

It's ewe time!

Making More From Sheep



Turning Pasture into Product

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Event
partners:



Event

supporters:



Department of
Primary Industries



Lucerne



C3

Where are you?

www.mla.com.au

Pasture (tonnes DM)

Plot Area

- Wethers
- Dry ewes
- Unweaned lambs
- Current yrs weaned lambs
- Weaned young wethers
- Weaned young ewes
- Wethers (1-2 years)
- Ewes (1-2 years)
- Ewes (>2 years)
- Bulls
- Steers
- Dry cows or heifers
- Unweaned calves
- Current yrs weaned calves
- Weaned young steers
- Weaned young heifers
- Steers (1-2 years)
- Heifers (1-2 years)
- Cows (2-3 years)
- Cows (>3 years)
- Supply with carryover
- Freshly grown supply

Show supply values

Key Performance Indicators

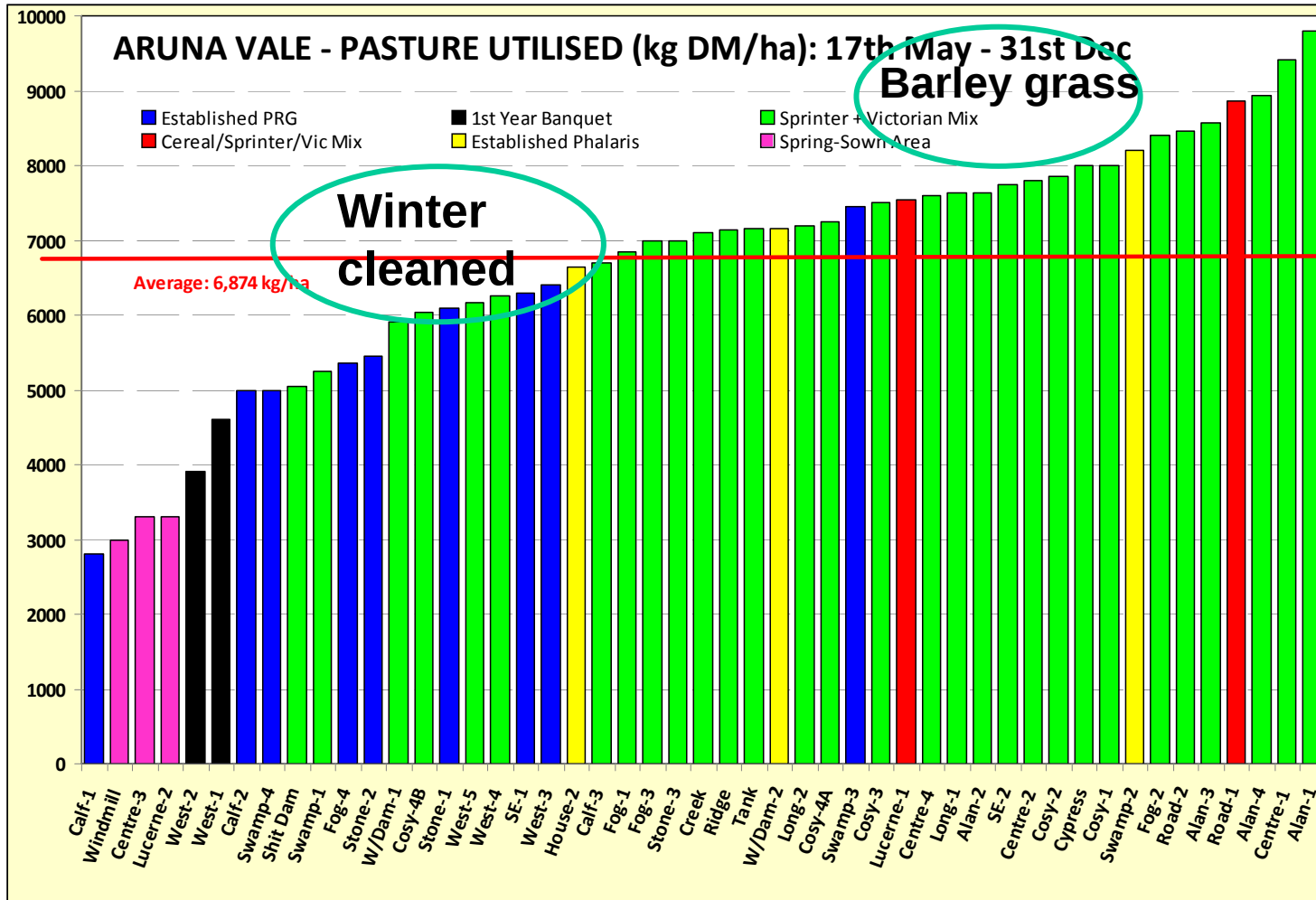
Pasture deficit, using freshly grown supply	250 tonnes/year
Pasture deficit, using supply with carryover	0 tonnes/year
Liveweight produced, cattle	47 tonnes
Liveweight produced per ha allocated to cattle	301 kg/ha/year
Liveweight produced, sheep	138 tonnes
Liveweight produced per ha allocated to sheep	310 kg/ha/year
Pasture demand as a % of pasture grown	51 %

