

The Barossa Pasture Challenge

Pasture Management Plan – Barossa Mid North Dairy Discussion Group Paddock

Pasture paddock details

Producer: Andrew Koch

Location: Vic's Large paddock, Moculta (Gnadenberg Rd)

Size: 15.5 ha

Annual average rainfall: 525 mm

Soil type: Red brown earth

Soil pH (CaCl₂): 5.0

Soil phosphorus (Colwell): 20 mg/Kg

Soil organic carbon: 3.5%

Pasture species/cv and when last sown: Annual ryegrass (cv Adrenalin) sown in 2013.

Background sub-clover present including some phalaris (sown in 2000)

Land class assessment (1-5): 2 (Arable land suited to regular cultivation)

<http://www.mla.com.au/mbfp/Pasture-growth/Tool-21-Mapping-pasture-zones>

Producer aim for the paddock in 2014

- Graze paddock to early August and then lock up to produce quality (good-high metabolisable energy and crude protein levels) hay

Likely paddock issues

- Barley grass and wild oats (and to a lesser extent broadleaf weeds)
- Soil acidity may be holding back pasture productivity

Potential management options to address key issues/improve pasture production

- Apply herbicide mix to control grass and broadleaf weeds (whilst maintaining the phalaris in the paddock)
- Apply lime (2t/ha) to the paddock

Other comments

- In 2013 the paddock was sprayed with the herbicide Raptor and also cut for silage to control barley grass
- Conduct feed test to determine the quality of hay produced