



Grassland Society of NSW Inc

Newsletter

Welcome to the second edition of the newsletter for 2011 - it is packed with diverse articles including the use of Gibberellic Acid to lift winter production (page 3), the use of alternative fertilisers (page 9), Coolatai grass management (page 4), using Lucerne to improve ewe reproductive performance (page 5) and Smartphones & Tablets for farmers (page 7).

With this newsletter you will have also received a package of goodies including your membership renewal for 2011/2012 (due July 1), a conference registration brochure and a membership survey.

The conference committee has put together a really interesting program of speakers and bus tours (page 2) so register early to not only get the tour of your choice, but also to take

advantage of the early bird deal - \$220 for full conference package for members.

Membership of the Society has been steady over the past few years - a vital and active Society relies on maintaining membership and recruitment of new members. To improve our services to members and increase our membership we need to hear from you. We ask that you complete the enclosed survey in order to gain feedback on your perceptions of our organisation and your ideas/suggestions on where we could make improvements. Those who send their survey in by July 1 will go into a draw for free conference package or free membership for 2011/2012.

Lastly I would like to thank our sponsors in 2010/2011, without their support Grassland Society of NSW activities such as the

conference and newsletter would not be possible.

Sponsors in 2010/2011 were

Premier:- Meat & Livestock Australia, Central West CMA, Industry & Investment NSW and Australian Farm Journal.

Major:- Wrightson Seeds, Dow Agrosiences, CRT, Seedmark and Incitec Pivot

Corporate:- AusWest Seeds, PGG Seeds, Crop Care Australia, Valley Seeds, The Land, Hi-Fert, Sheep CRC, ELMS-Elders Livestock, Integrated Packaging, New Holland and Pioneer.

Hope to see you all at Bathurst for the conference in July.

Carol Harris
Editor

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MEMBERS

Tell us what you think

Return Membership Survey by July 1 2011 to enter the draw for a free conference package or free membership for a year.

The survey can also be completed at www.grasslandnsw.com.au

Grassland Society of NSW - 26th Annual Conference

Grassland Farmers - Opportunities, Threats and Realities



26-28 July 2011

Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre

Presentations include;

- ***The threats, realities and opportunities of grassland farming in the Central Tablelands*** - Dr. Karl Behrendt, Lecturer in Agribusiness at Charles Sturt University Orange and Jeff Eppleston, Research Officer, Tablelands Livestock Health & Pest Authority.
- ***Farming the grass curve*** - Gillian and Geoff Salmon, Prime lamb & beef producers Oberon.
- ***An overview of animal health as a constraint in grazing systems on the tablelands*** - Bruce Watt, Senior District Veterinarian Tablelands Livestock Health & Pest Authority, Bathurst.
- ***Performance for profit*** - Matt Ryan, Producer, Rydal.
- ***Pseudo Science - a threat to agriculture*** - Dr Doug Edmeades, Managing Director, agKnowledge Ltd, NZ.
- ***Soil chemistry - facts & fiction, and their impact on the fertiliser decision making process*** - Neil Menzies, Professor of Soil and Environmental Science & Dean of Agriculture, University of Qld.
- ***Pegela Pastoral Company - vertically integrating cropping and beef production systems*** - Mark Mason, Director, Pegela Pastoral Company, Oberon.
- ***Factors affecting pasture production in variable landscapes - how does it influence fertiliser use and other management*** - Dr. Belinda Hackney, Research Agronomist, NSW DPI, Bathurst.
- ***Landscape and grazing management affects on pasture production and persistence on Dunn's Plains*** - Bruce Townson, Producer, Rockley.
- ***Collaborate to survive and thrive*** - John Gladigau, Nuffield Scholar, Bulla Bulla Collaborative Farming Australia, Alawoona SA.
- ***Cereal based forage crops for hay and silage production*** - John Piltz, Livestock Research Officer, NSW DPI, Wagga Wagga.
- ***Optimising the intake of feed by pasture-fed sheep and cattle*** - Dr. Charlotte Westwood, Wrightson Seeds.
- ***Varying sheep production from different pasture types*** - Julie Brien, Nuffield Scholar and Producer Greenthorpe.