Go back

Proceed

Print report

Which paddocks are performing best?



Right plant; right place; right purpose

- Use your range of soils, and landscapes, to grow a range of perennials to increase the period of quality pasture
- Plan the type of animal system to obtain most benefit from the pasture

- **Phalaris – our most drought tolerant and productive pasture plant**
- **Cocksfoot – acid well drained and shallow stony soils**
- **Perennial and Italian ryegrasses – short term, high performance and highly productive pastures**
- **Lucerne - if you have suitable areas you should grow it**
- **Chicory - alternative if soils not suitable for lucerne**
- **Tall Fescue - heavy lower lying areas**
- **Kikuyu - coastal areas and difficult soils**

www.evergraze.com.au

DPI Hamilton

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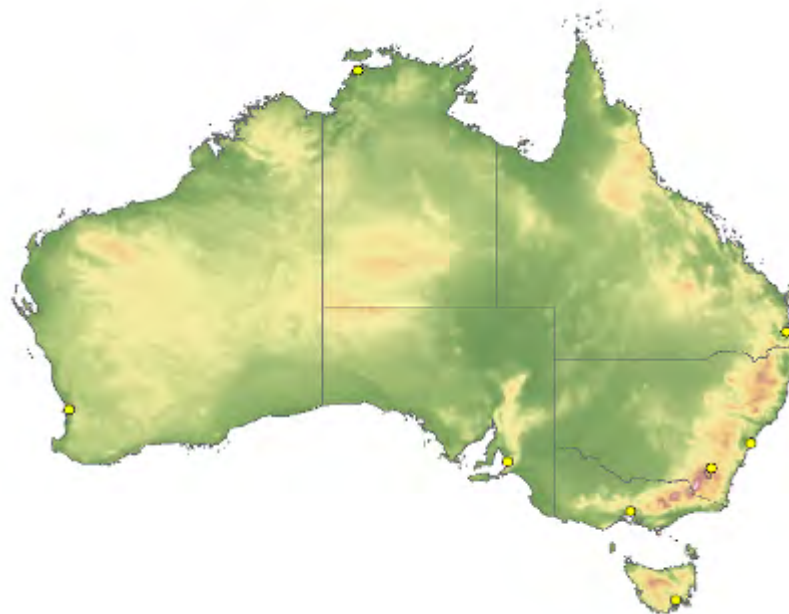
anita.morant@dpi.vic.gov.au

- Right plant
- Right place
- Right purpose



Go to Pastures Australia web site
www.pasturepicker.com.au

If you want to select a pasture species for your farm



Pasture assessment

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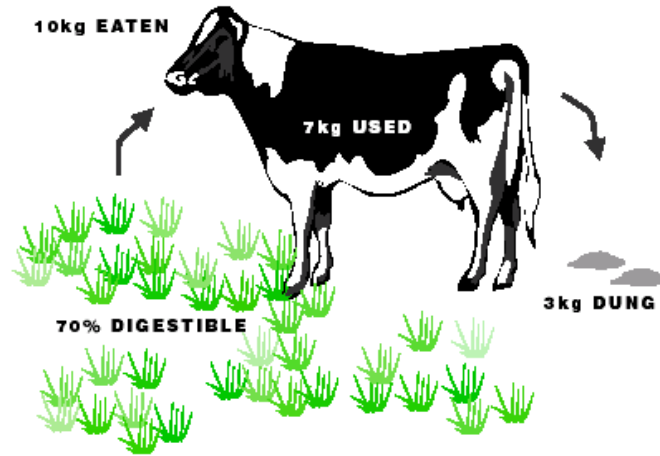


What are you measuring? How do you measure up?



