

The latest news from the Barossa Improved Grazing Group

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The BIGG Bulletin

October 2022

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Soil moisture report – its wet!

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BIGG's four weather stations have all recorded solid rainfall totals for the 2022 growing season (April to October), ranging from 359mm (Keyneton) to 494mm (Flaxman Valley). These totals have been significantly boosted by a (very) wet October, with Moculta recording the highest October total of 127mm.

Correspondingly, soil moisture levels in the profile are also high, with Flaxman Valley, Keyneton and Moculta estimated to be at or near field capacity, while Koonunga is currently 70%.

Soil moisture levels are over double compared to what they were 12 months ago. Across the four sites soil moisture averaged 42% on 31/10/21, compared to 92% on 31/10/22.

Check out BIGG's current 'soil moisture report', which gives some interesting analysis by Peter Toome from TOIP Pty Ltd about the soil moisture status of each weather station site, including what landholders have been doing in these paddocks.

The report can be viewed [here](#).

Site	Rainfall (mm)		Estimated soil moisture in the profile (%)	
	October 2022*	Apr-Oct 2022**	31/10/21	31/10/22
Flaxman Valley	105	494	66	100
Keyneton	85	359	26	99
Koonunga	115	407	36	70
Moculta	127	487	39	98

*Rainfall: 1/10/22-31/10/22, **Rainfall: 1/4/22-31/10/22

[View the Full Report!](#)

Coopers Farm Supplies & BIGG Spring Pasture Walk



The BIGG/Coopers Farm Supplies Pasture Walk was held in late September with over 30 producers visiting the Coopers Pasture Demonstration Site at Mt Pleasant. Attendees viewed various forage brassica and herb variety plots from seed companies Barenbrug, Seed Force, AGF Seeds and S&W Seed. These were planted and maintained throughout the season by Coopers agronomists, Craig John, Adam Krahner and Des Andriske.

The Brassica plots included an extensive range of forage rape, leafy turnip and white radish varieties, while the herbs plots included plantain and chicory varieties. Craig and Adam discussed the pros and cons of each and their value in a mixed species pasture.

Nearby to the brassica and herb variety plots, the AGF Seeds Cool Cover Blend was sown to demonstrate a true multi species pasture. This mix includes 12 species from five different plant families (grasses, legume, brassica, flax and daisy), which was of interest to attendees.

Thanks to the Coopers team for hosting the pasture walk and supplying a BBQ lunch.



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Water and the Environment



Future
Drought
Fund



SA
DROUGHT
HUB

This project received funding from the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund

Ewe Containment and Pasture Tour



On Friday 23rd of September a containment and pasture tour was held as part of the Red Meat and Wool growth program and Containment ewe PDS to show interested producers some of the BIGG containment sites.

We started at Tim Brown's to view his expanding containment set up, next we went to Keyneton station to view their containment pens and also look at 2022 sown pastures.

After lunch we looked over the drought hub pasture project at Pete Mitchell's and he was able to talk about the success of his containment sacrifice paddock.

We finished up at William Hurns looking at his containment feeding method of letting ewes out into a shared feed out pen for grain feeding.

Thanks to all the farmers that welcomed us onto their properties and provided their knowledge and information around containment feeding.



Containment Ewe Case Study- Twin Creeks Pastoral



Twin Creeks Pastoral Company is a site for the MLA Producer Demonstration Sites (PDS) containment ewe project.

Farmer, Kym Mosey wanted to trial containment feeding so they could have ewes off paddocks prior to and over the break of season. The goal is to improve the quality and quantity of feed available for ewes over lambing.

[Read the full article>>>>>](#)

Note from our Sponsors

Regari Contracting.



Local pasture contractors, Regari Contracting:

This season we purchased a Tubeline TubeWrapper to streamline our silage production for our larger clients.

It uses 50% less plastic than individual bale wrapping which is a lot more cost effective and better for the environment.

Another advantage of TubeWrapping is that the bales are not handled after being wrapped, minimising any handling damage issues. It is faster to feed out the tube wrapped bales compared to individual bales as it is easier to remove the plastic. The TubeWrappers can also be faster at wrapping the bale as opposed to an individual Wrapper.

One key factor in producing high quality silage is to remove as much oxygen from the bale possible. The TubelineWrapper compress the bales throughout the wrapping process which drives out the trapped oxygen and a high-density baler can be used which further removes oxygen from the bales.

We can wrap round bales, square bales and also double stacked squares in this machine making it more versatile.

For more details please contact Craig on 0418 846 978

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From the Inbox

- Pilates for Farmers- farmer session Wednesday nights at Nuri! [See more details](#)
- Barossa Australia Sustainability & Innovation Forum- Wed 9th November- [Tickets available](#)
- Stepping into Leadership 2023- WoTL - EOI close this Friday! [More details](#)
- Sheep and Goat Traceability Survey- Livestock SA- [LINK](#)
- Summary Update for the Barossa Water Allocation Plan, workshops to come! [See Details](#)

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