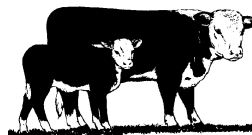
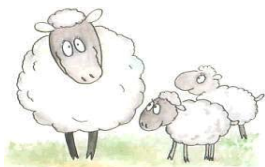




Euroa Grazing Group



June Newsletter

Next Session: Thursday 24th June, 2010, Longwood Community Hall

Check out the new Euroa Grazing Group website at
http://bestwoolbestlamb.com/groups/item/euroa_grazing/

Session 3: Pastures for Place and Purpose Agenda

- 9:15am Arrive for coffee and tea
- 9:30 am Euroa Grazing Group AGM – See page 2 for details
- 10am Finishing up farm maps and learning to load on home computer
- 11am Introduction to Feed Demand Calculator – Anita Morant
- 11:30am Calculating feed supply and demand for your own farms
- 12:15pm Discussion of feed quality and quantity gaps
- 12:45pm Calculating minimum ha required of new pasture species to fill feed quality and quantity gaps.
- 1pm Lunch
- 1:30pm Travel to Andrew Walta's farm to for trial results update and further discussion for species selection based on trial results so far.
- 3:30pm Finish

Bring your questions re pasture establishment plans and bring them up on the day!

Please let me know if you can't attend, and please let me know if you are attending a Pastures for Place and Purpose session for the first time.

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2009-2010 Euroa Grazing Group Annual General Meeting

- AGENDA AGM EUROA GRAZING GROUP 24th JUNE LONGWOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE
- APPOLOGIES
- MINUTES 2009 AGM
- PRESIDENTS REPORT
- TREASURERS REPORT
- 2010 ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS
- JOHN KELLY TO SPEAK
- 2010-2011 LEVY
- BARRY CRAVEN WILL SPEAK RE BANK ACCOUNT
- GENERAL BUSINESS
- MEETING CLOSED

Euroa Grazing Group Calendar 2010

Thursday 24 th June 2010	Longwood Hall	Pastures for Place and Purpose Session 3
Friday 6 th August 2010	Keith and Lyndal Dean's property	Weaner Management and Pastures for Place and Purpose Session 4 Presentation of pasture establishment plans to the rest of the group (discussion of issues faced in the plans) Cost/benefit of pasture establishment plans Yard weaning and creep feeding of weaner cattle (examining system at Keith's farm) Examination of brassica trial at Keith's farm
Friday 20 th August	Meet at John Kelly's farm, 9am	ANNUAL EUROA GRAZING GROUP TRIALS FIELD DAY – Andrew Walta and John Kelly's farms.
Friday September 3 rd 2010	Soil Health – presentation from Julian Hill "Brooklands", Ruffy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selection of natural fertilisers – trials with products such as RUM and Nutrisoil • Matching micro-nutrient requirements with maximum growth – mineral supplements and tissue testing • Topping grass to improve organic matter and protect soil • Use of legumes such as lupins to return nitrogen to the soil.
Thursday October 6 th – 8 th 2010	Excursion to Tasmania (pending successful funding application).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visiting the perennial grass and legume trials in the midlands • Establishing pasture on hill country.
Friday 12 th November 2010	Tour of farms:	Presentation from group members on what trials or strategies they have completed for their farm and how it went.
Thursday 2 nd December 2010	Planning session 2011	
Thursday 16 th December 2010	Christmas party	

Update on Pastures for Place and Purpose Program and Review of Last Session

So far we have had two sessions for the Pastures for Place and Purpose program. At the first session held at the Ruffy Hall and Stan Artridge's property, we discussed the procedure for establishing pastures including weed control and soil preparation in the lead-up to pasture establishment. At the second session held at the Moglonemby Hall, we used iFarm to map the farms and identify the current area of pasture. We also discussed soil fertility and calculated phosphorus requirements.

By this session, you should have begun to complete the plan for your focus paddock (big yellow A3 worksheet) including spray dates, products and rates to use, lime and fertiliser application rates, products and costs. You should also have completed the worksheet to identify current and target nutrient availability from your soil tests.