Get the quality right Know how good your pastures are

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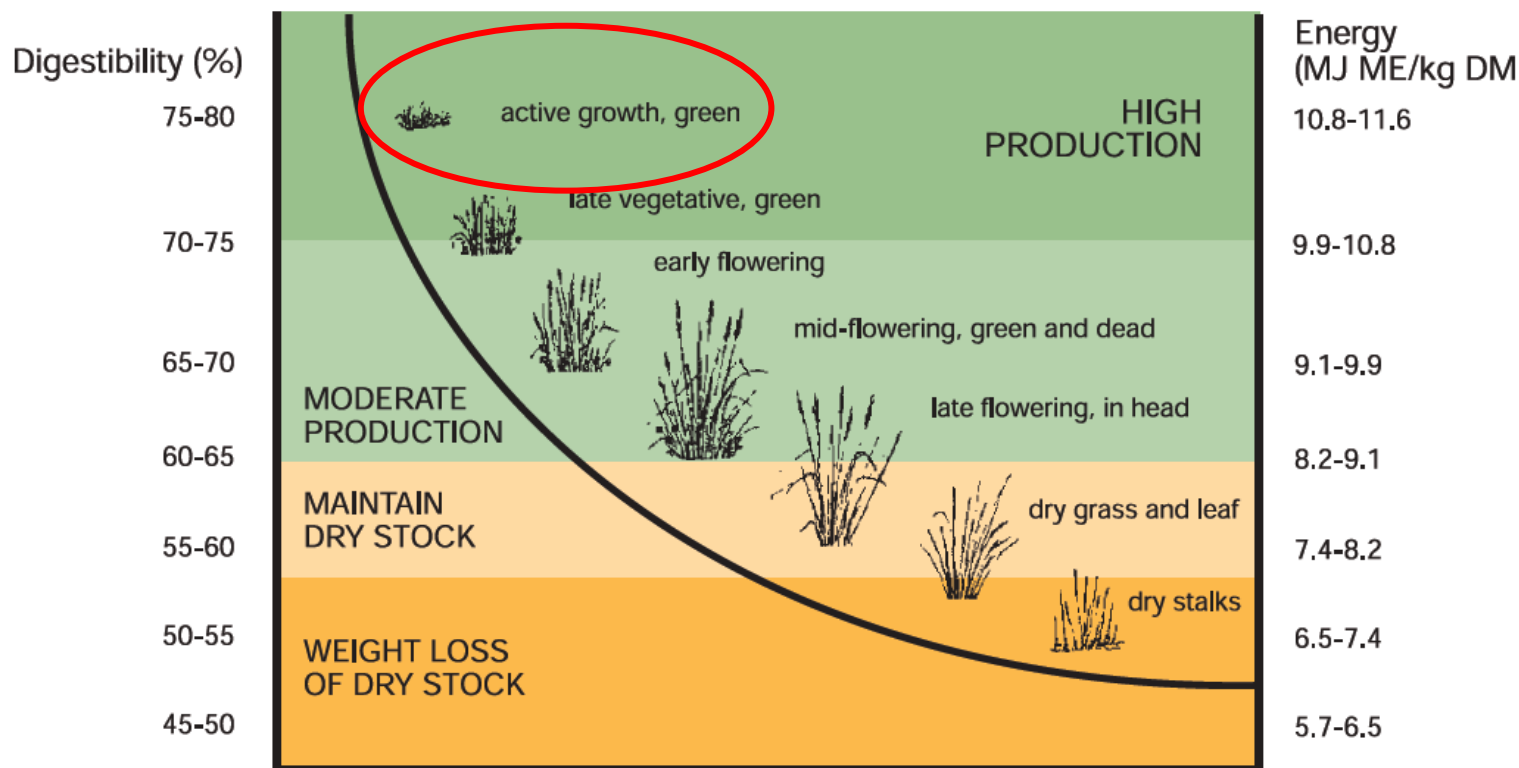


