded. Inspections invited.

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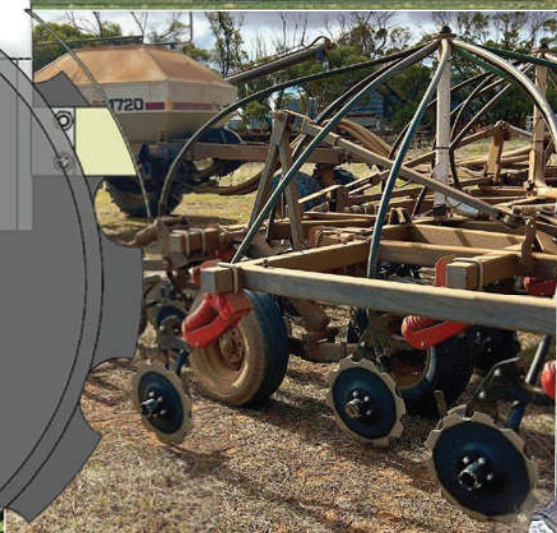


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Phil Giancono with his Duncan Drill fitted with RYAN NT retrofit double discs

The Duncan Drill with discs is a contractor's dream

Giancono said as a contractor, he used to have to go to everyone's places to have a look to see if the seeding job would be suitable for his tine machine.

“But now, with the discs, I didn't have to go to any jobs to check the land out; I just rocked up and did it and seeded with ease,” he said.

“It chops through kike thatch easily.

“Compared to your cheaper Chinese seeders, it's night and day with the discs on the Duncan Drill.

“It still brings up a bit of rock, but not nothing compared to your tines.

“Another considerable saving that I noticed was fuel efficiency.

“When I sat down and worked it out, we probably saved about 30% in fuel compared to operating with a tine.

“So overall, we're pretty happy with the conversion. When asked how many acres he sowed and if he could get the seed in the ground faster than with tines, Giancono explained, “They did a total of around 700 and were up a gear”.

“We covered a fair bit of land this year,” he said.

“You're still limited to how fast it can go, but definitely a bit faster than your tine.

“You don't have as much soil throw with the discs compared to the tines on the Duncan Drill, and the fuel efficiency stood out with us.

“That was a big one.”

Get superior penetration & cutting with your Duncan Seeder

RYAN-NT has developed its retrofit double disc to assist farmers in planting into trash. Over many years, they have created this economical system and now have a model to suit the popular New Zealand system, the Duncan Drill.

Unlike conventional double discs, they have designed the RYAN-NT Double Discs with an offset axle design where the serrated disc is forward of the plain disc. The unique design allows better penetration and cutting versus the conventional side-by-side system.

The coulter discs are a massive 18” for ease of rolling, with plenty of height, keeping the bearings out of the soil. The axles are a massive 30mm fitted with Timken tapered bearings.

The disc legs are attached to a heavy-duty 400lb RYAN Tyne Trip, allowing the disc assembly to handle the roughest terrain.

In addition, the Ryan system has tungsten mud scrapers and front and rear seed boots.



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