Bus tours

Tour A - Lucerne hay & prime lamb production, temperate pasture systems at a cool climate winery. Hard seeded legume trials, Forage brassicas, dual purpose canola and perennial grass trials.

Tour B - Winter forage crops and brassicas for trading enterprise, leasing opportunities to manage cashflow without investing in capital. Perennial pastures for grain assist beef production, grazing systems for low stress & weight gain, vertical integration of farm business

**Members register
before JUNE 30 to
receive early bird offer
of \$220 for full
conference package**

For more information on conference registration go to www.grasslandnsw.com.au or contact David Harbinson on 0408820467

Does Gibberellin increase winter grass growth?

Neil Griffiths¹ and Peter Beale²

¹ Department of Primary Industries, Tocal Paterson

² Department of Primary Industries, Taree

Gibberellic Acid (GA) is a plant hormone which has become popular in some areas to promote growth in winter when natural GA levels may be low.

GA is widely used in horticulture and acts by promoting cell expansion.

In pastures it has a similar effect seen as larger more erect leaves on both grasses and clovers, but there have been reports of reduced tillering and possible yield depression at the second cut following GA application.

GA was included in a series of topdressing trials conducted on ryegrass at Tocal, Taree and Berry in 2009 and 2010.

Results summarised in Table 1 show a variable response with small non-significant increases in yield recorded in most trials.

GA applied at 20 kg/ha product

yielded only slightly more than the Nil control in 3 out of 5 trials.

GA plus 50 kg/ha urea showed a greater increase compared with 50 kg/ha urea alone in the Tocal trials but not at Taree or Berry. This is a response of 3 to 53 kg DM/g ai GA within the range reported elsewhere of 30 kg DM/g ai GA (Mathew *et al* 2009).

These results seem contrary to farmer's observations and results reported from cooler areas. Farmers observations may be biased by the larger leaves seen where GA is applied, but not recorded when trials are cut and dried.

The relatively mild winter conditions at Tocal, Taree and Berry where daytime temperatures are usually in mid to high 'teens' may have affected the response recorded when GA was applied compared to cooler areas.

Further results from these trials will be reported in the 2011 Proceedings of the Grassland Society of NSW Annual Conference to be held in Bathurst in July.

Acknowledgement: Thanks to Michael Davy, Scott Richards and Craig Muir for their work on these trials.

Reference:

Mathew C, Hofmann W, Osbourne M. (2010) Gibberellin Application to Pastures: a 50 year review of research and practice. In: Nutrient management in a rapidly changing world. (Eds. L.D. Currie and C.L. Lindsay). Occasional Report No. 22. Fertilizer and Lime Research Centre, Massey University, Palmerston North, New Zealand. pp 236-241.



Table 1. Dry Matter Yield (kg DM/ha) from winter harvests of ryegrass treated with Gibberellic Acid (GA) and urea at Tocal, Taree and Berry in 2009 and 2010^a.

Treatment	Tocal Trial 1 2009	Tocal Trial 2 2009	Total 2010	Taree 2010	Berry 2010
Nil Control	3013	2934	3193	3145	2019
GA ^b	3146	3033	3994	3468	2941
Urea (50 kg/ha)	4586	3313	3306	-	5147
GA + Urea (50 kg/ha)	5232	3713	4146	5568 ^c	5289
Urea (100 kg/ha)	5586	3607	4873	5492 ^c	6155
Number of harvests	3	3	2	3	3
Response per g ai	26.9	16.7	52.5	3.2	5.9

^a Results taken from larger trials to be reported in Proceedings of Grassland Society of NSW Annual Conference 2011

^b GA (Gibberellic Acid) applied at 20 g/ha product or 8 g/ha active constituent

^c Taree trial used Urea rate applying 50 kg N/ha (109 kg/ha Urea)

Coolatai Grass Management

Jim Benton, Reedy Creek Emmaville NSW

Coolatai grass (*Hyparrhenia hirta*) is a vigorous summer growing grass that under conventional grazing practices can become rank and unpalatable leading to a pasture monoculture of low nutritional value. A managed grazing and chemical control program was conducted on "Reedy Creek" in 2010 to assess the effectiveness of this method of controlling and managing Coolatai grass.