High digestibility 80% = more energy 12 MJ ME/kg dm

Moderate digestibility 70% = moderate energy 10 MJ ME/kg dm

Low digestibility 50% = low energy 7 MJ ME/kg dm

Feed quality drops as plants grow



SOURCE: NSW PROGRAZE® Manual, NSW Agriculture



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Density drives productivity

Medic 150 plants/m²

6 weeks after germination



This pasture will carry 2 dse/ha in winter

Density drives productivity

Medic 1000 plants/m²

6 weeks after germination



This pasture will carry 20 dse/ha in winter

**Density + weed control + grazing
pressure + fertiliser = winter feed.**

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Photo taken mid August 2010 SA Mallee



Density and ground cover drives productivity

Lucerne 20-30 plants/m²

Cocksfoot 20 plants/m²

Phalaris 20 plants/m²

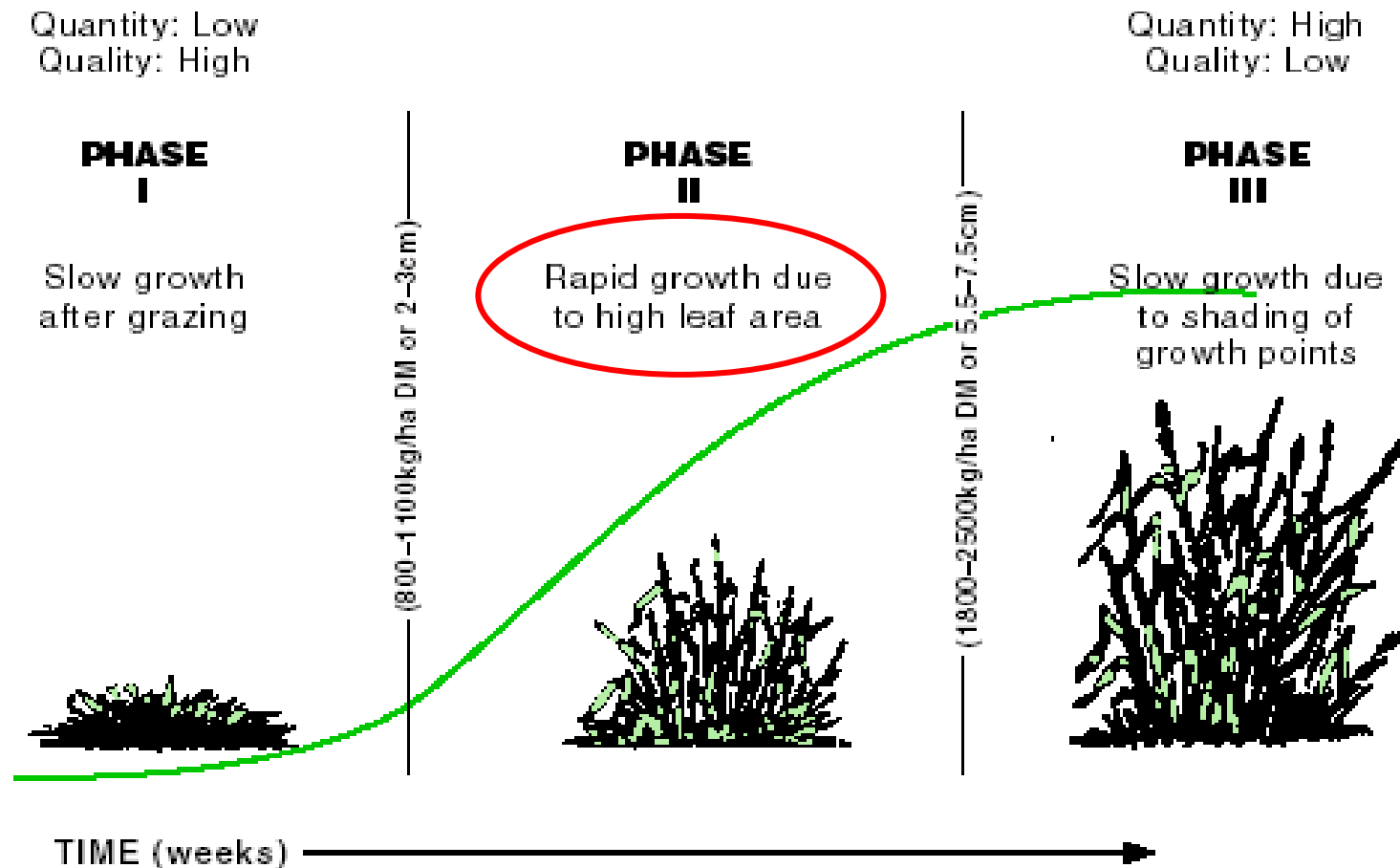
Perennial ryegrass 60 -100 plants/m²

Basal cover in autumn for perennial grasses

aim for **at least 50% ground covered, ideally 100%**

Early winter pasture production (kg/ha DM/day) will approximately double for each additional 20% basal cover

