

2024 / Issue #5

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
FIFTH ISSUE

This issue delves into the latest advancements in sustainable farming, innovative agricultural technologies, and market trends. We spotlight the thriving wool industry, exploring its economic impact, sustainable practices, and innovations shaping its future.

Join us as we uncover the stories driving agriculture forward.

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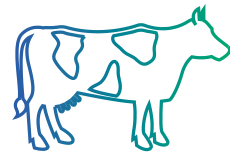
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AGRICULTURE DIGEST



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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**

KELLANNE
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.

PROFITABLE MERINO CROSSBREDS

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Name	Micron (μ)	Price \$ (greasy)	Marking %
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Doug Scott - Moama	24.2	\$6.00	162
Garry Obst -Kangaroo Island	25.1	\$5.10	160

MULTIMEAT CROSSES WILL SCAN AT 200 % WHEN MATED AT

CONDITION SCORE 2.7

RAM LEASE FEE:

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Prolific Gene Delivers Scanning Success

Using prolific genetics is a 'game changer' for prime lamb producers, delivering scanning rates of up to 200 per cent at minimal cost, according to Dr Colin Earl. Based at Struan in South Australia, Dr Earl has developed two lines of sheep carrying the prolific gene, initially with the South Australian Research and Development Institute, and now under the Kerami Multimeat and Prolific Whites stud banner.

He said the Multimeat is designed for breeding prolific prime lamb mothers while the Prolific White is a shedding breed, which also contains the high fecundity gene. "Both Multimeat and Prolific White rams carry the Booroola multiple-birth gene and once passed into ewe progeny, the gene will increase the occurrence of twin and triplet births in those ewes," Dr Earl said. "All the research and on-farm trials we've done over the years demonstrate producers can achieve a 60pc increase in scanning rates and a 30pc increase in weaning rate just by making a change to rams carrying the prolific gene. "In one recent on-farm trial, Multimeat-cross composite ewes scanned 225pc and achieved a lamb marking rate of 173pc, compared with Coopworth composite ewes which scanned at 157pc and marked 131pc."

PROFIT DRIVERS

The development of prolific genetics was prompted by an analysis Dr Earl carried out in his early days of his research on the profitability of prime lamb production systems in Australia.

"The results highlighted the inherently low fecundity of sheep breeds in Australia," he said.

"The bottom line is that Australian sheep breeds don't conceive enough lambs and producers are forced to resort to supplementary feeding to increase mating weights and achieve higher scanning rates.

"In other parts of the world farmers have access to genotypes which are much more prolific.

"Analysis by myself and others shows that feeding to increase fecundity is not a particularly profitable, you do get extra production, but the costs of doing so outweigh the returns, unless lamb prices are high. "Prolific genetics consistently provide a 25 per cent increase in profitability just through being able to conceive extra lambs without the costs of feed supplementation."

MULTIMEAT TRAITS

During the past eight years, Dr Earl has focused on improving the wool quality of the Multimeat to provide producers with a more profitable first-cross ewe alternative.

"I've focused on reducing their wool down to 26 to 27 micron so that when a Multimeat ram is mated to Merino ewes, you can produce first-cross ewes with the gene for fecundity and 23 micron wool," Dr Earl said.

"We've had some of our clients getting 600 cents a kilogram for their crossbred wool as opposed to less than 200c/kg for a traditional first-cross fleece. "Other important commercial traits we have selected for include a worm egg count of less than -40, eye muscle depth of +1 and high growth rates."

PROLIFIC SHEDDERS

Recognising the increased demand for shedding sheep, Dr Earl has worked hard to establish the Prolific White breed.

"I have developed the Prolific White for exactly the same reasons, to enable producers to have high scanning rates without the cost of feeding ewes to achieve those results," he said. "A lot of shedding breeds are marketed as being semi-prolific, but they just aren't, because there were no genotypes with high fecundity in Australia to develop high fecundity shedding sheep.

"Producers need those extra lambs at minimal cost, otherwise shifting to shedders is not any more profitable than running composites.

"It has taken a long time to get the wool off them while keeping the Booroola gene, after a 10 year selection process, I am just starting to market Prolific White rams now."

Rams are available through a private lease arrangement and have proven they are adaptable to a range of environments with the client base spread throughout SA, Victoria, New South Wales and Tasmania, and more recently rams have headed to Goondiwindi in Queensland.

They have also established a strong overseas market with Multimeat embryos sold to countries including China and Russia, as well as exporting live rams to Russia. Dr Earl works closely with his ram clients, providing a range of management and reproductive support and knowledge.

"It's important to follow the guidelines around the management of ewe condition score and multiple births," he said.

"These sheep are not for everyone, they are a high-performance breed and you need to know what you are doing with them.

"The key is condition score, you don't want mature ewes any greater than 2.7 at mating, and they only need to be maintaining weight during mating." But he said ewe lambs and young ewes required closer monitoring.



