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# The BIGG Bulletin

April 2022

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## Considerations for Water Security Planning



What are the options and strategies you need to consider to help make your property 'water secure'?

This was examined at a workshop BIGG held on April 13 at the Mt McKenzie Hall, featuring PIRSA Soil and Land Management consultants, Mary-Anne Young and Brian Hughes and BIGG Technical Facilitator, Janie Evans.

Mary-Anne Young initially gave an overview of the various water supply, capture, storage, reticulation, and monitoring options to consider on-farm, including;

- Harvesting water run-off via roaded or lined-sheeted catchments,
- Access to underground water (and tolerances of livestock type to salinity levels)
- Dam and tank storage, and
- Remote water monitoring using water level sensors, flow meters and cameras.

The first step, however, is knowing the water requirement of your property. Mary-Anne ran through an exercise where attendees calculated their total annual water use by estimating their domestic, machinery washdown, firefighting, livestock and cropping water use needs. Attendees then did an audit of the current water infrastructure and storage capacity of their property (see links below for Mary-Annes worksheets).

Janie Evans then gave an update of the Barossa New Water (BNW) Project. Janie outlined the timelines for the project, the two infrastructure options proposed under the scheme and their estimated costings. The options being;

- Recycled water solution for Barossa and Eden Valleys (11 GL), and
- Recycled water solution for Barossa (7 GL) and raw water solution for Eden Valley (4 GL of River Murray water via the Mannum to Adelaide pipeline).

of 300-400 ppm.

Finally, Brian Hughes did some 'crystal balling' to estimate the costs for grazing enterprises if accessing water under the BNW project. This was compared to costs for installing an on-farm lined sheeted catchment and the costs of mains water. Of the three strategies, the lined water catchment was assessed to be the most cost-effective long-term (its upfront costs though were the highest).

At the end of the workshop, attendees discussed accessing water under the BNW project, with the strong consensus being that associated legislation and policy must first be addressed before graziers could invest in the scheme. Relevant key issues currently under consideration are that the proposed Bolivar water quality aims to be a high enough quality for the diversity of our Primary Production region, servicing irrigation, but also for livestock consumption, storage in on-farm dams, and environmental run-off.

The speaker presentations, including Mary-Annes spreadsheets from the workshop can be found at:

- [On-farm water options](#) – Mary-Anne Young
- [Water requirement spreadsheet](#) – Mary-Anne Young
- [Water infrastructure audit spreadsheet](#) – Mary-Anne Young
- [Barossa New Water project update](#) – Janie Evans (presented on behalf of business advisory firm, KBR)
- [Barossa New Water project comparison](#) - Brian Hughes

*This workshop was supported through funding from the Australian Governments Smart Farms Small Grants*



## Focus Farm Field Day

**Friday 10 June 12.00 noon - 3.15 pm**

**Keyneton Station  
1057 Stott Hwy, Keyneton**

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<a href="#">Time</a>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Speaker</b>
12.00 noon	Lunch	
12.30 pm	AgTech at Keyneton Station	Georgie Keynes
12.45 pm	ASBVs and commercial genetic selection	Mark Fergusson, neXtgen Agri
1.30 pm	A commercial producer's perspective: Flock profiling	Andrew Mitchell, Chelwood Farms
1.45 pm	Demonstration of Combi clamp and auto drafter	Georgie Keynes and James Ellis, Datamars
2.15 pm	Pregnancy scanning	Forbes Brien, University of Adelaide
2.30 pm	Containment feeding and ewe health	Deb Scammell, Talking Livestock
3.15 pm	Drinks	

Lunch and drinks provided, please RSVP to Deb [deb@talkinglivestock.com.au](mailto:deb@talkinglivestock.com.au) for catering purposes

Please BYO chair

More details and info please contact Deb 0407 790 622 or Georgie 0409 287 261

[Register Here](#)



## Climate Webinar Recording

The last few years has seen challenging extremes in Australian climate - from drought to floods.

In this webinar, Climatologist Darren Ray looked at the major climate influences unfolding for 2022 and what that means for the Barossa, introducing useful weather and outlook forecasting concepts and tools for producers along the way.