Phase 2 is the place to be



More green leaf = more roots



One leaf grazing

Two leaf grazing

Three leaf grazing

Dead leaves don't produce roots

Pasture (short dense) benchmarks for sheep

kg/ha dry matter

Digestibility	75%	68%	60%
Dry ewe	400	600	1200
Pregnant ewe			
mid	500	700	1700
last month	700	Not suitable	Not suitable
Lactating ewe			
singles	1000	1700	Not suitable
Weaner lamb			
30% potential	400	700	1700
100% potential	1800	Not suitable	Not suitable



Fertility greatly affects productivity and palatability



Pasture sown 1977 at DPI Hamilton. Carried 19 ewes/ha continuously since then with superphosphate every year.

More information contact Malcolm McCaskill

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This same pasture sown 1977 has received no super and consists mostly of guilford (onion) grass

**Making pastures pay is not about how much
feed you produce, but how well you use it**



Toolbox

- MLA Feed Demand calculator
- MLA Cost of production calculator
- www.makingmorefromsheep.com.au
- www.pasturepicker.com.au
- Better Fertiliser decisions – www.asris.csiro.au
- MLA Rainfall to Pasture Growth Outlook Tool
- www.pasturesfromspace.csiro.au
- pasture & animal assessment skills
 - **PROGRAZE[®]**, and **LambCheque**
- **Eyes** – for looking below your knees
- **Fingers** – for condition scoring sheep

Summary – Turning Pasture into product

Priority

Cost

Example

1 Improve conversion of current pastures into wool or meat

Low cost

\$1- \$10/ha

Feed demand calculator
Pasture assessment
Prograze
Time of lambing
Ewe management
Genetics
Sheep sale times/flock structure