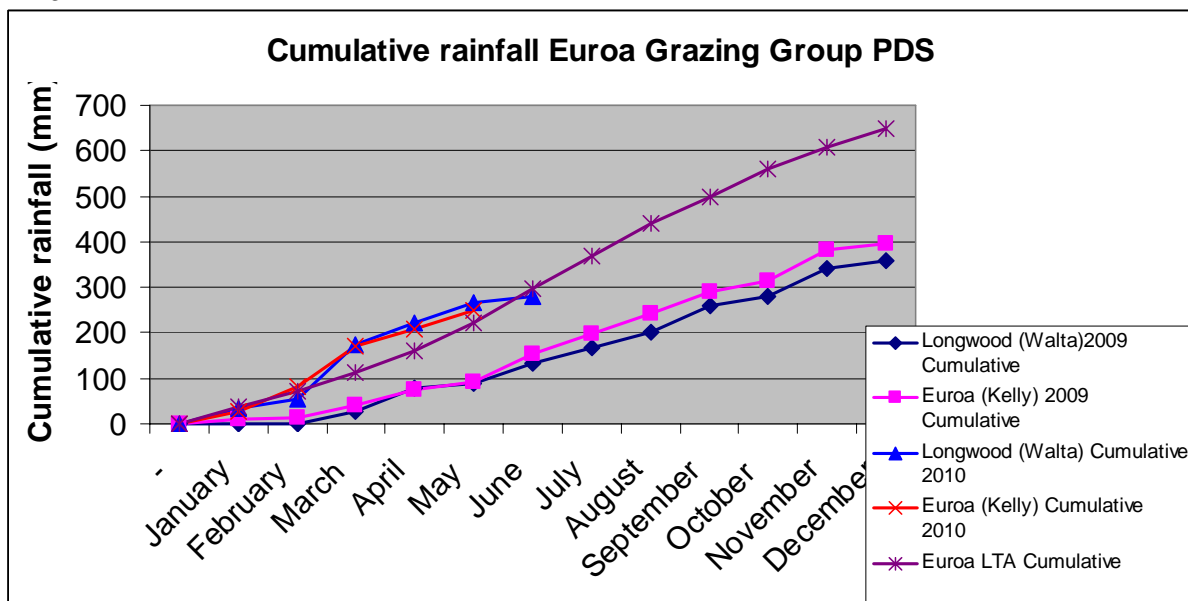
You should have used the phosphorus fertiliser calculation worksheet to determine your P requirements. Please let me know if you require help with any of these tasks.

This session we will spend a small amount of time in the morning reviewing the farm mapping program before determining the feed supply/demand profiles of your farms. We will also discuss pasture quality gaps for the year and how best to go about filling those gaps. We will have a go at calculating the minimum area of new pasture required to fill a quality gap for a stock class such as weaners on lucerne. In the afternoon, we'll head out to Andrew Walta's farm to see the trial plots, and discuss some of the decisions relating to species selection and filling the feed gap.

