

The latest news from the Barossa Improved Grazing Group

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Natural Resources
Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges



Natural Resources
SA Murray-Darling Basin



The BIGG Bulletin

July 2018

In this issue

With soil moisture levels already half of what they were this time last year, on top of a dry summer, many producers are facing a time for major decision making on how to run their livestock enterprise into the coming months.

With options to find and buy fodder, look for opportunities to agist (with areas in the South East still looking ok), or to sell livestock, particularly for sheep which are at record prices.

This decision making process can be difficult, however there are a huge range of resources and local consultants available to help the process.

This newsletter is full of links to help you find information to facilitate decision making.....

- Ewe Nutrition Webinar
- Other Webinars- Containment Areas/ Winter Grazing Strategies
- Dry Times Resources
- People Resources

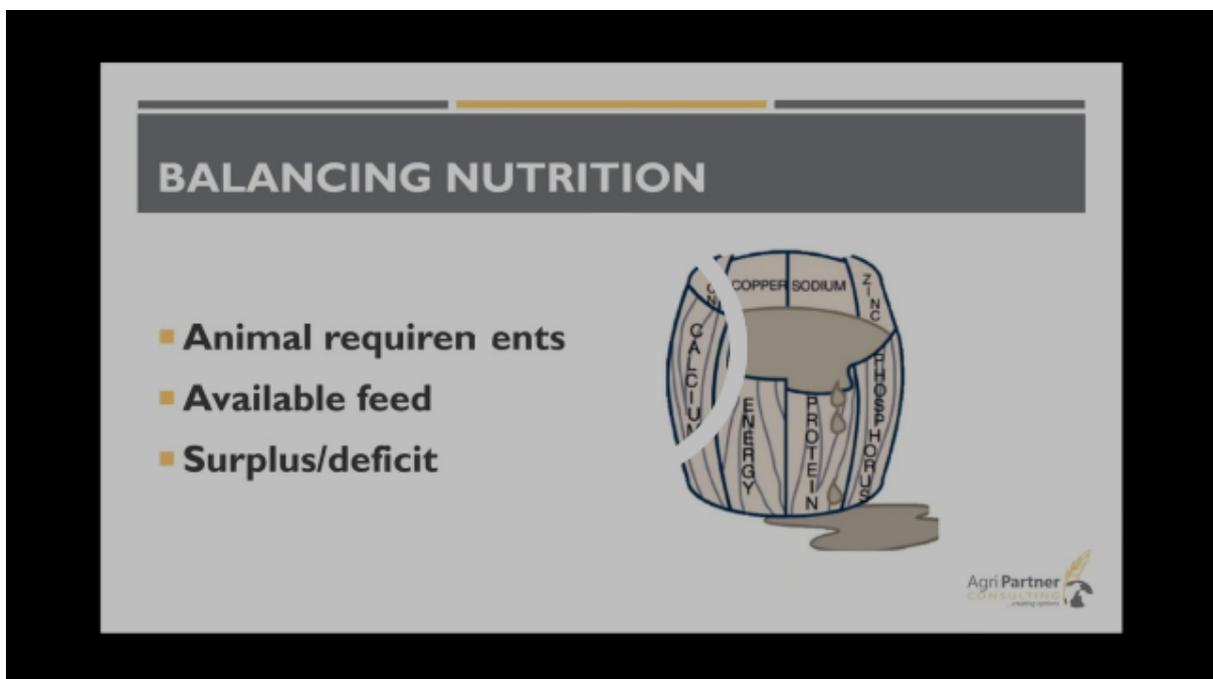
In addition, a few light hearted topics to finish off....

- BIGG Soil Moisture Monitoring Project
- Prestigious Award for Bruce Hancock
- From the Inbox

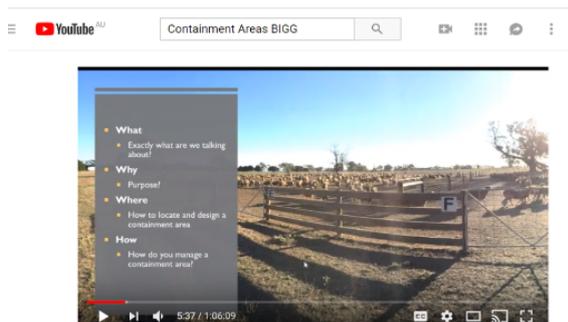
Ewe Nutrition Webinar

With the dry winter continuing many sheep producers are continuing to weigh up the opportunities for supplementary feeding their ewes and lambs.

See below the Sheep Connect SA Ewe nutrition and health webinar presented by specialist sheep guru's, Hamish Dickson and Dr Colin Trengrove.



