

Pasture Paramedic Case Study:

Keyneton Station, Keyneton

Georgie and Toby at Keyneton Station utilised the Pasture Paramedic tool to determine the productivity of their perennial pasture to determine the requirement for pasture renovation or rejuvenation. The 9ha paddock contained a perennial pasture containing Phalaris and cocksfoot which was sown over 15 years ago. This pasture is utilised for a twin lambing paddock in June and then rotationally grazed with large mobs of ewes through spring and summer.

The pasture paramedic tool was utilised in late spring. The critical assessment factors of grasses and clovers and weeds were measured with results demonstrating that there was a reasonable number of perennial grasses (30-50%), low number of clovers (5-20%) and category B weeds (some grazing value-including winter grass and silver grass). The score of the pasture, using the pasture paramedic scoring system, averaged 5 which suggests the pasture needs resowing or over sowing.

Georgie and Toby used this information to make a plan to improve the pasture production by over sowing the pasture, whilst maintaining the perennial grass component. They plan to sow fodder oats, annual ryegrasses and a mix of annual clovers in autumn 2022 over the perennial grasses. Using a range of early and late varieties will help to fill the feed gap for a longer period of time, with the early forage oats for winter feed, and later season ryegrasses and clovers to capitalise on any spring rainfall events. They will wait for the break of the season to ensure they can spray any of the weeds and will increase the rate of glyphosate to ensure control of the winter grass. They will also apply a fertiliser at seeding and will look to follow up with an early winter application for late winter feed.

The plan to use the pasture paramedic tool again in spring to determine the effectiveness of this plan and are hoping they can let the annual varieties seed for grazing opportunities in 2023.