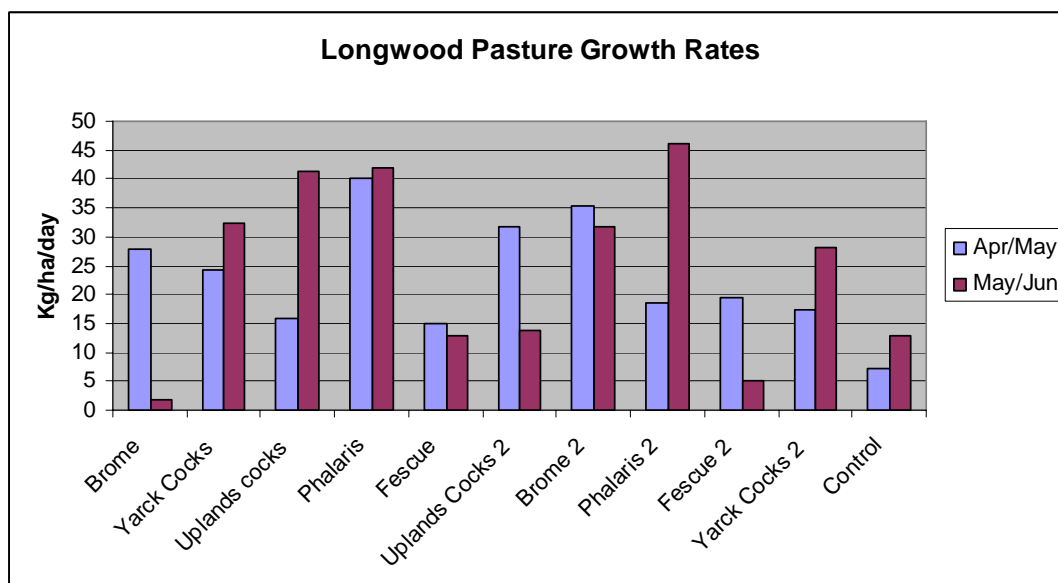
Update on trial results

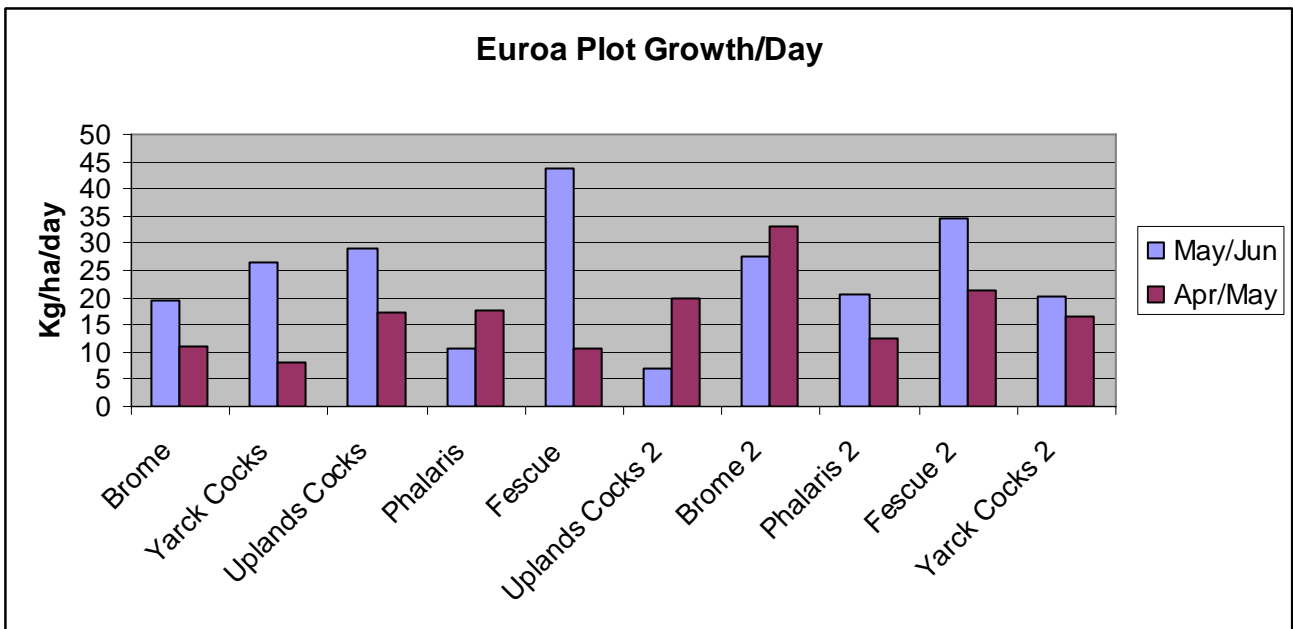
RAIN, RAIN, RAIN!!!!

Would you believe that we have received above average rainfall for the year so far? The year has kicked off with excellent rainfalls for March and April. The rain dropped off during May, but we have had some good recent falls to get the pastures growing again for June.