MULTIMEAT RAMS
ARE 27-28 MICRON

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RENE ★ STAR STRUCK★

Cowra Dorset Championships Results

Senior Ram

1st Woolly Ram

2nd Shorn Ram

Reserve Champion Senior Ram

Ewes

1st Woolly Ewe

1st Pair of Ewes

2nd Shorn Ewe

2nd August Ewe

Champion Ewe

1st Breeders Group (1 Ram, 2 Ewe's)
1st Armdale Trophy (Group of 3 Rams)

SUPREME CHAMPION EXHIBIT



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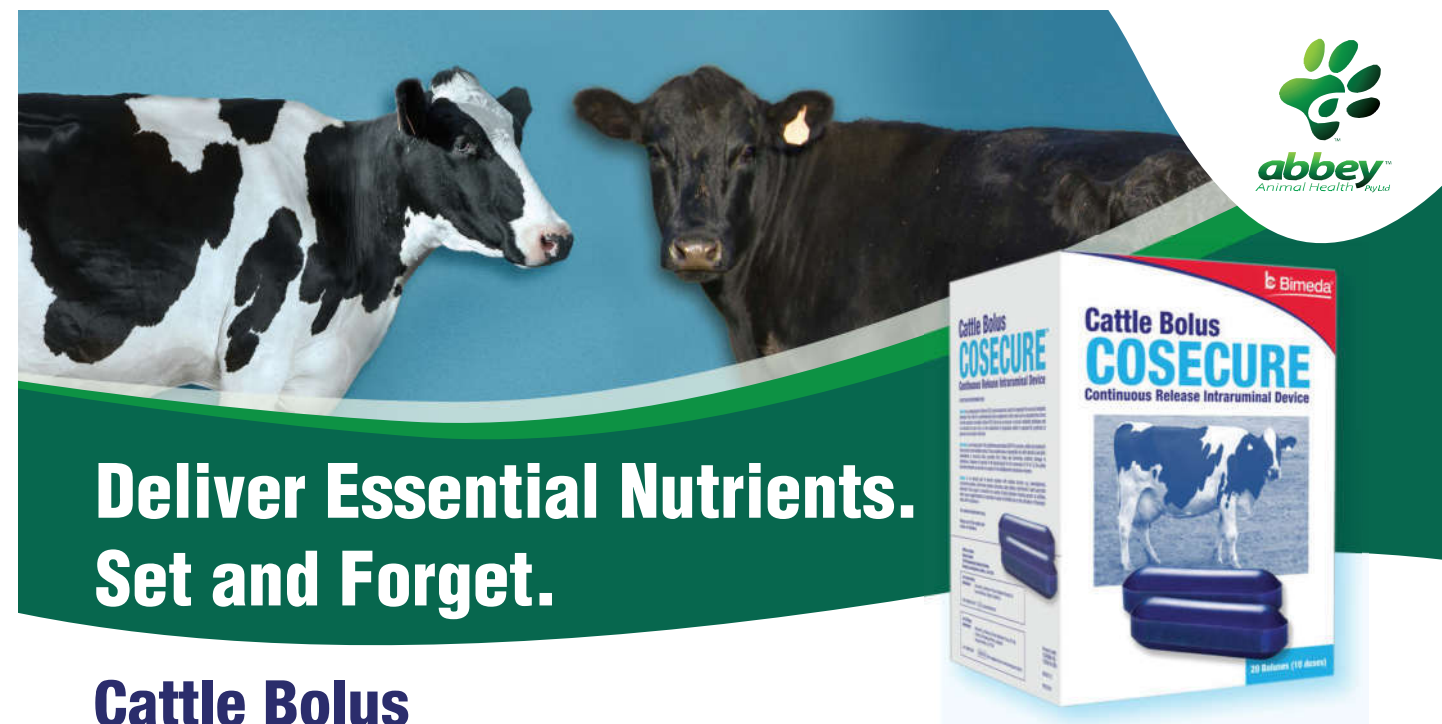
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¹ Cerone SJ, Sansinanea AS, Streitenberger SA, Garcia MC, Auza NJ. Cytochrome c oxidase, Cu,Zn-superoxide dismutase, and ceruloplasmin activities in copper-deficient bovines. Biol Trace Elem Res. 2000 Mar;73(3):269-78. doi: 10.1385/BTER:73:3:269. PMID: 11049217.

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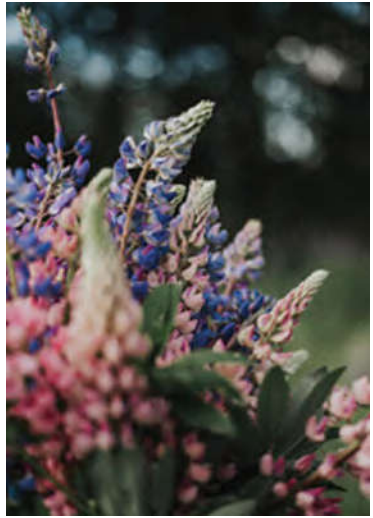


Dissolution process of a Cosecure® Cattle Bolus.



