

The Barossa Pasture Challenge

Pasture Management Plan – North Rhine Sheep Group Paddock

Pasture paddock details

Producer: Graham Keynes

Location: Miles paddock, Keyneton (Keyneton Rd)

Size: 50 ha

Annual average rainfall: 450 mm

Soil type: Red loam over clay

Soil pH (CaCl₂): 4.7

Soil phosphorus (Colwell): 39 mg/Kg

Soil organic carbon: 3.8%

Pasture species/cv and when last sown: Annual grass/sub-clover based pasture, including some phalaris sown in 1985

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

- Provide quality grazing feed (good-high metabolisable energy and crude protein levels) for weaner lambs in August
- Improve the content of phalaris and clover in the paddock

Likely paddock issues

- Broadleaf weeds, particularly geranium (*erodium* spp.) and salvation jane
- Red-legged earthmite can sometimes be an issue in this paddock

Potential management options to address key issues/improve pasture production

- Apply Agtryne to control broadleaf weeds
- Rotational grazing before locking up the paddock in late June (possible use of temporary electric fencing put out with the RAPPAs to increase pasture utilisation)
- Aim to link management decisions to the soil moisture data being collected in this paddock from the demonstration weather station set up as part of *BIGG's Soil Moisture Monitoring Project*.
- Conduct plant tissue test to determine if there are any nutritional issues

Other comments

- 20-30% of the paddock is non-arable
- pH is relatively low, possibly consider liming in the future