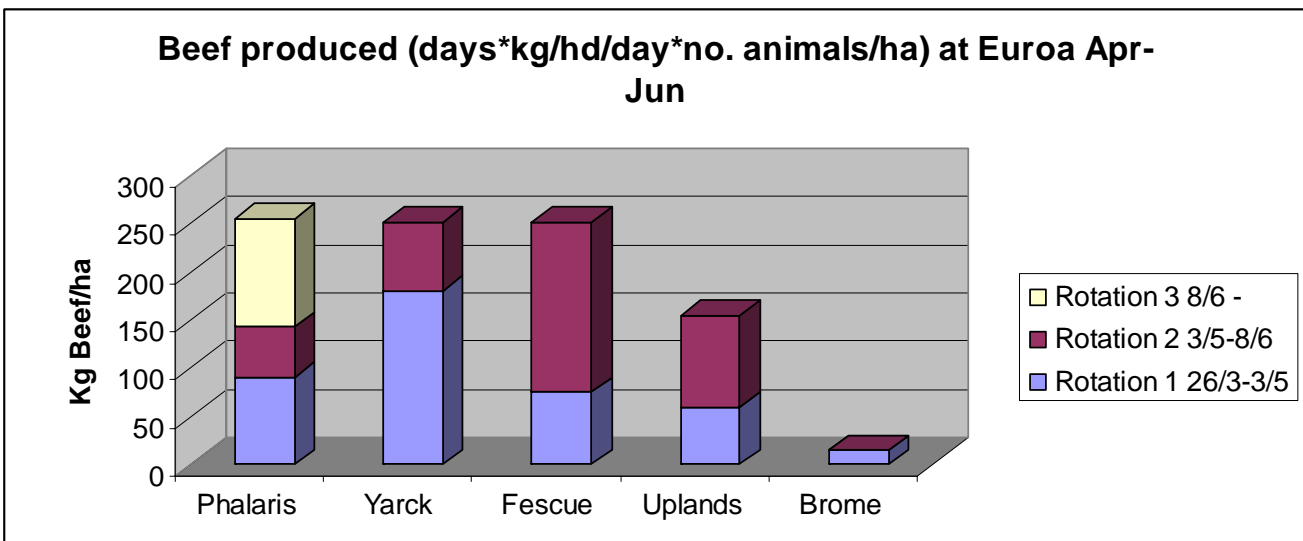
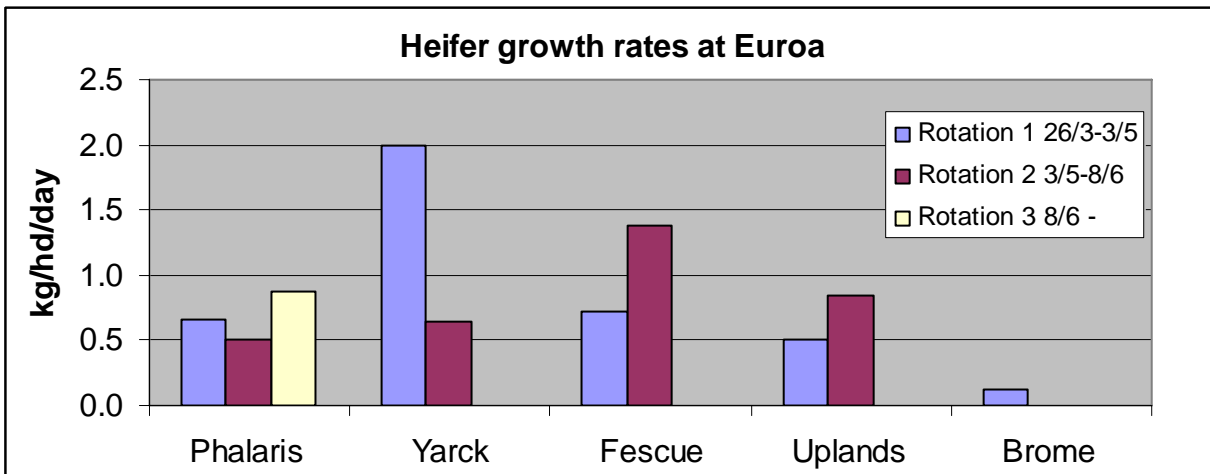
Pasture Growth