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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.

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*80km average off road range. (Tested range up to 120km)



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.



HILLVIEW CALVIN
 SIRE: D.A.M. DOTS 94A ELECTRIC 31E (P) (WHITE) | DAM: WATTLE GROVE 50S SALLY F3 (ET) (BLACK)
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 934kg | EMA 134cm | SEMEN AVAILABLE SOON
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 PHOTO BY BRANDED AG | DESIGN BY NICOLA KELLY

New Stud's Speckle Park win

BY LUCY KINBACHER

A SPECKLE Park bull who was an opportunistic purchase was named the breed's grand champion male at the Royal Queensland Show on August 9. Hillview Calvin gave his owners Kylie and Mat Buchanan, MAK Agriculture, Gulgong, their first Royal show grand championship in their debut Ekka showing appearance.

The couple paid \$3000 for the bull after negotiating with his breeders following the Scone Speckle Park Sale in April. Despite only wanting to buy females from the sale, they couldn't leave the quiet-natured bull, who has been with J and C Fitting Service, Ashford, ever since. "We have already had people requesting semen from him," Ms Buchanan said. "His breeders are absolutely thrilled obviously, they can't believe it...they just keep thanking us that we saw something in him that no one else did but every- one else had the chance to buy him too, we just got in there first."

The 28-month-old son of Dots 94A Electric 31E and Wattle Grove 50S Sally F3 weighed 943 kilograms, with a 134 square centimetre eye muscle area and 10 and seven millimetre P8 and rib fat depths.

He was first named senior champion male by judge Peter

Cook, Barana Simmentals, Coolah, who said Calvin was so soft that his hand had sunk into the bull. "If you were a stud breeder or a commercial breeder in any format, you would like to be able to cast your eyes over a bull with this quality in any breed," he said.



The grand champion Speckle Park bull held by Jamie Medhurst, J and C Fitting Service, Ashford, with owner Kylie Buchanan, judge Peter Cook, Elders representative Jenni O'Sullivan and International Animal Health Product's Alan Biddle

"I like to see good-footed cattle and this bull has certainly got good feet on him and when he walks around, his feet are placed where they should be. He has tremendous muscle." The win was a major feat for the Buchanans who only

established their Speckle Park stud last year. "It actually gives you confidence in what you are picking," Ms Buchanan said. "We took such a chance on Calvin because it's not like he was a top priced bull anywhere, he was something we thought was what we

wanted to do and to have that affirmed by a judge of that calibre and at a show of this size, it's a pretty good feeling." The Speckle Park breed was the second biggest at the Royal Queensland Show this year with 85 head entering the ring.

Earlier in the day, it was Aleon Lady Emily and her Prim Time AI calf, exhibited by Noela Augustine, Mundubbera, Qld, who was named senior and grand champion female. The cow placed second in her class at the Royal Queensland Show last year but won quite a few champions before her Brisbane reappearance with TLC Fitting Services. She was nearly four years old, by Codiak Putnam GNK 6rY and out of Wattle Grove 68L Lady Lightning P628. Ms Augustine said her Speckle Park venture began in 2018 when her first embryo calves were born.

The junior champion female was Battalion Unique U84, exhibited by Ivery Downs Speckle Park, Colinton, Qld. Jackungah HS P207, exhibited by Jack Nelson, Pine Lodge, Vic, was reserve.

Junior champion bull was KJ Hill Under the Tank, exhibited by KJ Hill Speckle Park, Coopernook, and reserve was Jackungah Undervalued U129, exhibited by Jack Nelson. Reserve senior champion bull was Sweetacres Tommy, exhibited by Darryn and Cassandra Jones, Lockyer Waters, Qld.

Reserve senior champion female was Fox Tail Hill Vanilla Ice, exhibited by Troy Hepburn, McKees Hill.

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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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Targeted nutrition is playing a key role in enabling livestock producers to not only increase lambing percentages, but also maximise lamb growth weights and ewe health. Four Season Company's **Ewe & Lamb** supplement has been specifically formulated following extensive paddock trials to effectively deliver high-quality bypass protein meals and essential macro minerals to ewes before, during, and after lambing.

The already popular 20kg block is introduced to the ewe flock six to eight weeks prior to lambing, and fed at a rate of four blocks for every 100 ewes over about a 20 day period, depending on consumption. Producers are advised to continue supplementing **Ewe & Lamb** post-lambing, up to eight weeks either side of lambing, to ensure optimal health and growth.

Four Season market development manager Daniel Olsson said an animal's performance was intrinsically tied to the quality of the feed available and the ability of the animal to efficiently convert feed into milk, meat and fibre. "Where there were shortfalls in pasture quality, specifically formulated supplements are a cost-effective and relatively easy way of maximising production," Mr Olsson said. "**Ewe & Lamb** is designed and paddock tested to deliver heavier body weight and significantly increase colostrum levels, leading to healthier lambing weights and higher survival rates."

