



# NEWSLETTER

WINTER EDITION  
**2018**

# WHEN THE DRY BREAKS FEED TRANSITION AND LIVESTOCK HEALTH

The ongoing dry conditions have determined confinement feeding as a popular option – whether in a feedlot, or drought lot form. With most livestock being fed grain, or other similar supplementary feeds, it will be important to manage the transition back on to grazing feed once the break arrives. This includes both nutrition and health management considerations.

Managing the nutrition of livestock after a drought break is paramount, not only for the health of the livestock, but also the re-establishment of grazing feed. Deferred grazing is a tactic that allows germinated plants to form a root system and produce a leaf area index that allows for maximum pasture growth rate. The most important factor that determines early pasture growth is plant density. By removing grazing livestock, the risk of destruction of small seedlings is reduced, there is preservation of pasture composition by preventing selective grazing of one plant species, and it prevents livestock ‘chasing’ green pick and expending energy after the break. The general rule of thumb is to allow a minimum feed on offer (FOO) of 500 kilograms of dry matter per hectare to establish before animals are permitted to graze.

After a break, the change in feed can be relatively sudden. Livestock need to be re-introduced to green feed slowly to prevent digestive upsets. Stock must be turned out onto young pastures/crops with a full stomach and provided hay whilst grazing for a week. It is common practice to allow stock to graze for a few hours and then remove from the pastures to allow slow re-introduction – this can be done over a week by increasing the time on new feed each day. This will reduce incidences of nutrition related illnesses.

Managing transition after a dry break in terms of animal health is also very important. Prior to placing livestock on green feed, vaccinating stock with a clostridial (5in1/6in1) is extremely important. Pulpy kidney is a leading cause of death in stock that are faced with a sudden change in feed. Changes in feed allow the pulpy kidney organisms to proliferate and produce large quantities of toxins, leading to the rapid death of the animal. For the average cost of \$0.30/dose, vaccinating is a very cost effective form of insurance for the health of your stock. Best practice suggests you administer your stock with the clostridial at least 10 days before the stock are due to be placed on the new feed. This gives the vaccine time to give maximum protection before the challenge arrives.

**For more information, contact your local AgriWest Animal Production Specialist.**

# GETTING THE MOST OUT OF DROUGHT LOTTING

The practice of creating drought lot feeding paddocks is becoming more popular with record breaking wool market prices, and meat market sheep/cattle prices staying firm and consistently strong over recent seasons.

With the traditional autumn break not occurring over large areas of NSW, producers have been forced to hand feed stock due to lack of pasture. This can result in large grain and hay inputs which can put pressure on the farms economics/cash flow.

Setting up and creating a robust feeding plan is essential when feed/drought lotting livestock - this will help identify how much feed is required per head per day, how many animals you can afford to feed financially and for how long a period before destocking needs to take place to counter act feed costs.

Ideally lotting should occur when pasture availability drops below 500kg of dry matter per hectare or before stock graze beyond the plants crown. Not overgrazing will increase pasture longevity and faster biomass growth/recovery will occur after a rainfall event. Having the drought lots available on farm can create production advantages in a good to average season with the ability

to lock up livestock from recovering pastures to permit them to grow back quicker, increase leaf area index and allow perennial pastures to grow out into heads and set seed for continued persistence. The lots can also assist with livestock finishing acting as a feedlot, this can help increase farms production levels and faster stock turn over.

Animal health and welfare is essential in confined space feeding. It is important to supply enough feeders per head - for sheep 1 feeder per 70 head, for cattle 30cm headspace per animal when all feeding at once out of troughs/feeders. To reduce the risk of death and grain illness it is essential to introduce the grain ration slowly. Setting up the animal for maintenance or weight gains is vital for livestock to utilise feed to its full potential. Drenching for worms, vaccinating with a clostridial (5in1/6in1) and other vitamin/mineral vaccines are recommended before entering the lot system.

With the increasing research being undertaken within the agriculture sector, the development of buffering and converter pellets are produced by animal supplement suppliers, and increased production levels are being achieved with the products addition to grain.

For advice on starting a grain ration diet, or any questions on preparing feed rations, feed/drought lots, and animal supplements please contact your local AgriWest Animal Production Specialist.



## PASTURE & LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS FOR DRY WEATHER

During periods of adverse dry weather it is essential that we are providing stock with an adequate amount of nutrients, vitamins and minerals that they may not be receiving from their current dry food consumption. A popular go-to source for essential animal nutrients, vitamins and minerals are salt blocks (aka salt licks or mineral licks). The overall use of salt blocks is a non-invasive approach to typically assist stock with the digestion of dry feeds or feeds that are not of high nutrient content.

In years when autumn rain is present essential nutrients are being met through pasture grazing when conditions are fresh and green. High nutrient pastures are currently scarce so supplementary feeding is occurring with grain rationing and hay. To increase the overall health and functionality of the animal it is important to add vitamins and minerals through lick supplements. Licks will assist with grazing efficiency, increasing animal health, supplying necessary energy in joining periods, and with healthy gestation and births.