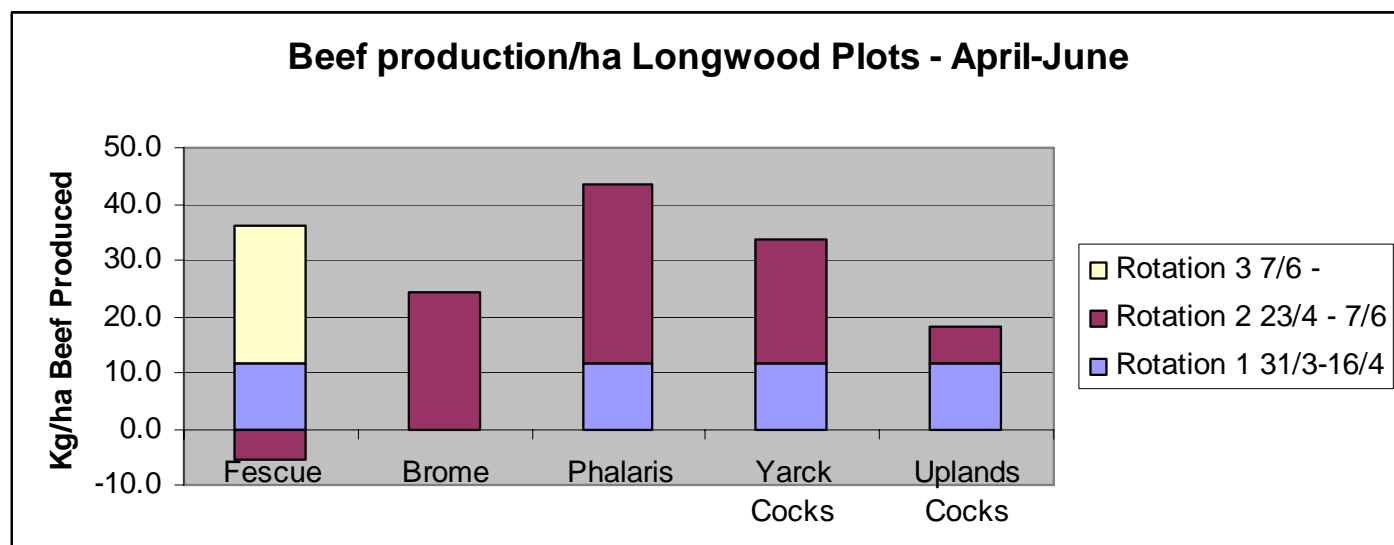
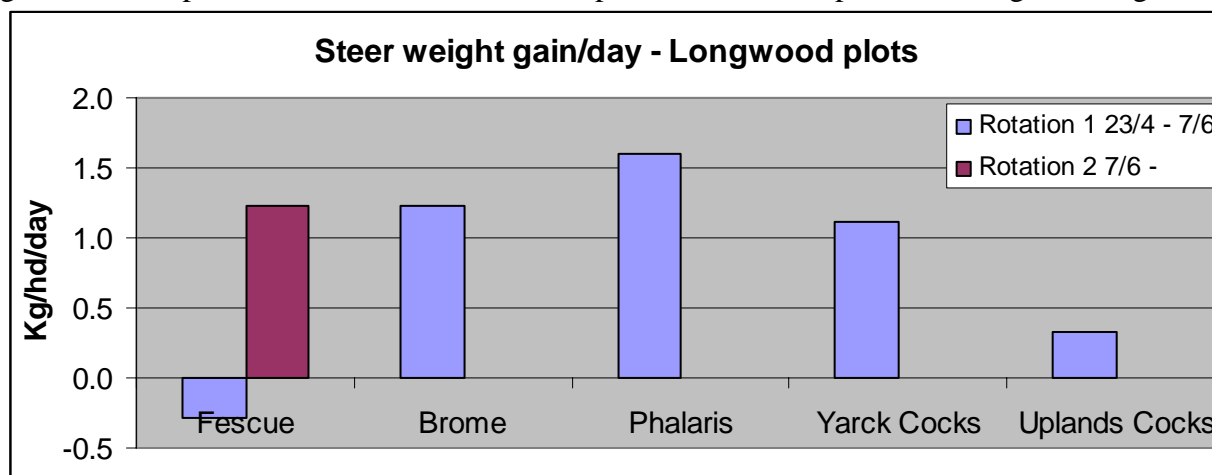


Livestock production

The bottom line is how much beef are we producing? Growth rates on the different plots have been variable. Lack of production in the Exceltas Brome treatment means that we are getting very little growth from the animals on that treatment. The other treatments are relatively similar, with the Yarck and Flecha leading