

The Barossa Pasture Challenge

Pasture Management Plan – Angaston Ag Bureau Paddock 1

Pasture paddock details

Producer: Anthony Steinert

Location: Yards paddock, Craneford (cnr Craneford Rd and R Rogers Rd)

Size: 7.0 ha

Annual average rainfall: 600 mm

Soil type: Sandy loam

Soil pH (CaCl₂): 5.2

Soil phosphorus (Colwell): 64 mg/Kg

Soil organic carbon: 2.6%

Pasture species/cv and when last sown: Phalaris (cv. Holdfast GT), cocksfoot, chicory, plantain sown in 2013. Background sub-clover present (cv. Clare, Trikkala, Karidale, Dalsa)

Land class assessment (1-5): 3 (Grazing land suited to cultivation for pasture improvement and/or occasional cropping)

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

Producer aim for the paddock in 2014

- Maximise feed in the paddock for cattle grazing
- If there is deemed insufficient feed for the stock on hand conduct management operations as required too address

Likely paddock issues

- Potassium levels (as particularly important for grass growth)
- Weeds not considered a major issue as the aim is to heavily graze the paddock

Potential management options to address key issues/improve pasture production

- Plant tissue test grasses for potassium
- Use Entrench at 2.5l/ha (nitrification inhibitor for use with nitrogen based fertilisers)
- Use the plant growth regulator ProGibb (possibly July)

Other comments

- ProGibb considered too have good effect on phalaris but what about its effect on chicory?
- Paddock will be grazed rather than cut for hay