



The Derwent Catchment Project

Increasing Productivity. Restoring Landscapes

Derwent Pasture Network: dryland grazing course

Key focus areas

1	<p>Assessing pasture condition</p> <p>Read the stories of stress and opportunity. Identifying and understanding critical limits and addressing them.</p> <p>Planning and implementing change pathways.</p>
2	<p>Assessing and understanding pasture species composition</p> <p>Integrating pasture condition and composition within seasonal feed and land management plans.</p> <p>Managing species composition, as a foundation to a functional feed-base.</p> <p>Making change with management and re-sowing/renovation</p>
3	<p>Understanding the role of legume and nitrogen fixation</p> <p>Identifying legume contribution</p> <p>Tactics for change.</p> <p>Integrated nitrogen management. Legumes and fertiliser.</p>
4	<p>Nutrient assessment and requirements</p> <p>Nutrient mapping and amendment planning.</p> <p>Response and reward.</p>
5	<p>Grazing impacts and grazing controls</p> <p>Critical impact points and making a difference.</p> <p>Tactics for seasons and objectives.</p> <p>Rest in perspective.</p> <p>Confidence in the paddock.</p>
6	<p>Dead feed roles</p> <p>Wastage, storage, leverage?</p> <p>Where, why and how much.</p> <p>Utilising dead feed, tactical and system approaches.</p>

7	Livestock needs, targets and the pasture resource Partnership and informed compromise. Compromise and recovery.
8a	Pasture management plans. Feed plans. Landscape, land-class plans. Paddock budgets, feed budgets.
8b	Managing Runs and Native Pasture Condition, targets and plans Integrating within a pasture system
9	Monitoring the production environment Measuring performance. Benchmarking yourself Triggers for change. Triggers for action. Pasture, Stocking rate & carrying capacity.
10	Trees, shrubs, shelter, shade The role of trees on farms, integrating production and landscape management impacts. Benefits and challenges.
11	Pests and weeds Impacts, perspectives, management and mitigation.

Session activity options

1. Know the limits: Realise the potential

Assess your pasture's condition.
Identify key limits to pasture condition.
Identify key limits that make sense to address.
Make plans to manage these key limits.

2. Know what you grow: Identify and manage pasture composition

Identify what plants make up your pastures.
Understand how they grow. Know their strengths and weaknesses.
Turn understanding into pasture and feed management plans.

3. Never over clover: Getting enough

See the value in legume leaves.
Check what you've got and decide if it's enough.
Understand legume responses to management
Plan management tactics to meet your need.

4. Check your nodules: Fixing N for growth

Check your nodules.

Identify if they are working or not.

Consider critical limits and plan to address constraints to N fixation.

5. Make a change: Establish new pastures that make a difference

Prioritise pastures for renewal.

Ask why the pasture has degraded.

Address the most likely causes.

Plan a program for change.

Manage the risk of failure, use a best practice checklist.

Understand where shortcuts lead.

6. Reasons within seasons: Seasonal tactics for strategic purpose

Assess the current pasture and feed on offer (FOO) status/situation.

Identify grazing tactics to manage current needs and future seasonal objectives.

Plan to meet specific paddock requirements.

Develop and apply grazing plans and tactics that address identified objectives.

7. Feed the feed: Manage pasture nutrient supply

Understand the interactive effects of soil nutrition in grazing systems.

Identify current soil nutrient constraints and requirements.

Plan fertiliser amendments alongside grazing system needs and plans to meet priority requirements.

8. Meet the need: Assess FOO & feed allowance

Determine FOO and relative feed quality.

Assess impacts of feed position on livestock production and meeting livestock needs.

Determine feed allowance, indicative intake and budget feed utilisation.

9. Make the mass count: Allocate feed, meet priority livestock targets

Understand changing livestock feed and condition requirements.

Identify critical livestock condition and feed intake opportunities to leverage impact.

Allocate feed resource to meet competing livestock needs.

10. Energise production: Understand quality & manage pasture nutrient supply

Understand and assess feed quality.

Identify management impacts on feed quality.

Manage dead feed. Understand the roles and value of dead feed.

Plan grazing to meet critical quality requirements.

11. Rest and reward: Grazing decisions that grow

Understand the exponential growth curve of pasture leaves and mass.

Identify the impacts of rest from grazing on pasture growth across seasons.

Understand the ways in which rest can be introduced and managed in grazing systems.

Plan to use and introduce rest as a tool to increase productivity.

12. Graze what's grown: Plan and utilise

Understand the impact of utilisation in grazing systems.

What's effective utilisation and what's not.

Strategies and tactics for changing utilisation.

13. Make up the difference: Fill feed gaps

Identify livestock needs, contrast with estimated intake and identify feed gaps.

Forecast pasture feed gaps.

Plan strategies for managing or filling feed intake gaps.

Cost the benefits of gap filling actions and identify impacts of intake deficits.

Reinforce the role of livestock condition.

14. Make a compromise: Know when pasture or livestock should take precedence, plan to recover the cost

Understand where compromises are made and why.

Use a reasoned approach to prioritise livestock v pasture management.

Identify the impacts of compromise and plan recovery where its required.

15. Partners in profit: Pasture and livestock system context, building system thinking

System perspective, understanding pasture, livestock, decision, action and interaction impacts.

Understand how individual strategies and scenarios can affect the system.

Identify key outcome interactions and trade-offs.

Explore system indicators, monitoring, triggers for action, opportunities.

Recognise and understand risk.

This program is funded by NRM South through the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