the way in overall kg beef/ha for the growing season so far.



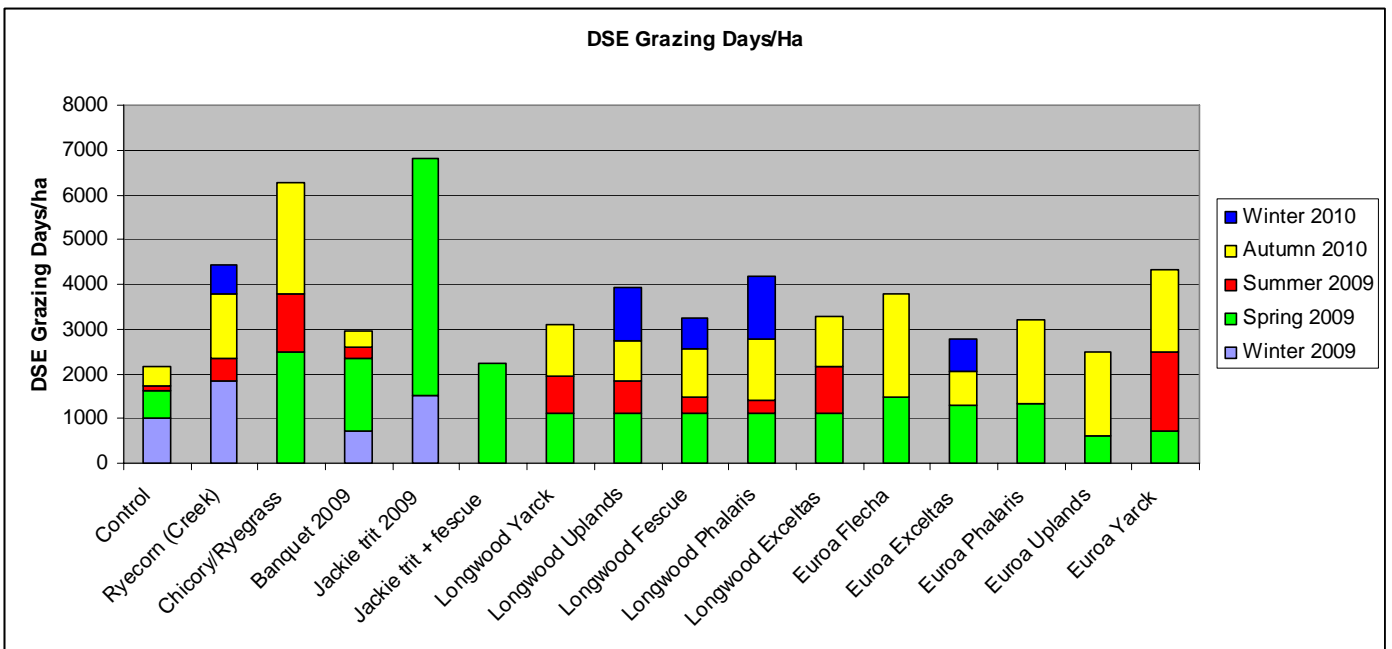
At Longwood, growth rates have been better on the brome, but stock went back on the fescue in April. This may have been due to lack of quality from this species at that time of year. They have certainly picked up gains on this species in the next rotation. The phalaris has so far produced the greatest kg Beef/ha.