Other Useful Webinars



[Containment Areas](#)

(Click to view webinar)

- Design of Containment Areas
- Supplementary Feeding Options
- When to implement a Containment Area
- Delivered by Hamish Dickson, Agripartner Consulting

Local dry matter production in Autumn 2018

Pasture type	Management	Dry matter (kg/DM/ha)	Estimated daily growth rates (kg/DM/ha/day)
Permanent improved (ryegrass & clover)	Rested since the break	1,800 to 1,900kg	42kg/DM/ha/day
Permanent improved (ryegrass & clover)	Grazed during May	800 to 900kg	20kg/DM/ha/day
Down cereal & vetch	Rested since the break	600 to 700kg	16kg/DM/ha/day

[Grazing Strategies for a Dry Winter](#) (Click to view webinar)

- Pasture growth stages
- Opportunities to set up pastures for Spring
- Options to increase dry matter production
- Delivered by Simon Vogt, Rural Directions

Dry Times Resources

Managing Livestock

[Drought Management Checklist for Livestock](#) Factsheet
[Livestock Management Options](#) Factsheet

[Which Sheep do I keep?](#) Booklet
[Managing Sheep in Drought Lots](#) Booklet

[More Beef from Pastures: Drought Preparedness](#) Checklist

[Drought Management Strategies for Dairy Farmers](#) Factsheet

Managing Pastures and NRM

[Stock Water Stock Take](#) Booklet
[Maintaining Groundcover to reduce Erosion](#) Factsheet

Financial Support

[Rural Business Support](#)- Rural Financial Counselling Services
[PIRSA Farm Support](#) Website

More Resources/ Websites

[PIRSA Drought Management Website](#)

[MLA Drought Management Website](#)

******Keep an eye out for upcoming Dry Times Workshops and Events (there are many currently being planned to be delivered in August/ September)*******

People Resources

- The Rural Mental Health Support Line is staffed by trained mental health personnel, who provide advice for people seeking mental health assistance for themselves, and assistance, advice and support for people who feel concerned for the mental health and wellbeing of people with whom they have contact - call 1800 201 123
- Lifeline provides a national 24-hour telephone counselling service - 13 11 14 or visit www.lifeline.org.au
- Beyondblue is the national depression initiative and is working with various agencies in NSW, QLD and VIC to provide support to those affected by the floods - call 1300 22 4636 or visit www.beyondblue.org.au

*Information taken from MLA [drought management website](#)

BIGG Soil Moisture Monitoring Project



BIGGs soil moisture monitoring in grazing systems project funded by Natural Resources Adelaide Mt Lofty Ranges and Natural Resources SA Murray Darling Basin has recently drawn to a close.

As a result of this project BIGG have developed a Final Report and a Case study has been developed on the project.

Check out BIGG's website for the [final project report](#) and a [project case study](#) by Natural Resources AMLR.

Near-real time weather and soil moisture data from BIGG's monitoring stations continue to be available for the three sites at Koonunga, Flaxman's Valley and Keyneton under the 'Quicklinks' area of the [website](#). In addition, the Flystrike Index, Delta T and Harvest Fire Danger Index continue to be available.

Prestigious Award for Bruce Hancock



In July 2018, long time BIGG supporter and mentor, Bruce Hancock (Senior Livestock Consultant, PIRSA-Rural Solutions SA) was bestowed as a Fellow of the Australian Society of Animal Production (ASAP). Bruce received this prestigious award at the society's biennial conference in Wagga Wagga, for his tireless commitment to developing the livestock industry and mentoring the next generation. Bruce received the award from ASAP President, Phil Hynd.

Further detail about the award, including Bruce's achievements can be found in an [article](#) that appeared in the Leader on July 11, 2018.

Bruce is a long standing member of the Angaston Ag Bureau and was instrumental

in getting BIGG 'off the ground' in 2012 and our successes ever since. We offer Bruce a huge congratulations and thank you for all that you do to support BIGG and the livestock industries.

From the Inbox.....

- 2018 GROWING SA conference hosted by Grain Producers SA and Livestock SA 14 September. [MORE INFO](#)
- The SA government are conducting community consultations for their proposed NRM reforms. Come along and have your say at one of the local forums, including at Murray Bridge (16 August) and Gawler (28 August). [MORE INFO](#)
- Winning with Weaners Workshop- designed for wool growers [MORE INFO](#)
- Trees for Life- Introductory Bush Regeneration Workshop- Gumeracha 7th September [MORE INFO](#)
- National Landcare Conference: 10-12 October: [REGISTRATIONS OPEN](#)

Your BIGG Contacts

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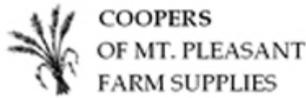


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Government of South Australia
Department of Environment,
Water and Natural Resources

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