Background

Following on from a successful pasture program to manage African lovegrass (*Eragrostis curvula*) at "Weather Vale", Glen Innes, it was decided to conduct a trial on Coolatai grass at "Reedy Creek" using similar principles.

The "Weather Vale" pasture program consists of;

- Heavy grazing of a paddock for 3 to 4 days to ensure all quality pasture - both native and introduced - is eaten down.
- Remaining uneaten species (mostly African lovegrass) has glyphosate applied using a Swingwiper. This ensures only the target species have chemical applied.
- The paddock is rested to allow desirable species to regenerate and set seed.
- Selected paddocks have seed broadcast and harrowed in.

How the Swingwiper works - The Swingwiper uses a height adjustable rotating carpet roller to apply chemical to target species. The rate of chemical application is computer controlled to ensure that there is no leakage and to ensure chemical is applied to target species only.

Trial at "Reedy Creek"

The selected paddock (Tank pdk) at "Reedy Creek" was a 25 ha paddock of light red basalt soil with a heavy population of Coolatai grass (75% coverage). There were also significant rabbit densities in the Tank pdk.

Integrated steps of the "Reedy Creek" trial

- During the summer of 2009-10, the paddock was heavily grazed and all desirable feed was eaten down.
- In March and April 2010, the paddock was wiped in two directions with Roundup 450 at 25:1, using a Swingwiper
- All rabbits were poisoned and rabbit warrens ripped during April 2010
- Legume seed (Arrowleaf, Sub clover and Lucerne) was broadcast with single superphosphate in July 2010.
- The paddock was lightly scarified and harrowed with pasture harrows turned upside down. This ensured that the seed was covered with a small amount of loose soil.

Trial results

- All mature Coolatai grass plants (and other undesirable coarse grasses) were killed.
- No soil erosion occurred during heavy rains in 2010. Significant erosion may of occurred if conventional ploughing and sowing methods had been used.
- A high germination rate of legumes (both naturalised and introduced) occurred.
- All broadcast species were well represented.
- The dominance of legumes was so high that the paddock was unsafe for cattle in spring because of the risk of bloat occurring.

- A diverse mix of native grasses was evident in late spring 2010. Chilean Needle grass (*Nassella neesiana*), which had been grazed down in the previous summer, was evident in the pasture mix.

Where to from here?

A follow up trial is proposed to;

- Assess the pasture mix in the Tank pdk six months and 12 months later,
- Test methods of controlling Chilean needle grass by light pasture topping with Roundup to reduce seed set and by spraying during winter when Chilean needle grass is readily identified, and
- Test a pasture cropping program incorporating managed grazing and chemical application to invasive grasses to reduce the problem of legume dominance in the spring. This will also prepare the soil for native grass regeneration and the following summer.

For more information contact Jim & Yvonne Benton on 02 6732 3935

This work was supported by;
Glen Innes Natural Resource & Advisory Committee.
Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA
Woolworths

More information on the "Weather Vale" Pasture Program can be found at:

www.glenrac.org.au/images/pdf/weathervale%20profile.pdf

More lucerne - more lambs

Catriona Nicholls, Kondinin Group

A three-year *EverGraze*[®] study into the effects of short-term grazing of summer active perennial pastures (lucerne and chicory), leading up to ewe ovulation, suggests this could be a more cost effective option than lupin supplementation or a long-term grazing strategy.