Note that liveweight gain on individual plots was not recorded until the second rotation. An average liveweight gain of 0.5 kg/hd/day was achieved across all plots for the first rotation. Phalaris is winning the race for kg beef produced for Autumn at Longwood.

Grazing days

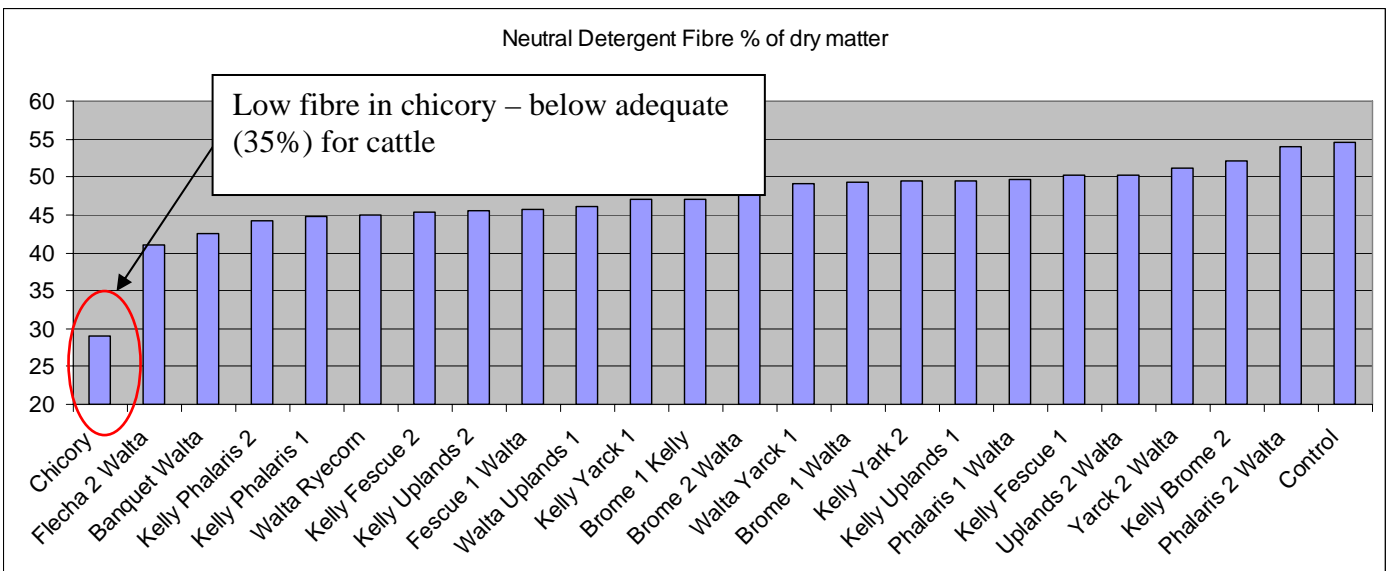
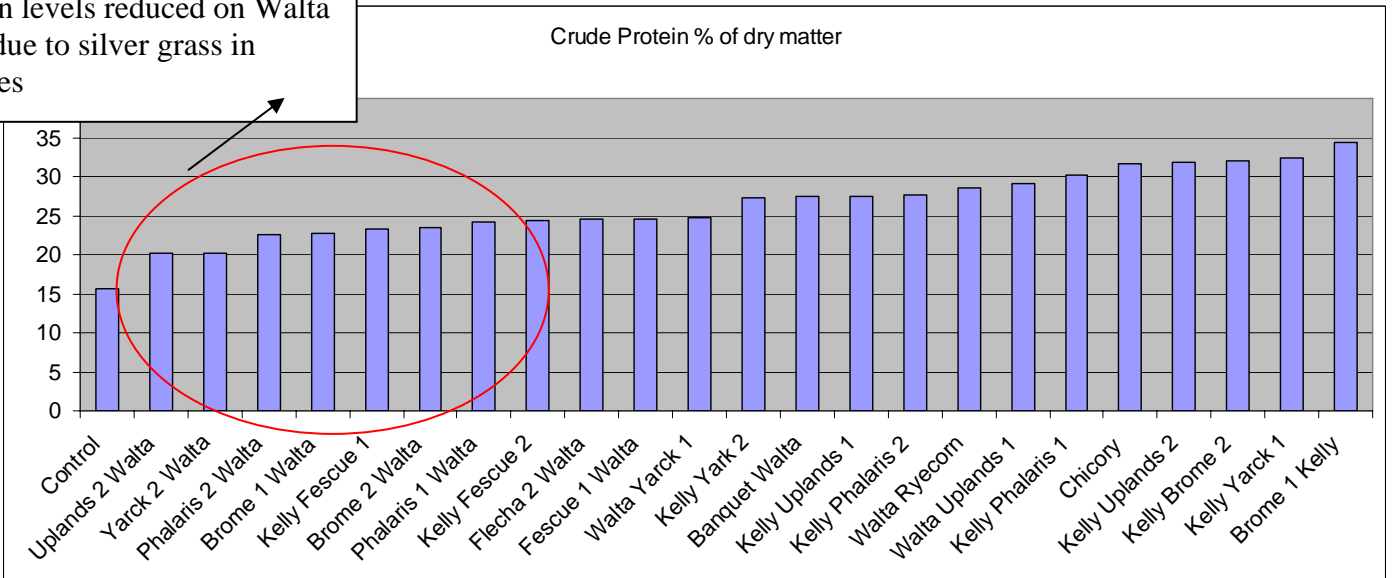
We are now at the 12 months mark of the trials and have been recording grazing days/ha since the beginning of June 2009. Below you will find the summary of the seasonal grazing days. The Spring grazing on the Jackie trit meant that it still finished ahead of the pack. The strongest perennial was the chicory. The ryecorn wasn't far behind and may prove to be an economical option since it did not require resowing this year. Of the trial plots, the Euroa Yarck Cocksfoot was the best performing due to its summer performance. The other treatments were not far behind.