"The Four Seasons blocks also provide comprehensive support that enhances bone development, wool growth, and very importantly, reproductive health." Mr. Olsson said nutritional supplements were particularly important during pre and post-pregnancy periods.

"There is a lot of pressure on breeding animals and ewes need to have constant access to consistent, high-quality nutrition," Mr. Olsson said. "This is essential not just for single births but also for ewes capable of mothering twin lambs, helping them realize their full genetic potential and successfully raise their offspring to weaning."

He said even the lushest pastures could fall short of providing the necessary nutrients for optimal stock performance. "The demand for supplements is particularly seen in areas where there are significant phosphate deficiencies and or when grazing on low-quality forage, but even the lushest pasture may not be delivering the necessary nutrition required by breeding ewe."

"Investing in **Ewe & Lamb** is not just a nutritional choice, it's a strategic decision for economic success," Mr. Olsson said. "By ensuring ewes receive the best possible nutrition before and after lambing, producers can achieve healthier, heavier lambs and greater financial returns. **Ewe & Lamb** stands as an indispensable tool in modern lamb production, and has revolutionised how sheep flocks are being managed."

The Heartbeat of the Outback: Australia's Sheep and Wool Industry

Introduction

Australia, a land renowned for its vast landscapes and rugged beauty, holds a gem often overlooked by the casual observer: its sheep and wool industry. For centuries, this industry has not only shaped the economic landscape of the country but also its cultural identity. From the windswept plains of New South Wales to the rolling hills of Victoria, sheep farming is more than just a livelihood; it is a way of life.

Historical Context

The origins of the Australian sheep and wool industry date back to the late 18th century when the first merino sheep were introduced by John Macarthur. These hardy animals, known for their high-quality fleece, quickly adapted to the Australian climate. By the mid-19th century, the industry had blossomed, with wool becoming Australia's most significant export. The phrase "Australia rides on the sheep's back" captured the essence of the nation's reliance on this industry for its economic prosperity.

Economic Impact

Today, the sheep and wool industry remains a cornerstone of the Australian economy. Australia is the world's largest producer of premium fine wool, accounting for about 25% of global wool production. The industry contributes billions to the national economy annually, with wool exports reaching markets across Europe, China, and the United States. Farmers and graziers, many of whom manage family-run operations passed down through generations, form the backbone of this sector. Their expertise and dedication ensure the production of high-quality wool, which is processed into luxurious fabrics used by top fashion brands worldwide. The Australian Wool Innovation (AWI), a not-for-profit organization, plays a crucial role in research and development, helping farmers improve wool quality and sheep health.

Environmental and Technological Advances

In recent years, the industry has faced significant challenges, including climate change, drought, and fluctuating market prices. However, Australian wool growers have demonstrated resilience and innovation. Sustainable farming practices are now at the forefront, with many farmers adopting regenerative agriculture techniques to maintain soil health and biodiversity.

Technological advancements have also revolutionized the industry. Precision farming, which uses GPS and data analytics, allows farmers to monitor sheep health and pasture conditions more effectively. Genetic research has led to the breeding of sheep with finer, softer wool, meeting the ever-evolving demands of the global textile market.

Cultural Significance

The sheep and wool industry is deeply woven into the fabric of Australian culture. Rural communities often revolve around sheep farming, with events such as shearing competitions and agricultural shows celebrating this heritage. The annual Australian Sheep and Wool Show in Bendigo, Victoria, is a testament to the industry's cultural importance, drawing visitors from around the globe to witness the finest wool and sheep on display. For many Australians, the image of a sheep-dotted landscape under a vast, open sky is a symbol of national identity. The resilience and ingenuity of sheep farmers are admired and respected, reflecting broader Australian values of hard work and perseverance.

Challenges and Future Prospects

Despite its rich history and significant contributions, the sheep and wool industry faces ongoing challenges. Climate variability, particularly prolonged droughts, poses a constant threat to sheep health and pasture viability. Market volatility and international competition also pressure Australian wool growers to continually adapt and innovate. However, the future remains promising. Continued investment in research and technology, coupled with a growing global demand for sustainable and high-quality textiles, positions Australia's wool industry for continued success. Organizations like AWI are instrumental in driving innovation and supporting farmers through these challenges, ensuring the industry's longevity.

Conclusion

The sheep and wool industry in Australia is a testament to the country's pioneering spirit and adaptability. From its historical roots to its modern-day advancements, this industry remains a vital part of the Australian economy and culture. As global markets evolve and environmental challenges persist, the resilience and innovation of Australia's wool growers will undoubtedly continue to lead the industry into a prosperous future. In the heart of the outback, where the landscape is vast and the sun sets in hues of gold, the legacy of the Australian sheep and wool industry endures, a proud symbol of a nation's heritage and ingenuity.




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Gympie: the town that saved Australia

Nestled in the subtropical region of Queensland, the town of Gympie holds a unique place in Australia's history. Often referred to as "the town that saved Queensland," Gympie's story is one of resilience, discovery, and an unexpected twist of fate that changed the course of an entire state—and, by extension, the nation.