Charles Sturt University (CSU) researchers have been looking at economic options to boost reproductive performance in Merino ewes and they may have hit upon a practical solution with environmental benefits to boot.

Increased nutrition or 'flushing' before mating is well recognised as being able to increase ovulation rates leading to more lambs on the ground.

This effect occurs through either a 'dynamic' effect - a rising plane of nutrition and gaining weight at, and/or a 'static' effect - as a result of higher liveweight or condition at the time of mating.

An 'acute' effect also occurs where 'short-term' or 'spike' feeding with lupins for four to six days increases ovulation rates without affecting liveweight or body condition.

According to CSU researcher Dr Michael Friend, this short-term supplementary feeding targets a critical period in the ewe breeding cycle.

"The benefit of this strategy is that limited feed resources can be used more efficiently than if a longer feeding period is required" Dr Friend said.

"Supplementary feeding with lupins can increase ovulation rates by up to 60 per cent and as such, lupins are the most common feed supplement used for this purpose."

"But grain feeding can be expensive and not readily available in all localities and the recent trial results suggest more reliable responses can be obtained using existing pasture resources.

Rewarding results

In the *EverGraze* trials grazing both chicory and lucerne during February increased ewe ovulation rates more reliably when compared with ewes given a supplement of 500 grams per head per day of lupins (see Table 1).

Synchronised ewes grazed the different treatments for nine days before ovulation.

This response was closely related to the amount of green pasture available, with 90 per cent of the maximum response occurring with as little as 350 kilograms of dry matter per hectare of green feed.

"The results show small amounts of green feed offered to sheep before ovulation increased ovulation rate by 10% on average" Dr Friend said.

"The level of increase depends on the amount of the green feed and the condition of the ewes (in one year the increase was 22%)." The best results in the study occurred when

ewes were in condition score 3.

Does it work in unsynchronised ewes?

From a practical viewpoint, synchronisation is a substantial cost and effort.

During 2010, researchers repeated the study using unsynchronised ewes grazing lucerne or phalaris.

"In this study there was no difference in scanning results - both groups scanned 60% twins, due to green feed being available in both pastures during the February joining" Dr Friend explained.

"The results from farmers collaborating with the research team support the experimental data - on one farm ewes grazing lucerne during joining in February scanned 67% twins compared with ewes grazing annual pastures who scanned 20% twins."

"On farms where differences were not seen, this was due to the amount of green feed being similar in the lucerne and the control paddocks."

"Summer-active perennials, such as lucerne will more reliably provide

Table 1. Average ovulation rates and proportion of multiple ovulations for ewes grazing four pastures (2006-2008)

Treatment	Number of ewes	Average ovulations per ewe	Proportion of ewes with two or more ovulations
<i>Phalaris</i>	266	1.28	0.27
<i>Phalaris + lupin</i>	270	1.35	0.33
<i>Lucerne</i>	278	1.41	0.36
<i>Chicory</i>	274	1.39	0.38
Source: CSU			

green feed for summer and autumn joined flocks”

In an unsynchronised flock, Dr Friend recommends placing ewes on the green feed a week before joining and leaving them there for the first week of joining.

“While ewes can be left on the green feed for longer, if large quantities of lush green feed were available, it is possible that leaving ewes on these pastures for longer than a week into joining could increase embryo mortality, thus removing the benefit of the approach,” Dr Friend warned.

Twice the effort

Dr Friend also reminds producers not

to overlook the consequences of breeding more twins.

“Identify twin-bearing ewes at scanning and maintain them in condition score 3 throughout the pregnancy to maximise twin lamb survival,” he advised.

“During the last trimester of pregnancy ensure these ewes have access to the best feed (preferably more than 1.5 tonnes of green feed, or supplementary feed offered) and depending on lambing time and location, consider shelter options.” Twin-lamb mortality will be higher than single lambs, but careful management of twins can see similar survival to singles (for more information on lamb survival see Focus on Perennials Issue 11, March 2010 or www.evergraze.com.au).