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Click on the arrow above or go to: <https://youtu.be/t1uYAbLFGXU>

*This project is part of the Goyder's Line program and is funded through the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board and the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund.*

## Overview: Focus Farm Field Day - Fleurieu Beef



The Focus Farm Field Day (as part of the PIRSA RMWGP) at the Higgins family property 'Burnt Oak' aims to highlight a range of livestock technologies available and how they can be implemented on-farm to improve productivity and efficiency.

Some BIGG members headed down to join in the day which had 50 producers attend.

Speakers:

- Kent Llewellyn - Genetic selection and AI technology for commercial herds
- Anthony Chick, Optiweigh - In paddock weighing that works
- James Ellis, Datamars (Trutest) - Demonstration of new crush, weigh crate and data collection process

## Note from our Sponsors

### **Alltech Lienert**

**Alltech Lienert** are leaders in animal nutrition, focused on providing your livestock with solutions to maximise production and improve profitability on your farm.

Alltech Lienert are based in Roseworthy, South Australia. Our products are manufactured on site in our Feedsafe approved facility. We follow strict protocols to ensure product quality and traceability. We also have a dedicated team of animal nutritionists to assist with feed rations and provide nutritional advice.

As we come into lambing and calving season, it is critical that we focus on setting up the ewe/cow for giving birth and throughout her lactation. By providing her with the correct nutrition during this time we can ensure she delivers us with strong, healthy offspring. Magnesium and calcium are the most critical minerals for muscle contractions during birth and for milk production. We must also provide the ewe/cow with essential vitamins and trace minerals for her health and condition, and to pass onto her young for growth and immunity. Deficiencies can have large impacts on the offspring's development and survival.

**Alltech Lienert's Blueprint® range** contain all essential vitamins and Bioplex® organic trace minerals, backed up by 20+ years of scientific research. Bioplex® organic trace minerals are in a form readily available to the animal, which allows efficient absorption and less wastage, compared to inorganic minerals. The Blueprint® range also contains Alltech® yeast solutions for rumen and gut health, ensuring we can maximise feed utilisation and performance.

**Blueprint® SuperMag** is a weather resistant loose granulated lick with elevated levels of magnesium and a balance of vitamins and Bioplex® organic trace minerals. Best provided from 4-6 weeks prior to lambing/calving. This ensures optimum levels are also provided to the growing foetus for health and immunity. Increasing offspring survivability leads to more animals weaned and increased profitability.

For more information, please contact your local representatives Jess Seeliger (0400 515 182) or Stuart Minne (0427 400 899).





### **AGF Seeds- producer case study- Vampire Ryecorn**

When Daniel Hammat wanted a good grazing option for his Baderloo Merinos, he turned to Vampire Ryecorn and he's not going back.

And the good news with Vampire Ryecorn is that – like a bloodsucker in a horror movie - it keeps coming back.

Baderloo Merinos has been established for 21 years and the Hammatt family has farmed near Spalding in mid-north South Australia for 40 years where they enjoy strong hills grazing, reliable 450mm rainfall and good arable country.

Daniel ventured into sowing pastures to better utilise the land and grow good feed for their Poll Merinos.

The first sowing attempts didn't go to plan. "We'd grown an awnless forage barley in the past and it didn't tolerate the grazing as well, so tried Vampire Ryecorn and it has been extremely good," he said.

A client of Baderloo Merinos had been growing Vampire Ryecorn and Daniel's research indicated it was worth a try.

"I knew it was a vigorous growing and grazing option," he said. "You can graze it really hard and it always comes back."

After two years, Vampire Ryecorn has met all expectations.

Daniel has sown it in April-May to capitalise on the autumn break. "We graze it

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graze it hard, get some spring rain and let it go and then graze the grain off it.

“It’s so tolerant of heaving grazing. It’s quick to get established and you can graze it really hard and it will always come back.”

This year he sowed another round in late November after some good spring rain. “We thought we’d see how it goes over summer. Because it gets going so quick, we thought we’d try to generate some quick feed.”

Daniel is pleased with the choice. “Everything does well on it; absolutely it will stay in our system.”



## From the Inbox

- Probing early decisions- soil moisture probes - May 3rd- [Register Here](#)
- Barossa Australia Sustainability Forum- Thursday 26th May- [More Information](#)
- MeatUp Forum- Naracoorte- 28th June 2022- save the date!
- Check out the Australian Climate App- <https://climateapp.net.au/>

## Thanks to our Sponsors!!



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