The Early Days: A Struggling Colony

In the mid-19th century, Queensland was a young colony struggling with financial instability. The economy was primarily agrarian, and the colony was heavily reliant on the wool industry. However, a severe economic downturn struck in the 1860s, leading to widespread unemployment and poverty. The situation was dire; Queensland was on the brink of bankruptcy, and there were talks of the colony being absorbed back into New South Wales.

The Golden Discovery: James Nash and the Gold Rush

The turning point came in 1867 when a man named James Nash made a discovery that would change the fate of Queensland forever. Nash, a prospector from New South Wales, stumbled upon a rich deposit of alluvial gold in the Mary River, near what is now the town of Gympie. This discovery sparked one of the last great gold rushes in Australia.

Word of the find spread quickly, and thousands of prospectors flocked to the region in search of their fortune. The population of the area exploded almost overnight, and a makeshift town sprang up to accommodate the influx of miners. This town would soon become known as Gympie.

A Lifeline for Queensland

The impact of the Gympie gold rush on Queensland's economy was immediate and profound. The gold extracted from the Gympie fields poured much-needed wealth into the colony's coffers. Within a few years, Gympie had become one of the most significant gold-producing regions in Australia, providing the financial lifeline that Queensland desperately needed to stave off bankruptcy. The gold rush didn't just save Queensland economically; it also secured its political future. The newfound wealth allowed the colony to fund infrastructure projects, pay off debts, and stabilize its economy.

Gympie's gold played a crucial role in ensuring Queensland's survival as an independent entity within Australia.

The Legacy of Gympie

Today, Gympie is a thriving regional town with a rich heritage. The legacy of the gold rush is still evident in the town's architecture, with many historic buildings dating back to the late 19th century. The Gympie Gold Mining and Historical Museum stands as a testament to the town's golden past, preserving the story of how this small town made a big impact on the history of Australia.

Gympie may no longer be the bustling gold rush town it once was, but its contribution to Australia's history is undeniable. It is a place where the past and present coexist, reminding visitors and locals alike of the town's unique role in saving a colony and shaping a nation.

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Agriculture, the lifeblood of our amazing country, and Techspan Building Systems are proud to have partnered with this industry for over 25 years, pursuing their mission to provide superior steel building solutions completely customised to suit a range of agricultural applications.

Having completed hundreds of agribusiness projects, Techspan understands the demands that the industry operates within and how important quality, practical, efficient and enduring infrastructure is in maximising productivity, safety, security and accessibility.

Combining their vast history, knowledge, experience, attention to detail and proprietary 'Smart Build System', Techspan are proud to announce the launch of their latest offer for Agribusiness operators; Agrispans Kit Sheds.

Agrispans Kit Sheds offer the same structural steel strength and durability you have come to know with Techspan's custom sheds, however through the smart standardisation of sizing, configurations and manufacturing process, Agrispans kit sheds are built to take anything you can throw at them, while offering a more economical solution than a custom structural steel shed.

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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

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Over the course of 26 years Alpine Angus has consistently strived to produce fault-free, true-to-type animals that can add value to the herds they are used in.

The stud, which was established by Jim Delany, in 1998, and managed by Chris Oswin since 2010 has focused on producing honest, reliable cattle bred from the basics up. Alpine Principal Jim Delany "The Alpine herd has progressed in leaps and bounds under Chris Oswin's management. This is due to Chris's dedicated focus on pursuing genetics to produce fault-free, responsibly framed cattle with fleshing ability, good temperament, and consistency combining EBVs promising calving ease and explosive growth."

Alpine Angus will host their 9th Spring Bull Sale on Wednesday 18 September at 1 pm at the Alpine Sales Complex at Rosewhite offering 55 - 2 year old and 18 month old bulls.

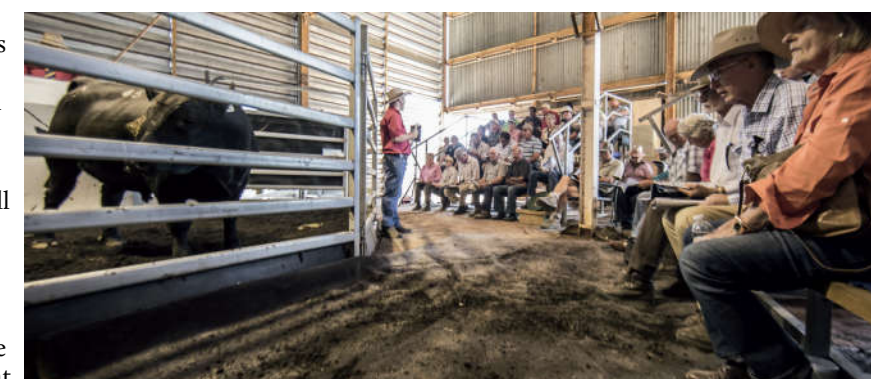
Alpine Principal Mr Delany said "The outlook for seasonal and market conditions seems so much more positive than last year with the threat of El Nino receding and the unexpected widespread summer rainfall.