This work was funded by EverGraze®- More livestock from perennials. EverGraze is a Future Farm Industries CRC, Meat and Livestock Australia and Australian Wool Innovation research and delivery partnership.

“This article was first published by Future Farm Industries CRC in Focus on Perennials, Issue 14, December 2010. Reprinted with permission.”

Key Points

- Short-term grazing of summer-active perennial pastures, such as lucerne & chicory, could provide sheepmeat producers with a cost-effective option to boost ovulation rates in ewes.
- This approach can increase ovulation rates without risking triplet pregnancies.
- Where suitable pastures already exist, this may be a more cost-effective alternative to both longer-term grazing and lupin supplementation.
- The amount of green feed required is small, so it does not mean giving ewes access to pastures normally reserved for finishing stock.



Central West
catchment
management authority

Smartphones and Tablets for Farmers

Leah Lane, Grassland Society of NSW, Web Administrator, Glen Innes

Most farmers and graziers will know that a computer is an essential tool these days for running their business and managing their land. However, the computer revolution marches on and we now have new technology available to help in this task. Therefore, I thought it might be timely to have a bit of a look at smartphones/tablets and how they can fit into your current technology mix.

The first decision you need to make is what operating system you want to use – ie. Android from Google or iOS from Apple. Detailed discussion of this is beyond the scope of this article – both have their pros and cons so take a little time to compare and price around. Essentially, the choice is between iPhone/iPod Touch/iPad or any of the Android devices from a range of manufacturers.

Smartphones – whether you choose an Android phone or iPhone, please check coverage in your area before committing to a plan. This is far more important to regional and rural users compared to those in major centres or cities so please check first. The smartest of smartphones is not much use if you cannot get a signal. Next most important is to select a suitable and affordable plan – remember that data is expensive so consider usage carefully.

Tablets – most people will immediately think iPad here – Apple defined the tablet with iPad and really created a device which changed the way we use computers. However, iPad is not the only choice and if you want to consider an alternative, there are quite a few to choose from now – generally smaller but can be quite a bit cheaper.

You can select from Wi-Fi only which means you will need to access a wireless network to connect to the internet or WiFi+3G which can access the internet via the mobile phone network. Decide whether you

need constant access to the net (3G) or if your existing access to a wi-fi network is sufficient for your needs. Note that GPS applications generally require 3G access for full functionality.

When you get one of these devices, they may be very “cool” but they’re not going to be very much use until you load some useful software – and this is where it gets interesting. There are a whole bunch of “apps” which can help make life a lot easier and/or more fun so check out the variety on offer here: see the Android Market here or access the App Store via iTunes or online here.

A few to get you started are:

Agriculture specific Apps:

Agro / Agro Lite – paddock record system for farmers and agronomists. Full version quite expensive but you can try the Lite version for free. For iPhone or iPad

Spray / Spray Lite – Spray log system for farmers. Full version a bit expensive but you can try the Lite version for free. For iPhone or iPad.

DTN/The Progressive Farmer – agricultural news, markets and weather. Free but USA focused. For iPhone/iPad.

IFarmer:Inventory – inventory or recording for livestock management. For iPhone/iPad.

SDCES Grazing Records – records grazing use and pasture condition. Free. For iPhone/iPad.

Cattle Breakeven Analysis – tool for quick breakeven calculations. For iPhone/iPad.

Farmers Partner – Grain marketing/budgeting. Android.

Mapping Apps:

Google Maps – free and a “must-have”

Land Area Calculator – calculate area of

polygon on a map. iPad only.

Numerous GPS and GIS apps

General Apps:

Unit Conversion – numerous apps to convert Metric and Imperial units.

Calculators – numerous apps to choose from.

Measuring – apps for measuring height/distance from photos, rulers, spirit levels, timers, protractors, compass, etc

To-Do Lists, Task Managers and Sticky Note apps

Weather apps – Weatherzone or BOM Water Storage.