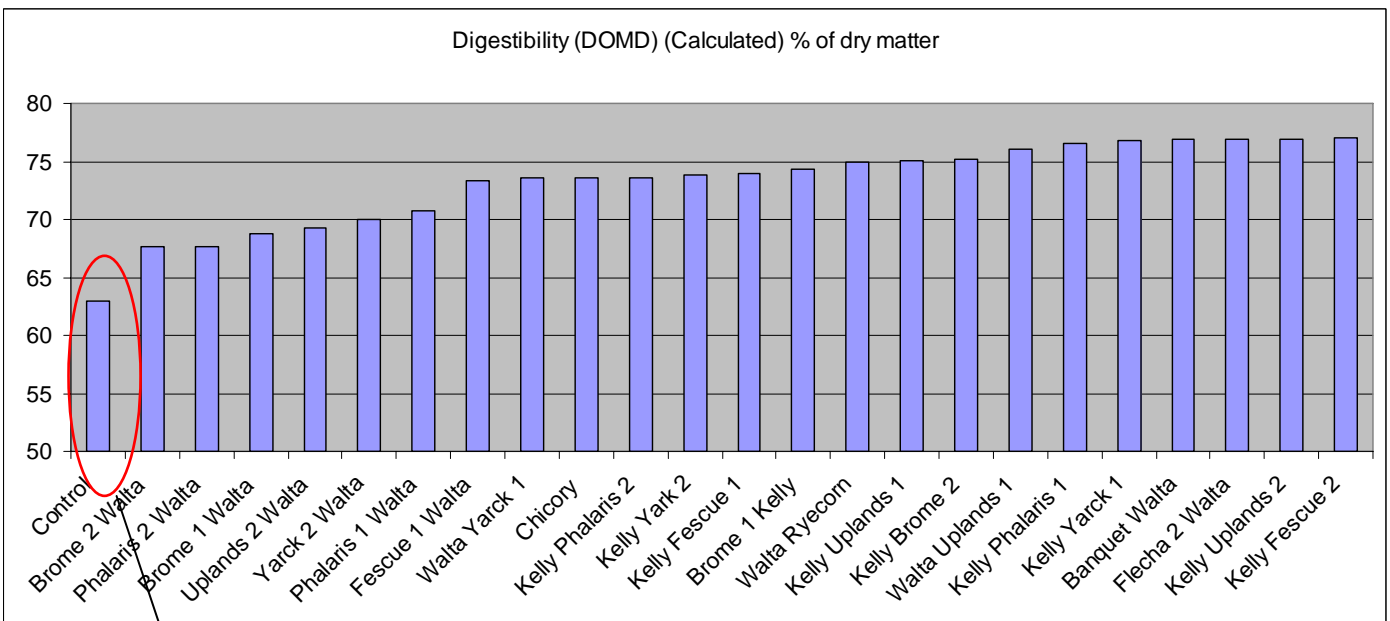
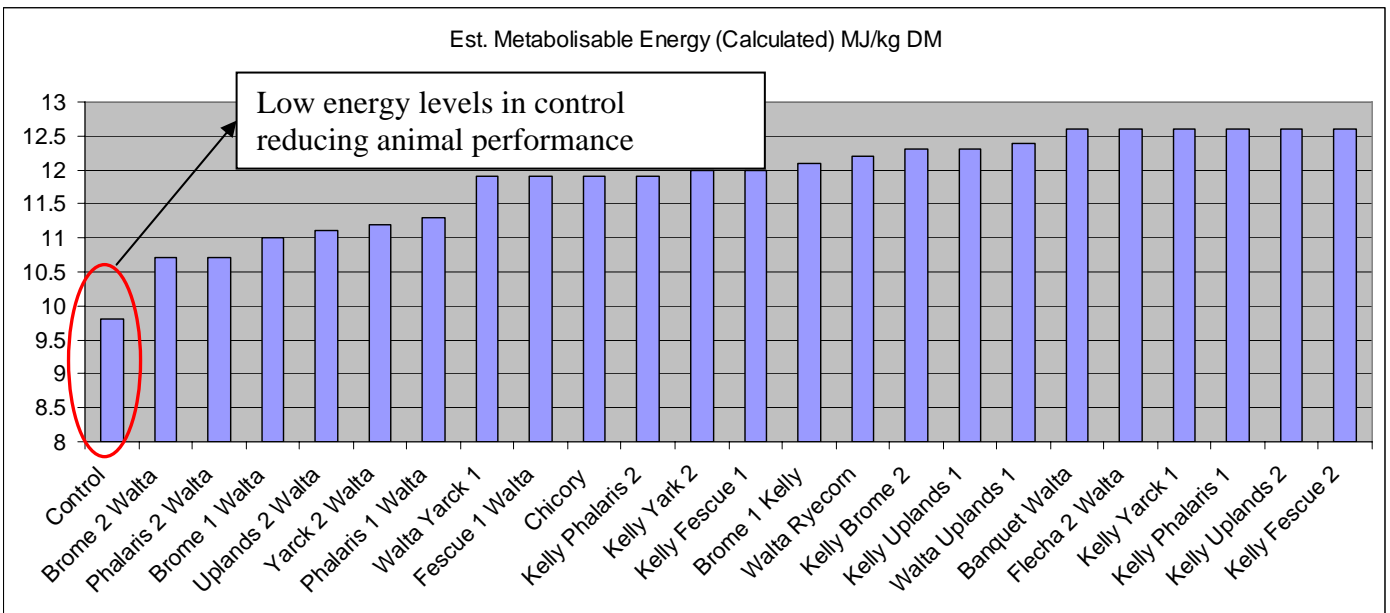


Pasture quality

Feed tests were taken on the sites during May. Results are presented below.

Protein levels reduced on Walta plots due to silver grass in samples





At 60% digestibility, steers on 1000 kg/ha would gain 0.2 kg/hd/day. At the same pasture availability, steers would gain 1.7 kg/hd/day if the digestibility was 75%.

Photo Gallery



Euroa group members put computer skills to good use in mapping their farms as part of the Pastures for Place and Purpose course.



Above: Chicory still going strong at Walta's.
Left: Regerminated ryecorn at Walta's farm.