During a dry-spell the most prominent salt blocks used are Calcium Molasses & Calcium Molasses + Urea – beneficial for digestion in stock who are grazing or being fed dry feed containing minimal nutrients and/or livestock who are vitamin/mineral deficient.



**CALCIUM MOLASSES BLOCKS** are designed specifically to provide calcium and protein to aid digestion, optimise milk and meat production and to be a beneficial preventative for lambing sickness and milk fever – a block suitable for cattle, sheep, goat and deer at any age, wet or dry. However, if in the gestation period, a more suitable block would prove to be Lactovite – specifically formulated for female stock during their gestation period and their young, for enhanced bone density, milk production, wool growth and reproduction.

**CALCIUM MOLASSES + UREA BLOCKS** are a more premium source of protein supplement for dry grazing – containing approximately 11.5% more protein than the Calcium Molasses block due to the addition of urea. It is recommended that salt blocks containing urea be removed from paddocks/yards prior to rain, as the precipitation on top of the block draws out all the condiments to that specific area, producing levels that are toxic to livestock if consumed, resulting in extensive oral damage or death. It is also recommended that pregnant livestock/young stock under a month old not be exposed to blocks containing urea.

**Recommended Dosage: Sheep/goats 5-10g per head per day. Cattle 50-100g per head per day.**

**A HOT TIP** – One can measure the level of deficiency in their stock by comparing their stocks block consumption rate to that of which is recommended. If the stock consume the block much quicker than the expected consumption rate, they are generally quite deficient in vitamins and minerals. If stock consume the block at the average expected consumption rate or slower, this typically suggests they are not very deficient but using the block to ensure a nutrient balance is met.

Make sure to take care of your livestock during winter and provide them with all their essential nutrients, vitamins and minerals. Your stocks health gain is your financial gain so contact your local AgriWest store if you need assistance or advice in getting the most out of your livestock.

## LATE SOWING OPTIONS FOR QUICK FEED

At the time of writing this it seems we will be presented with a late break in the season. Plans made for paddock rotations are quickly being altered and some less conventional options may need to be considered. While the options below may not be the most productive for an early or average break, they can provide quick feed to help get you out of a pickle in a late breaking season.

### MOBY BARLEY

Moby is an early maturing, 6 row, white seeded awnless barley with excellent winter growth and rapid establishment. Leaf size varies according to environmental conditions and is more comparable with oat varieties than traditional barley types. Moby will tolerate multiple grazings until the production of the first node. Being winter active, Moby offers an extended sowing window compared to forage oats from mid autumn to mid winter. Seedling vigour in Moby is exceptional, being first to grazing in all Pasture Genetics forage cereal trials conducted to date. Moby has shown significant versatility, adapting to a large range of sowing conditions and environments. Disease resistance appears typical of other commercial barley cultivars with good net blotch resistance, adequate field leaf scald and spot blotch resistance. Moby is also suitable for making excellent quality hay.

### SOUTHERN GREEN CEREAL RYE

Southern Green rye-corn is an exceptionally fast establishing grazing option particularly when sown late into cold conditions. Southern Green can be up and ready to graze three weeks before oats and when managed correctly can offer multiple grazing opportunities, the fastest to graze of all cereals.

Unlike common rye-corn, Southern Green produces high quality feed at a time when feed is in short supply. Southern Green can be used on its own or as part of a mixed pasture sward with ryegrass or annual clovers. Highly palatable whilst in the vegetative stage, Southern Green is grazed preferentially before oats in early winter but can become unpalatable in spring because stems are more fibrous than those of other cereals. Southern Green doesn't require vernalisation to trigger the change from vegetative growth to reproductive growth. Vernalisation is the plants mechanism to survive cold periods thereby triggering the plant into the reproductive phase which in turn will produce seed heads.

### HUNTER LEAFY TURNIP

Hunter is an early maturing brassica, with grazing possible in 6-8 weeks and minimal ripening requirement. It is excellent quality and forage yields in fertile, moist conditions and able to finish stock with excellent weight gain. There is fast recovery from grazing with excellent subsequent yields, given moisture. Tolerates Turnip Mosaic Virus and Cauliflower Mosaic Virus attack. An option for a break crop where the prospect of a canola crop is lost.





# CHICORY - A 'MUST' FOR A DROUGHT HARDY PASTURES THAT FATTENS LIVESTOCK FAST....

## DO THE MATH ...CHICORY BASED PASTURE STACKS UP

- Chicory, Lucerne, Arrowleaf and Cavalier medic mix, 'The Angle' Forbes.
- Lamb fattening enterprise achieved 421 grams per day weight gain on lambs bound for the Prime Lamb market.
- Self-replacing perennial pasture system supplying feed all year-round.
- Pasture species ready to take advantage of all seasonal rain events.
- Chicory, the herb, reduces exposure to digestive disorders.
- Highly nutritious and high metabolisable energy for fast and safe weight gains.

