

# Compare the Pair: *Multi vs Conventional Pastures*

## Aim: monitor 2 pastures in 1 paddock



Angaston  
Ben Zander



Marananga  
Matt Neldner

# 1. Angaston (3.5 ha)

- **2012: Phalaris/perennial rye/cockfoot/clover (Regenerated)**
- 2017: sown with ryegrass (3ha)
- Barley grass and silver grass creeping in
- **2023: Multi (3 ha) – sown 26 May**
  - Victory oats: 75kg/ha
  - Ryegrass blend: 18kg/ha (3 varieties)
  - Balansa clover: 7kg/ha



**Compare the pair: Regenerated vs Multi**

29/6/23

**Multi**  
400 FOO



**Regen**  
2150 FOO



13/9/23

**Multi**  
2200 FOO

**Regen**  
2400 FOO



13/9/23

**Multi**  
2200 FOO

65% Ryegrass  
25% Balansa  
5% Oats  
5% Barley grass

**Regen**  
2400 FOO

50% Phalaris  
30% Ryegrass  
20% Grasses  
(mostly BG)



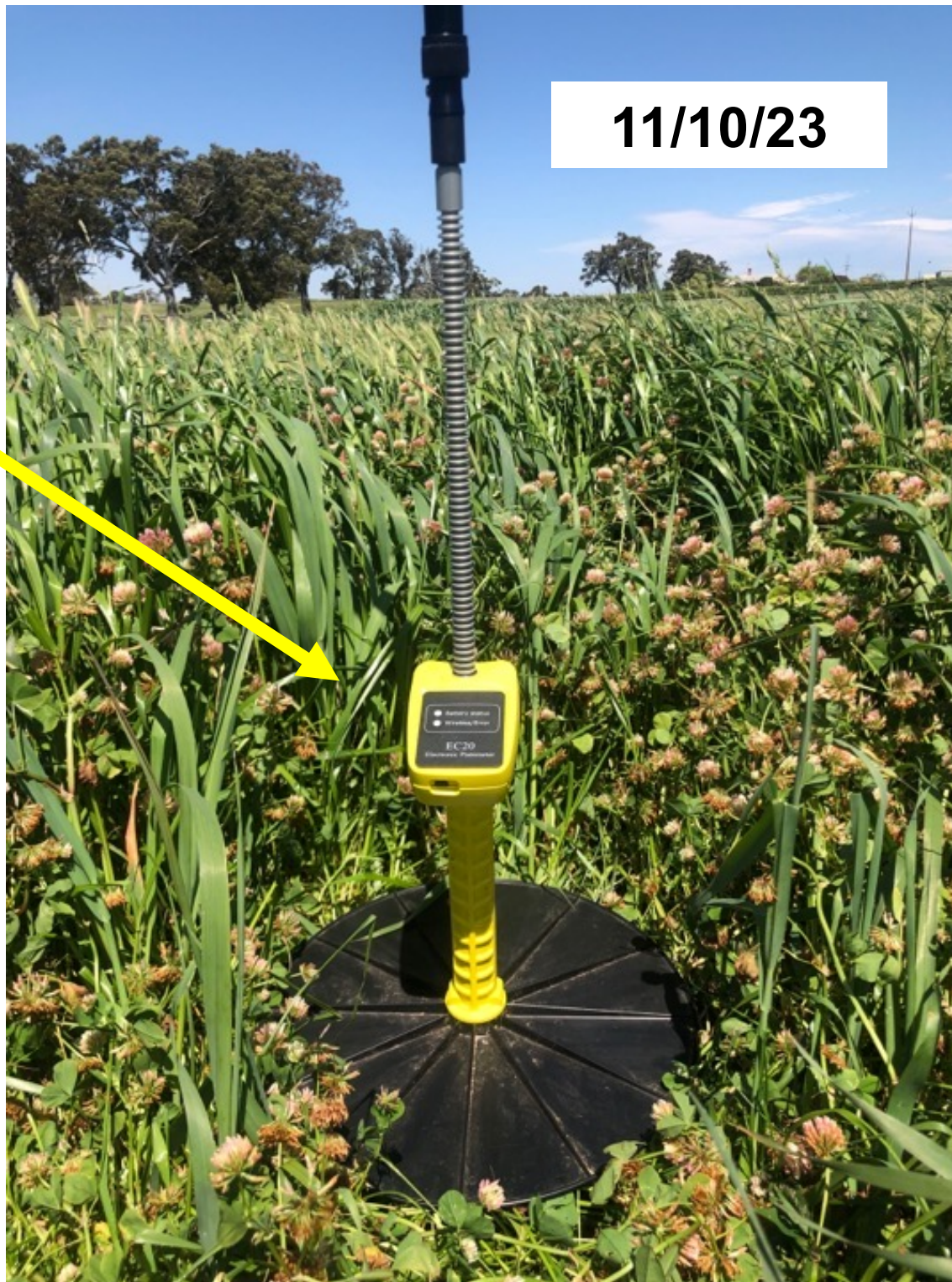
11/10/23

**Multi**  
6580 FOO

*Balansa*  
*flourishing*

*Some barley*  
*grass*

**Regen**  
4520 FOO



# Angaston – feed quality

	13/9/23		11/10/23	
	Protein %	Energy MJ/kg DM	Protein %	Energy MJ/kg DM
Multi				
Regen				



## Angaston – feed quality

	13/9/23		11/10/23	
	Protein %	Energy MJ/kg DM	Protein %	Energy MJ/kg DM
<b>Multi</b>	27.9		18.9	
<b>Regen</b>	21.9		12.7	

## Angaston – feed quality

	13/9/23		11/10/23	
	Protein %	Energy MJ/kg DM	Protein %	Energy MJ/kg DM
Multi		12.3		11.2
Regen		11.9		9.5

**Baled 1/11/23**

## **Silage Quality (Multi)**

*Protein: 14.2%*

*Energy: 10.3 MJ/kg DM*



# Angaston – production & costs

## Multi

- Silage 8.6t/ha
- 5.0t DM/ha (58% DM)
- + 2 grazing's
- Value of multiple ryegrass varieties
  
- 2023 seed cost: \$230/ha (oats/ryegrass/balansa)
  - *aiming to produce high quality and quantity fodder*
  - *clean paddock up*
  - *quality regrowth*
  - *vs biosecurity risk if buying in fodder*
  
- 2024: do similar or rely on self seeded balansa before grass selective

## 2. Marananga (5 ha)

- June 2021: 2 separate pastures sown – Ryegrass & Multi
