

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- August 2019

In this issue

- Soil Moisture Report
- Local Case Studies
- Weather Station Survey Results
- From the Inbox

Please note down the date of BIGG inc.'s first AGM:

18th September

It's an exciting time to be a part of BIGG, lots of things in the pipeline!

We welcome any nomination for positions or members of the brand new BIGG Board, even if you haven't had much to do with BIGG in the past, or you just want to come along to find out more!

More information will come out closer to the date.

Soil Moisture Report- July



Over the last month, local soil moisture levels have remained relatively static, the exception being at Flaxman Valley, which has increased to 68% of capacity (at the end of June, the Flaxman Valley, Keyneton and Koonunga sites were all approximately 50%). In July, Keyneton topped the rainfall figures with 58mm.

Site	July rainfall (mm)	Growing season rainfall (mm)*	Estimated soil water capacity (%)
Flaxman Valley	55	177	68
Keyneton	58	155	46
Koonunga	39	144	54
Moculta	43	129	-

*Rainfall from 1/4/19-31/7/19

The current rainfall totals and soil moisture status can be found on the [BIGG website](#) under the '**Quicklinks**' columnn on the right hand side. The sites take reading every 15 minutes and are updated so you can literally watch the rain falling (fingers crossed!).

Soil Moisture Monitoring Case Studies

We have recently developed three case studies on how the data recorded from BIGG's weather monitoring stations is being used to assist farm decision-making. They feature the farmer hosts of the monitoring stations;



Having local data on soil moisture has proved useful for Peter Kleinig by assisting him to decide how much nitrogen will be applied to cereal crops at various stages of the growing season at his Koonunga property.

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Michael Evans was able to achieve good prices for his cattle in spring and save on feed purchased for the following dry summer, after paying close attention to soil moisture data from BIGG's weather monitoring station on his Flaxman Valley property.

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Graham Keynes likens the availability of soil moisture data from BIGG's weather monitoring stations, to having another tool in a decision-making toolbox.

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Weather monitoring station survey results

Further to the case studies, if want to find out more information on how the monitoring station data is being used for farm decision making by BIGG subscribers, the results of our recent survey are in. Thanks to all those who filled it out! The data is assisting with various decisions but mostly:

- Suitability of conditions for spraying
- Estimating the length of the growing season (for feed availability and

- associated feed decisions)
- Stocking rates
- Application of nitrogen fertiliser

For the full survey report, click [here](#).

Current soil moisture monitoring information is available on the [BIGG website](#) under the Quicklinks column on the right hand side.

If you need any help to decipher the information please contact BIGG's facilitators on the detail at the bottom of the newsletter.

And finally a thank you. From January-July 2019, BIGG's soil moisture monitoring activities has been funded via an *Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges NRM Board's 'Supporting Sustainable Primary Production' grant* (through funding from the NRM levy). Given the grant has now drawn to a close, a big thanks to AMLR for their project support.

From the Inbox.....

- SA Livestock Consultants Livestock Adviser Update:15 August [Book Now!](#)
- Beef Marketing Forum with the Fleurieu Beef Group 20 August:[Email Melissa](#) for more detail
- Growing SA Conference: Monday 26-27 August 2019 [Register Here](#)
- Biochar Workshop: 29 August- Fleurieu [More Info](#)
- State Landcare Conference October [Early Bird Tickets](#)
- Grant applications are now open for the 2020 Science and Innovation Awards for Young People in Agriculture [More information](#)
- SA Fast Break- learn about current climate forecasts, the position of the climate drivers and their potential impact on farm business profitability [Subscribe Here](#)
- Don't forget to vote in the Livestock SA election- voting closes August 20th- get your voting slip [here](#)

Your BIGG Contacts

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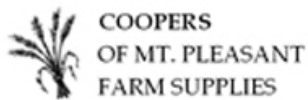
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