Alpine Manager Chris Oswin "All lots catalogued for the sale are sound, well-balanced bulls and pleasingly represent a range of genetics from our herd incorporating different sirelines and cow families."

Within the 55 lot draft of 2 year old and 18 month bulls selected for the sale are sons of USA AI Sires' Sterling

Bond 007 and Sitz Stellar 726D together with Australian Sires Karoo Main Event M367 and homebred Alpine Knockout Q211.

Chris Oswin "All of these sires share great structural soundness with a phenotype displaying muscle and volume. The lineup also includes sons of Banquet Quarter Pounder Q252 and Alpine Richochet R005 who offer a bigger frame and high growth. There are also sons of Murdeduke Quarterback Q011, Alpine Junior M205 and Alpine Real Deal R163 who will appeal to clients chasing higher IMF. Our focus on soundness is well reflected by



the fact that Stellar, Main Event, Q211, Richochet and Real Deal all have Foot EBV's in the Top 15 % of the breed."

Mr Oswin said in recent years the Alpine article has gained

widespread industry acceptance with Alpine Main Event Q192, Alpine Rip Wheeler R144, Alpine Real Deal R163, Alpine Ronaldo R232, and Alpine 38 Special S021 all featuring in mainstream AI catalogues.

"While this wasn't the objective, as our clients are our prime focus, it's a rewarding albeit humbling outcome."

Alpine will host an open day on Sunday, September 15 from 11am to 3pm at the Alpine Sales Complex, for interested parties to inspect the bulls selected for the sale. On sale day the bulls will be yarded by roam.

Those who are unable to attend the sale in person can bid from home via the AuctionsPlus online platform. For enquiries please call the selling agents from Nutrien Livestock, Peter Godbolt, 0457 591 929, Dan Ivone, 0427 480 548, and Wade Ivone, 0487 233 208, and Rodwells' Mick Curtis, 0428 953 222, or Scott Meehan, 0428 952 536.

Agriculture today faces numerous challenges and opportunities, shaped by technological advancements, environmental concerns, and changing consumer demands. Here are some key aspects of modern agriculture:

Technological Advancements
Precision Agriculture:

Utilizes GPS, IoT, and data analytics to optimize field-level management regarding crop farming. Drones and Robotics: Used for planting, monitoring crops, applying pesticides, and harvesting.

Biotechnology: Includes the development of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) to improve yield, pest resistance, and nutritional value.

Smart Irrigation Systems: Conserve water and improve efficiency by using sensors and automated systems. Environmental Concerns Sustainability: Practices like crop rotation, organic farming, and conservation tillage are promoted to maintain soil health and reduce chemical use.

Climate Change: Impacts growing seasons, pest populations, and water availability, leading to a need for resilient crop varieties and adaptive farming practices.

Carbon Footprint: Efforts are being made to reduce emissions through sustainable practices and innovations like carbon sequestration in soils. Economic and Social Issues **Global Supply Chains:** The interconnectedness of global markets affects pricing, availability, and distribution of agricultural products.

Labor Shortages: Many regions face a shortage of agricultural labor, leading to increased interest in automation and robotics.

Food Security: Ensuring a stable and sufficient food supply to meet the needs of a growing global population. Consumer Trends

Organic and Local Foods: Increasing demand for organic produce and locally sourced foods is shaping farming practices and market dynamics.

Plant-Based Diets: A shift towards plant-based diets is influencing crop choices and agricultural policies.

Policy and Regulation Subsidies and Supports: Government policies that provide financial support to farmers can influence production decisions and market dynamics.

Trade Agreements: International trade agreements impact the flow of agricultural goods between countries.

Environmental Regulations: Policies aimed at reducing environmental impact and promoting sustainable practices.

Research and Development Crop Science: Ongoing research into new crop varieties that are more resilient to diseases, pests, and changing climate conditions.

AgriTech Startups: Innovative startups are developing new technologies and solutions for modern agricultural challenges. In summary, agriculture today is at the intersection of technology, sustainability, and global market forces, requiring continuous adaptation and innovation to meet the demands of a growing population and changing environment.



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FARM FENCES.

The original & best just got better

Over the past 5 years, rural and regional Australia has gone from one extreme to the next, throwing every challenge at the industries that are the backbone of our nation. Using innovation and research across 10 years, we have come to understand exactly what your fence needs- our industry leading, patent protected LokDown Lugs.

From the High Country to Mallee in Victoria, Central West to Coastal NSW and the Scenic Rim to Far North Coast of QLD, our LokDown lugs are proving themselves in every soil type possible.

The last thing you want to do after a natural disaster, is worry about refencing your farm. Our LokDown lugs are like an insurance policy on your fence, keeping your stock safe and your expenditure lower. Season after season, these lugs have held strain- without moving or popping out of the ground. Offering 8x more ground anchorage than your standard steel posts. These lugs maximise the total volume of soil used to anchor the post, meaning that there is a larger area to help counteract pressure and force from water, wind and other common causes of fence failure.