News – numerous apps to choose from. ABC has good rural coverage

Fun and Recreation:

Games – too many to list. Whatever your taste in gaming, you’ll find something to suit.

eBooks – all devices can function as an eBook reader and there are a multitude of free books available. Great to have some good reading on hand.

Music – listen to your favourite music in the tractor, ute or wherever you are.

Photos – Store your favourite photos or take new ones any time. Note the iPad does NOT have a camera. The latest iPhone will GPS tag your photos

Podcasts – listen to news, lectures, interviews, etc by podcast when it suits you.

Social Networking – easy access to access Facebook, Twitter etc.

This list is just a starting point - there are more listed on the Grassland Society of NSW website.

If you have a favourite ‘app’ that we haven’t mentioned please join the discussion on the website.

The Grassland Society of NSW would like to thank the following sponsors for their support in 2010/2011



Because the land is your life.



better seeds, better choices

Alternative Fertilisers

Harry Rose¹ and Peter Beale²

¹ Education Officer, Weeds, Department of Primary Industries, Kempsey.

² District Agronomist, Department of Primary Industries, Taree.

Each year we are seeing a proliferation of new fertiliser products coming on the market. Some are waste products being recycled, and repackaged. This can be a good thing if they are priced well, the claims are supported with creditable evidence and they are sold to those who need them. Still others seem new, innovative and could be extremely valuable if they did what they claim.

Most suppliers are well intentioned and want to create healthy soils and health products. Yet some products seem to be old ideas being recycled and repacked with the same old marketing tricks.

Farmers have asked “how do you sift through all the many and varied claims” to find out if they are:

1. Useful in my field,
2. Cost effective and
3. Safe to apply, safe for the environment and safe for the end users of our products?

These are legitimate questions for both producers and consumers to ask about any product that may end up in our food chain.

To address at least some of these concerns several trials were conducted on urea additives and alternative nitrogen products at Tocal, Taree and Berry. In addition NSW I&I Project Officer Kim Billingham, Taree, is currently undertaking a literature review into a number of these products.

One class of product included in

our trials is broadly labelled “alternative liquid fertilisers”.

Alternative Liquid Fertilisers

These “liquid fertilisers” are mostly water based solutions with organic products such as: blood and bone, seaweed, fish waste, worm casts, molasses or unnamed ingredients. Claims often include higher efficiencies in plant uptake because of the foliar application. They may also offer multiple nutrients, trace elements, humic substances etc. Others claim to “promote growth” rather being a direct fertiliser.

The main concern with this group of products is that they often contain little plant nutrient, so when applied at the recommended rate of dilution they deliver little nutrient per hectare. This is because they are 80 to 95% water, due to the physical limits on how much seaweed, blood and bone etc that can be dissolved or mixed in water and still be suitable for boom spray application.

Usefulness in your field?

Step 1: Be sure your field needs the nutrients that are in the fertiliser you plan to purchase. Soil testing is useful for soil pH and the major nutrients: phosphorous, potassium, sulphur, magnesium and calcium. However, the requirements for nitrogen and or trace elements are best determined by leaf analysis, test strips, and paddock history.

Step 2: Ensure all nutrient deficiencies are corrected. Where one nutrient is low, it will limit the response of other fertiliser inputs. This means applying nutrients to a rate that meets the requirements

for the growth you anticipate. For example: if you are topdressing ryegrass to supply nitrogen for an anticipated growth of 2-2500 kg DM/ha/grazing, you may need as much as 30 to 60 kg of actual nitrogen per hectare, each grazing.

Step 3: Calculate the application rate of liquid fertiliser required to apply the nutrients your pasture requires.

This is done by calculating how many kilograms per hectare of the desired nutrient, is applied with the rates recommended by the manufacturer. This can be challenging unless you understand the units used as they are vastly different from the percentages used in dry fertilisers.

