BAROSSA IMPROVED GRAZING GROUP
BIGG

Government of South Australia
Department of Environment,
Water and Natural Resources

Angaston

The Barossa Pasture Challenge

Pasture Management Plan – Angaston Ag Bureau Paddock 2

Pasture paddock details

Producer: Jen Light
Location: China paddock, Flaxman Valley (Eden Valley Rd)
Size: 2.8 ha
Annual average rainfall: 600 mm

Soil type: Sandy loam
Soil pH ($CaCl_2$): 4.7
Soil phosphorus (Colwell): 21 mg/Kg (2014 test. A test conducted in 2013 was 9 mg/Kg)
Soil organic carbon: 1.7%

Pasture species/cv and when last sown: 35% phalaris (cv. Holdfast GT, Advanced AT), 5% cocksfoot, 60% sub-clover (cv. Losa, Campera, Trikkala, Seaton Park) sown in October 2013

Land class assessment (1-5): 2 (Arable land suited to regular cultivation)
   http://www.mla.com.au/mbfp/Pasture-growth/Tool-21-Mapping-pasture-zones

Producer aim for the paddock in 2014

- Improve quality of the pasture (ie reduced broadleaf weeds) for sheep grazing
- Evaluate the effect of superphosphate on pasture quality and growth

Likely paddock issues

- Soil nutrition- soil phosphorous (Colwell) levels 21 mg/Kg
- Broadleaf weeds

Potential management options to address key issues/improve pasture production

- Apply 2 rates of superphosphate (100kg/ha and 400kg/ha) across the paddock and compare with an untreated control
- Use good grazing management to help keep on top of the broadleaf weeds
- Monitor superphosphate strips throughout the season for pasture composition (including conducting a feed test in spring for pasture quality) and pasture quantity, conduct a cost benefit analysis

Other comments

- Through improving P levels, this should improve pasture production, but should also favour the perennial component of the pasture/reduce the broadleaf weeds
- Preference is not to use herbicides/insecticides in the paddock
- Paddock will be used for grazing rather than being cut for hay (grazing of the paddock may be limited if a nearby creek is running hence stock may not be able to access the paddock)
- Superphosphate last applied to the paddock in 2004
- Paddock was limed in June 2013 (3.25 t/ha), which raised the pH ($CaCl_2$) from 4.3 to 4.7