This technology makes an ideal solution for flood-prone areas, with water pressure eroding soils around the end assembly- our LokDown lugs are your best bet at preventing floating fences and lost stock.

Live somewhere very dry? Affected by drought? Our LokDown Lugs have proven themselves in waterless conditions too! Unfortunately, we are familiar with the scene of dry, dusty paddocks- with the earth tearing apart into large cracks and voids. This decreases soil volume and can cause soils to crumble away, resulting in toppled-over and pulled-out fencing.

With these lugs, the beauty is not only in the design but in the simplicity yet effectiveness. Screwed onto your post just under ground level with the provided Tek screws, it's as simple as attaching the lug and driving in a star picket. It is so easy, that the kids can be out helping in no time! Underground concealment of our lugs also makes your fence line a lot safer for stock, reducing the chances of costly accidents that could result in damaged hide charges, vet bills or loss of animals.

We listen to the feedback from our clients and end users, we are constantly pursuing a more progressive and innovative way to fence that is easy on labor resources and cost-effective.

Here at Rotech Rural, our friendly team are always more than happy to discuss options and find what works for you. We can also help put you in touch with a distributor near you, organise quotes, and provide real-world knowledge on fencing solutions. Too busy to do your fencing? No worries, we can put you in touch with a network of fencing contractors for all size jobs, trusted by our business.

*What are you waiting for? Improve your operation and productivity today!
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Grain poisoning is the biggest health issue facing grain fed sheep

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- Filling Self Feeders
- Electric Scale Control

The most popular model is the tandem axle 50-Bag Multi-Function grain bin, which has the options of split bin for mixing grain, auger variants for filling self feeders, seeders and troughs, electric or hydraulic brakes and programmable weigh scales for precision

feeding. This model comes standard with a roll-tarp, heavy-duty chassis, 4000kg suspension and a compliance plate for primary production registration. Yellow Kelpie has been an industry leader in innovation, quality and design for over 20 years,

and has been under current ownership of Australian Stockyard Co. since 2006. Many upgrades and design changes have been undertaken over the years, always striving to produce the most reliable and user friendly products on the market.



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Seed crop Nyabing 2023

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/>

The Vital Interconnection Between Crop Management and Soil Health

In the vast, intricate web of agricultural practices, crop management and soil health stand as two pillars of paramount importance. Their synergy is not merely beneficial but essential for sustainable farming and food security. As the global population continues to burgeon, the pressure on agricultural systems intensifies, making it imperative to adopt practices that ensure long-term productivity and ecological balance.

The Foundation of Soil Health

Soil health is the cornerstone of successful agriculture. It encompasses the biological, chemical, and physical properties of the soil that collectively support plant growth and ecosystem function. Healthy soil teems with life, from microorganisms and fungi to earthworms and insects, all contributing to nutrient cycling, water retention, and disease suppression. However, modern agricultural practices often overlook the importance of soil health. Intensive farming, heavy machinery, monocropping, and excessive use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides can degrade soil structure, reduce organic matter, and diminish biodiversity. This degradation not only compromises crop yields but also exacerbates issues like erosion, water pollution, and climate change.

Integrated Crop Management: A Holistic Approach

Integrated Crop Management (ICM) offers a holistic approach to farming that prioritizes soil health alongside crop productivity. ICM involves a combination of practices tailored to local conditions and aimed at optimizing the interactions between crops, soil, water, and other environmental factors.

Key components of ICM include:

Crop Rotation and Diversity:

Rotating crops and incorporating diverse species can break pest and disease cycles, improve soil structure, and enhance nutrient availability. Leguminous crops, for instance, fix atmospheric nitrogen, enriching the soil for subsequent crops.

Cover Cropping: Cover crops, such as clover or rye, protect the soil from erosion, improve organic matter content, and enhance soil microbial activity. They also suppress weeds and can improve water infiltration.

Reduced Tillage: Minimizing soil disturbance helps maintain soil structure, retain moisture, and preserve beneficial soil organisms. No-till or low-till practices can significantly reduce erosion and improve carbon sequestration.

Organic Amendments: Adding compost, manure, or other organic materials boosts soil fertility, enhances microbial diversity, and improves soil texture and water-holding capacity.

Precision Agriculture:

Utilizing technology to monitor soil conditions, crop health, and weather patterns enables farmers to apply inputs more efficiently and precisely, reducing waste and minimizing environmental impact.

The Role of Policy and Education

For the widespread adoption of sustainable crop management and soil health practices, supportive policies and educational initiatives are crucial. Governments and agricultural organizations must incentivize sustainable practices through subsidies, grants, and technical support. Furthermore, research institutions and extension services should focus on disseminating knowledge about soil health and ICM, providing farmers with the tools and information they need to implement these practices effectively.