Most of these solutions use the standard:

$$\text{Mass (g) / Volume (ml)} * 100 = \% \text{ W/V solution}$$

So for example, a product with 10 %W/V Nitrogen weight by volume means it has:

10 g Nitrogen in 100 ml Water

So:
 $10 / 100 * 100 = 10 \% \text{W/V}$

Therefore in this example when you apply 10 litres of product per hectare you are only applying nitrogen 1 kg/ha. That would then be 2 kg N/ha if applied at 20 litres per hectare.

Compare this with the plant needs of 30 to 60 kg N/ha that is removed each grazing in a rotationally grazed ryegrass paddock. The rate required of this liquid fertiliser

would be 300 to 600 litre/hectare of product.

Costs Effectiveness?

Step 4: Calculate the cost of these nutrients in comparison to conventional fertilisers:

If our example product costs \$5.00 per litre, the cost per kilogram of nitrogen is \$50.00. Compare this to the nitrogen cost of \$1.52/kg N when urea is purchased at \$700/tonne. You would need to include the value of other nutrients, but even so some products will be very expensive per unit of nutrient compared to conventional fertilisers.

If this example product is applied at 300 litres/ha, providing 30 kg N/ha, the cost would be \$1500/ha where urea at the same rate of nitrogen would be \$45/ha.

Safety Issues?

Any preparation made from organic residues has the potential for contamination with undesirable human or animal pathogens. For your own safety it is relevant to ask if these products are sterile and what quality control is undertaken to avoid contamination?

What does past research say?

These products are not new; there are examples that date back as far as the 1970s and many have been compared in replicated trials. The following is the summary of a review on liquid fertilisers.

“Trials comparing the efficacy of 26 specific products and 2 unnamed generic products were identified. Of these 28 products, 15 were derived from seaweed, 4 from fish waste, 5 were of vegetable origin, and 2 were from animal products....

...Cereals were the most frequently used test crop (328 recorded treatment effects) followed by root crops (227), legumes (88), pastures (59), and vegetables (52). Fifty three other treatment effects were recorded on crops such as rape (15), peanuts (8), tobacco (6), and miscellaneous other crops (25). The effects of liquid fertilisers on animal

performance were measured in 4 trials.....

....There was no evidence to support the conclusion that at least some product types or products were effective on some crop types, crops, or cultivars. Similarly, liquid fertilisers had no effect on animal production when applied as recommended.”

The review is titled “The effects of liquid fertilisers derived from natural products on crop, pasture, and animal production: A review” by Edmeades DC (2002) in the CSIRO journal, Australian Journal of Agricultural Research. Volume 53, pages 965-976.

In this article we are grouping many products into one broad category, so to be fair, each product does deserve to be tested on its own merits. However, the underlying features of these products is that

1. there is very little nutrient being applied and
2. that plants do not respond to these products, what ever the source, in some miraculous way.

Recent work on the NSW Coast with several of these products will be reported in the next Grasslands conference, but the findings are no different to past work.



From the President

The year is moving along, as usual with great haste. Heavy frosts and some light snow falls already at the time of writing this note, and winter not yet official!

On a brighter note, the annual conference to be held at Bathurst on 26 – 28 July, is full of up to date, relevant sessions including, improved use of fertilisers, animal health, the latest fodder conservation technology and recognizing and coping with threats to efficient animal production. The conference tours to local farms will add to the formal sessions with opportunities to look at a full range of new legumes and perennial grasses and by demonstrating the best management of winter forage crops for a trading enterprise. Any

one with an interest in livestock production will find the program has plenty to offer. I encourage all our members to attend and take advantage of early registration. In addition, mention the conference to friends and neighbours who have an interest in pastures and animal production.

Many of our members will not be aware that one of our past presidents and a life member of the Society, Haydn Lloyd Davies has recently spent some time in hospital for a hip operation and subsequent rehab. Haydn is making slow but positive progress and would be happy to hear from any one who would like to make contact. His e-mail address is
hldavies@bigpond.com.