- **Ryegrass (2.6 ha)**
  - Ryegrass blend: 20kg/ha (5 varieties)
  - Vetch: 35kg/ha
- **Multi (2.4 ha)**
  - Ryegrass blend: 20kg/ha (5 varieties)
  - Clover blend: 8kg/ha (4 varieties)
  - Tillage radish: 5kg/ha
  - Plantain: 5kg/ha
  - Chicory: 5kg/ha
- 2022: both pastures regenerated



**Compare the pair: Ryegrass vs Multi**

28/7/23



**Multi**  
2090 FOO



**Ryegrass**  
2470 FOO

13/9/23



**Multi**  
2880 FOO



**Ryegrass**  
2780 FOO

13/9/23



### **Multi**

2880 FOO  
50% *Ryegrass*  
25% *Clover*  
10% *Chicory*  
5% *Plantain*  
5% *Dock*



### **Ryegrass**

2780 FOO  
95% *Ryegrass*  
5% *Barley grass*



5/10/23



**Multi**  
3840 FOO



**Ryegrass**  
3420 FOO

**11/10/23**  
**Chicory (Multi)**



**Ungrazed**



**Grazed**

**25/10/23**



**Multi**  
1870 FOO



**Ryegrass**  
2350 FOO

# Marananga – feed quality

	13/9/23		11/10/23	
	Protein %	Energy MJ/kg DM	Protein %	Energy MJ/kg DM
Multi				
Ryegrass				

# Marananga – feed quality

	13/9/23		11/10/23	
	Protein %	Energy MJ/kg DM	Protein %	Energy MJ/kg DM
Multi	26.0		14.5	
Ryegrass	20.4		9.9	

# Marananga – feed quality

	13/9/23		11/10/23	
	Protein %	Energy MJ/kg DM	Protein %	Energy MJ/kg DM
Multi		12.1		10.2
Ryegrass		12.2		10.2

# Marananga – Multi vs Ryegrass

- 4 grazing's in 2023 (preferentially grazed Multi)
- Value of different species since 2021 sowing
  - 2022: Tillage radish
  - 2023: Chicory and clover
- 2021 seed cost:
  - Ryegrass: \$80/ha (*ryegrass/vetch*)
  - Multi: \$383/ha (*ryegrass/clover/tillage radish/plantain/chicory*)
- 2024: Spray Ryegrass section out, plant to Multis

# Some final take homes

- Different species (and varieties) respond at different times
- Multis produced higher protein
- Seed costs high?????.....but
  - *Focus on growing the most DM/ha with energy/protein levels to suit your stock needs*
- Thanks to the landholders and the SA Drought Hub



**Matt's chicory – Dec 2023**