A Call to Action

The health of our soils and the sustainability of our agricultural systems are inextricably linked. Farmers, policymakers, researchers, and consumers all have a role to play in promoting practices that protect and enhance soil health. By prioritizing integrated crop management, we can ensure that our soils remain fertile and productive for generations to come, supporting not only our food systems but also the broader health of our environment.

The time for action is now. Let us embrace the principles of sustainable agriculture, recognizing that the health of our soils is the bedrock of our future.



CHAROLLAIS SHEEP

on farm Ram sale October 7th

138 HALLOWS WELLS ROAD CUDCEE VIC 3265

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CHAROLLAIS SHEEP

on farm Ram sale October 7th

Camlea Charollais Flock was formed in 2007/2008 from Embryos that originated in the UK. My wife and I had recently emigrated to Australia from Hereford in the UK and there we had used Charollais Rams over our cross bred ewes for more than 30 years, as did 50 percent of prime lamb producers.

The reason so many producers had moved to using Charollais Rams were many fold.

The lambs are always small at birth, making for easier lambing with a lot less losses. The breed is renowned for the fast-growing lambs, making it possible to offload prime lambs much earlier than most other breeds.

The lambs carry the double muscle gene which leads to superior killing out percentage. When the carcasses are hanging in the chiller the U shape is clearly visible between the legs as opposed to the V shape that most other cross breeds show between the legs. Also, the loin muscle is not only longer but far bigger than other cross breeds.

The lack of excessive fat on the carcass is also evident meaning that virtually no trimming of the carcass has to take place.

Some processors are now offering a premium for Charollais cross lambs. The Charollais cross lambs are regularly achieving carcass percentage of up to 60 percent of their live weight. It is therefore a no brainer for prime lamb producers to take advantage of those extra carcass kilos, which over a large number of prime lambs can come to a lot of money. For processors paying a fixed price for transport and slaughter charges, it makes sense to get that extra advantage at the end of the road.

The first cross ewe lamb kept as breeders make excellent breeding ewes.

They are docile. Milky, high-performance breeders, which if crossed back to Charollais Rams produce superb prime lambs which always achieve a premium in live market or dead weight sales.

The cull ewes retain really good body weight and also achieve a premium at sale. Charollais cross store lambs are always readily saleable because lamb feed lotters and graziers have realised how well they perform on grass or grain. Many Merino producers now cross them over their ewes and find the lambs are easier to sell.

We operate with a flock of Charollais ewes that we have kept pure from the flock's inception. We do not think it is necessary to infuse any other breed into the Charollais especially as many of the other breeds used for prime lamb production have faults with lambing problems and poorer carcass percentage. Why would you want to dilute something that is already perfect.

We produce and sell about 150 Rams a year and also sell about 200 ewes lambs a year.

Our flock is registered with ASSBA, and we are a member of the Charollais sheep association. There are now around 20/30 flocks of Charollais sheep in Australia with rapidly growing interest from WA, SA, Victoria, NSW and TAS. In New Zealand the Charollais has taken off faster than in Australia and is now widely used to produce prime lambs as it is in the UK, France and Germany.

As for growth and size of lamb, I was recently told by one of our customers that he sent Charollais cross lambs to his processors which achieved 40 kilo carcasses and came to close to three hundred dollars a head. He also told me the Charollais suckers at 14 weeks old came back at 200 Dollars.

Our Ram sale will be held on farm on October 7th, conducted by LMB Hamilton. The sale will be interfaced with Auctions Plus. The agent is Bernie Grant of LMB and can be contacted on 0417 712144. Kevin Feakins can be contacted on 0400 363358. The sale is sponsored by our local Agri business store Bades Rural who usually donate a pack of long acting Moxidectin, which goes to the buyer of top price Ram. Also, we are sponsored by Bosag Rural who donate a variety of goods, which are also passed on to the purchasers of top price Ram and bulk buyers.

Come to the sale, if only for a day out and see the breed for yourselves. We would love to meet with interested parties.

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

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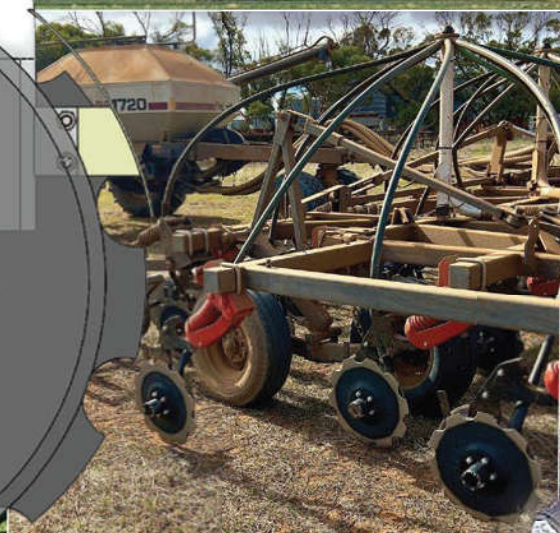


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**RYAN-NT are number one
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Discs vs Tynes



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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.

AGRICULTURE DIGEST



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