2 Increase the productivity of existing pastures

Moderate cost

\$20 - \$50/ha

Weed control
Rotational grazing
Fencing & water
Fertiliser

3 Improve pasture productivity by introducing more productive species

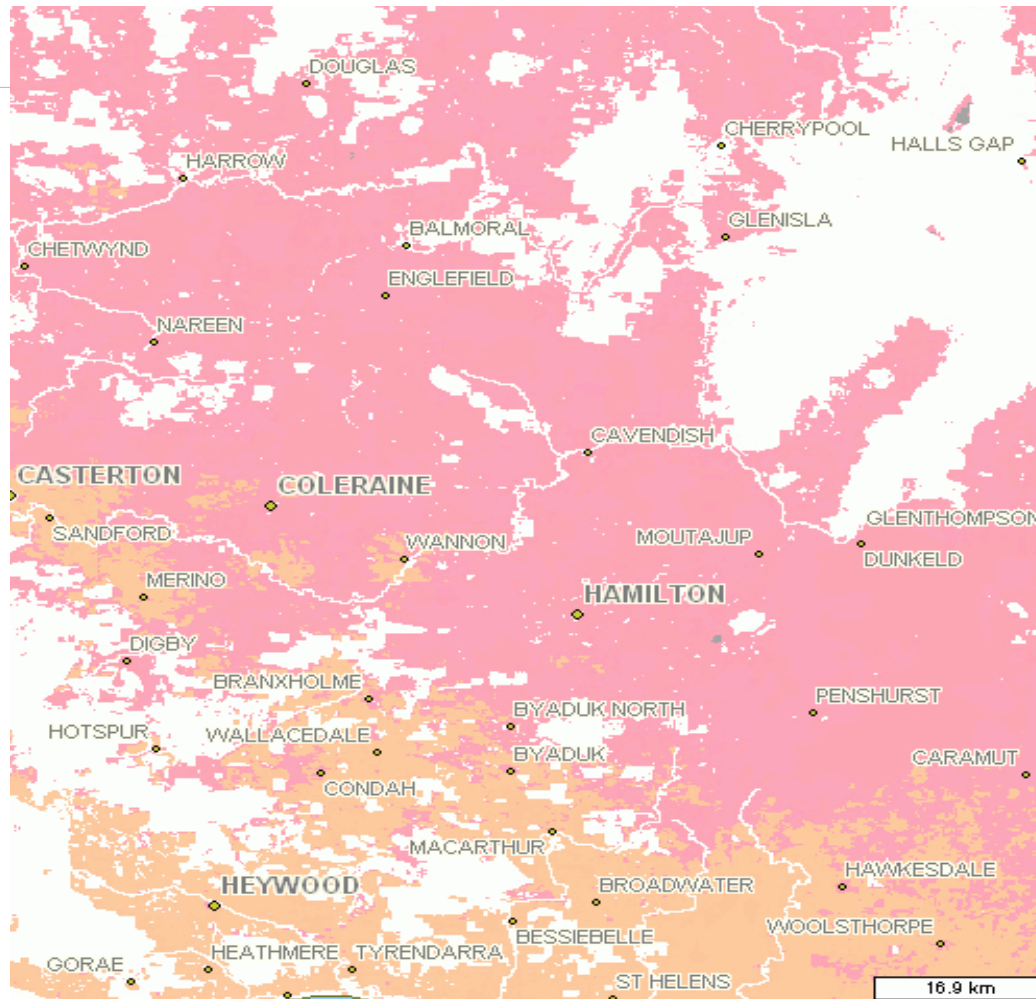
High Cost

\$150 -\$250/ha

Sow new pasture varieties or renovate existing pastures

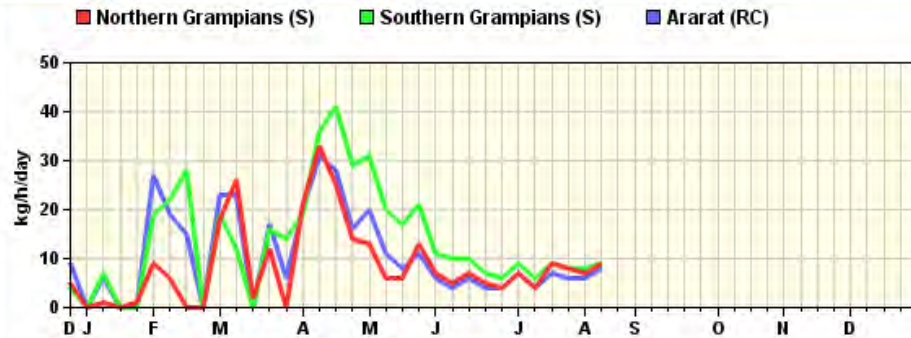
PGR Hamilton area weekending August 10th 2010

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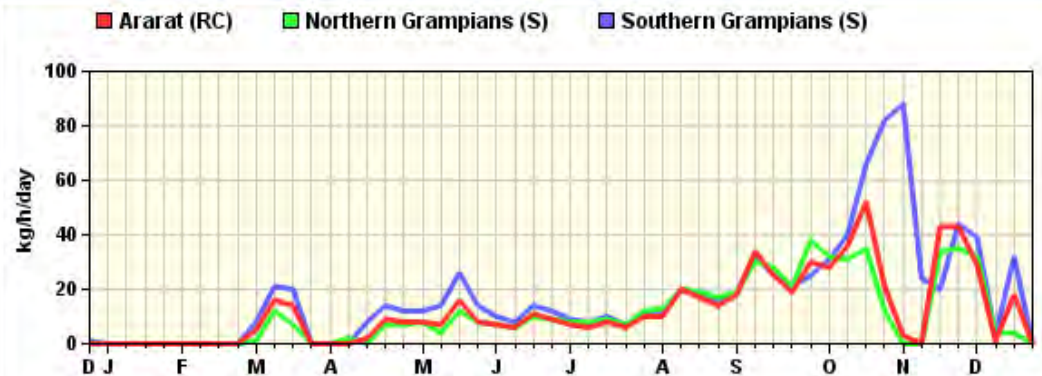


www.pasturesfromspace.csiro.au/

Shire PGR Comparisons - 2010



Shire PGR Comparisons - 2009



Shire PGR Comparisons - 2006