## MINERAL ANALYSIS: CHICORY, PERENNIAL RYEGRASS AND LUCERNE

ELEMENT	CHICORY	LUCERNE	PERENNIAL RYEGRASS
Copper (ppm)	13	7-10	6-7
Zinc (ppm)	66-117	15-20	14-20
Manganese (ppm)	210-400	50	50-300
Iron (ppm)	300	100	25-30
Magnesium (%)	0.28-0.44	1.0	0.16-0.20
Sulfur (%)	0.5	0.2-0.3	0.3
Phosphorus (%)	0.3-0.5	0.3	0.35-0.40
Calcium (%)	0.9-1.3	1.8-2.0	0.25-0.30
Potassium (%)	2.6-6.9	1.0	2.0-2.5

Source: NSW Department of Primary Industries, Reme Soils Goulburn, and Ag Research New Zealand.

## POTENTIAL ANIMAL PERFORMANCE: CHICORY VS OTHER PASTURE SPECIES IN SUMMER

Pasture species	Weight gain in lambs (g/day)
Ryegrass	160-230
Cocksfoot	-180
Tall fescue	-260
Chicory	190-370
Lucerne	170-300
Forage rape	120-250

Source: NSW Department of Primary Industries, Reme Soils Goulburn, and Ag Research New Zealand.



Pictured: Chicory in a lucerne, medic and clover mix in a dryland paddock half an hour West of Forbes – Jack and Marg Farthing, 'The Angle' 2017.



Chicory next to a lucerne plant in March after a particularly brutally dry summer. Notice the chicory is presenting quite a lot more forage compared to the lucerne. Also notice both plants grow well together....lucerne and chicory are 'complementary pasture species'.

## ...AND CHECK OUT HOW LAMBS PERFORM ON CHICORY.... OUTPERFORMING FORAGE BRASSICA!

In short, if you want a high performing pasture that puts weight on your animals fast, is self-recruiting, reduces digestive disorders, plays well with and survives droughts better than lucerne...chicory is definitely for you.

# HUSQVARNA OFFERS



**HOT OFFER**  
Chainsaws  
from  
**\$249.00**

**FREE SAFETY  
STARTER KIT\***  
Valued at  
**\$289.00**

\*On selected chainsaws

**CHAINSAW  
TRADE-IN  
DEALS**

**END OF SEASON  
RUN OUT**  
Push mowers  
from  
**\$399.00**



**Bathurst Panthers Netball Team,**  
proudly sponsored by AgriWest.

The girls are playing in the A Reserve 1 Division in the Bathurst Netball Association Saturday Competition and are off to a great start (undefeated after 3 rounds).

**KEEP UP THE GREAT PLAY GIRLS  
AND WE HOPE TO SEE YOU IN THE  
GRAND FINAL IN SEPTEMBER!**





# PREPAY & GROW

If you've had a great season talk to us about Prepay & Grow.

By prepaying the cost of your future supplies into an account, you can earn a **reward on your cash**, effectively giving you access to more inputs for less!

Our Prepay & Grow product offers a safe way to set aside cash for next season without having to decide exactly what you need now.

## 4.15%<sub>p/a</sub>

Reward rate of 4.15% per annum is calculated on the daily balance of your Prepay & Grow account and credited monthly.

## \$ANY

Any funds deposited into a Prepay & Grow account must be used to purchase goods from a Ruralco business.

## \$10,000<sub>min</sub>

The minimum prepayment amount is \$10,000.

## 11 months

The term of the prepayment is for a maximum of 11 months.

## NO FEES

There are no associated account keeping fees.

**Getting Started:** To get set up with an account you will need to get in contact with your local Ruralco Business.

**More Information:** If you'd like to know more please go to the website [www.ruralcofinance.com.au/prepay-grow](http://www.ruralcofinance.com.au/prepay-grow)



## STAFF PROFILES



**CLAIRE BIGNELL**

**Nickname:** Bigs

**Role:** Rural Merchandise Salesperson

**Store:** Parkes, NSW

**Time at AgriWest:** 2 months

**Hometown:** Cookamidgera

**Industry History:** I live on a farm, have my Certificate II in Agriculture and I am currently completing a Bachelor of Agricultural Business Management.

**Interests:** Photography and my Kelpies

**Favourite Football Team?** Cowboys

**Favourite Band/Singer?** Missy Higgins and Darius Rucker

**Favourite Movie?** Step Brothers

**What are you enjoying most about your role with AgriWest?**

Love working with such a friendly team and great coming to work to do something I enjoy.



**ALEXANDER MCINTOSH**

**Nickname:** Sandy

**Role:** Trainee Merchandise Sales Assistant

**Store:** Bathurst, NSW

**Time at AgriWest:** I have been working Saturdays for 8 months and 3 months ago I was appointed to a full-time position.

**Hometown:** Bathurst

**Industry History:** From a long line of farmers

**Interests:** Hunting and fishing

**Favourite band/singer?** Kip Moore

**Favourite movie?** Focus

**What are you enjoying most about your role with AgriWest?**

Dealing with customers who have a problem or need and helping them find a solution.