I'm sure you would all join me in wishing Haydn a speedy recovery.

I hope to see many of our members and potential members at Bathurst in July. I'm reliably informed that the temperatures will be pleasant, a bit cool early in the morning!

Best wishes to all.

Mick Duncan



MEMBERSHIP SUBS FOR 2011/2012 DUE 1 JULY 2011

Membership for a financial year is \$50

PAYMENT METHODS:

Cheque, Credit Card (Mastercard or Visa) or Electronic*:

Account Name: Grassland Society of NSW
BSB:032 833 Account No:421690 Bank: Westpac

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

NB: Members please do not forget when paying your subs to indicate whether you would like your conference proceedings posted or you collected at the conference. Thank you.

OVERSEAS CONFERENCES OF INTEREST

2011 International Conference on Asia Agriculture & Animal. July 2-3 2011 Hong Kong. www.icaaa.org

Grassland Society of Southern Africa 46th Annual Congress - Advancing Rangeland Ecology & Pasture Management in Africa. July 12-14 2011 Middelburg South Africa. www.grassland.org.za

16th European Grassland Federation Symposium - Grassland Farming and Land Management Systems in Mountainous Regions. August 28-31 2011 Raumberg-Guppenstein Austria. www.egf2011.at/

CropWorld Global 2011. October 31 - November 2 ExCel London UK. www.cropworld-global.com

New Zealand Grassland Association Conference. November 8-10 2011 Gisborne New Zealand. www.grassland.org.nz

International Symposium on Forage Quality and Conservation Symposium. November 16-19 2011 Sao Pedro SP Brazil. www.silagesymposiumbrazil.com

Disclaimer

While every effort is made to publish accurate information the Grassland Society of NSW does not accept responsibility for statements made or opinion expressed in this newsletter.

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

The Grassland Society of NSW Inc is a unique blend of people with a common interest in developing our most important resource - our Grasslands

The Grassland Society of NSW was formed in March 1985. The Society now has approx 500 members and associates, 75% of whom are farmers and graziers. The balance of membership is made up of agricultural scientists, farm advisers, consultants, and or executives or representatives of organisations concerned with fertilisers, seeds, chemicals and machinery.

The aims of the Society are to advance the investigation of problems affecting grassland husbandry and to encourage the adoption into practice of results of research and practical experience. The Society holds an annual conference, publishes a quarterly newsletter, holds field days and is establishing regional branches throughout the state.

Membership is open to any person or company interested in grassland management and the aims of the Society. For membership details go to www.grasslandnsw.com.au or contact the Secretary at secretary@grasslandnsw.com.au or at PO Box 471 Orange 2800

Office Bearers of the Grassland Society of NSW - 2010-2011

State Executive

Mick Duncan (President)
Lester McCormick (Vice President)
Janelle Witschi (Secretary)
Frank McRae (Treasurer)
Carol Harris (Editor)

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Branch Representatives

Loretta Serafin (North West Slopes)
John Coughlan (Central)
Hugh Dove (Southern Tablelands)
Mick Duncan (Northern Tablelands)
Cathy Waters (Central West Slopes and Plains)
Vacant (South Western Slopes & Riverina)

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

Grassland Society of NSW News



New Member: The Grassland Society of NSW welcomes new member Stephen Ryan from Barry. A reminder that Membership subs for 2011/2012 are due July 1 2011.



Facebook here we come: The Grassland Society of NSW will soon have a Facebook page - search for us on Facebook or check the website for further details.



Next Newsletter: The next issue of the newsletter for 2011 will be circulated in late August/early September. If you wish to submit an article, short item or letter to the editor for the next newsletter please contact the Editor - Carol Harris at carol.harris@industry.nsw.gov.au or DPI NSW 444 Strathbogie Road Glen Innes NSW 2370. The deadline for contributions to the next newsletter will be August 22 2011.

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

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