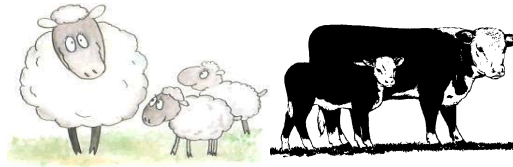




Euroa Grazing Group



Next session Friday the 21st of August with Jonathon Tocker of DPI Ballarat to discuss calculating and using cost of production and partial budgets.

Location: Robyn and Val Machin's property, Violet Town.

From the Hume Hwy take the Violet Town turnoff. Go through Violet Town (follow the main street) to the west. Approximately 8 km from town there is a sign to Shepparton. Turn to the right and then at the crossroad take Ellis Road on the right. Follow for 2 km to the top of the hill and you will see a double gate and old shed. Go past the yards and up to the house. Vicroads map 47 C3.

Time: 9.00am for 9:30am start – 3:30pm finish

Plan:

9:30am – Update and announcements

9:45am – “Think Tank” – a variation of whiparound – making decisions for future management.

10:30am – Cost of production and partial budgets – calculating your own and results from last year's farm monitor project – beef and sheep.

12:45pm – Lunch

1:30pm – Paddock walk – Various crops and pastures to look at.

3:30pm close

This session will be very important to attend so that you can calculate your cost of production for the session on the 22nd of October. The procedure will be that you will calculate your own cost of production using the MLA cost of production calculator and then send it to Jonathon for checking. Jono can help you to fix any errors. Jono doesn't share your figures with anybody but you. You will then be allocated a number so that you can remain anonymous when we are discussing the figures of the group in the next session. If you don't want your figures displayed even anonymously, you just have to tell Jono and he'll just provide you with the report. This will all be made clear in the session.

Please let Jane or I know if you cannot attend

Kate Sargeant
Ph. 03 57 354 352
Mob. 0428 325 318
Email: Kate.Sargeant@dpi.vic.gov.au

Jane Davey
Ph. 03 5798 5205
Mob. 0427 985 205
daveyst46@hotmail.com

Update on demonstration sites and field day 13th August

If you haven't already done so, please RSVP if you are coming to the field day at Andrew Walta's farm on the 13th of August (this Thursday). We will be having a bbq lunch on the day. There are currently 65 people coming. Don't forget we are sticking around afterwards to help Andrew to put up the trial fences.

Both sites have had good establishment of all the pasture species with the brome and fescue being quickest out of the ground followed closely by the phalaris. The cocksfoots have been the slowest so far. The Euroa site continues to be slightly ahead of the Longwood site and also appears to be cleaner – probably due to the cropping phase last year in Euroa compared to pasture at Longwood.

Tom Hooke has completed the 2nd plant counts for the sites. Results are below. Looks like the brome and fescue are sorting themselves out while the others have stayed fairly consistent. Thanks to Trish Lele and John's workers Daniel and Hayden for helping us out on the day.

Plant Counts per Square Meter 29/07/2009										
	Fletcher Tall fescue		Exceltas Brome		Landmaster Phalaris		Yarck Cocksfoot		Uplands Cocksfoot	
	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2
Andrew Walta	247.48	268.33	130.56	163.89	108.50	102.22	120.00	83.33	99.44	119.50
John Kelly	283.89	293.89	354.50	181.67	132.22	206.11	150.50	148.89	163.00	147.78
Average	273.40		207.66		137.26		125.68		132.43	
Difference between first and second counts										
	Fletcher Tall fescue		Exceltas Brome		Landmaster Phalaris		Yarck Cocksfoot		Uplands Cocksfoot	
	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2
Andrew Walta	-180.85	30.55	-105.94	67.22	13.00	15.00	41.11	51.11	18.88	30.00
John Kelly	-192.22	-130.00	-135.00	155.33	3.33	-8.89	-38.39	40.39	-49.00	-25.00
Average	-118.13		-82.26		5.61		23.56		-6.28	



Far Left: Kelly Exceltas Brome on the left and Yarck Cocksfoot on the right.

Near left: Kelly Exceltas Brome and Sub Clover with excellent establishment.

The 15ha control plot at Longwood grew 16 kg/ha/day during July and was grazed for 7 days by 98 pregnant cows.

Worm Juice Trial

The first pasture availability measurements were completed on the worm juice trial at Brooklands on the 29th of July 2009. The sheep had just been taken out and the pasture was eaten very short. We will measure the pasture again in 1 month to determine any winter growth rate differences. The worm juice will be applied again in spring and we'll do some more measurements then.

	Plot 1 Worm	Plot 2 No Worm	Plot 3 Worm	Plot 4 No Worm	Plot 5 Worm	Plot 6 No Worm	Plot 7 Worm	Plot 8 No Worm
kg/ha	390	280	360	320	420	240	200	350

Reproductive performance session at Geoff and Jan Penny's property

We all had a great sunny day in Yarck for our reproductive performance session with Ross Batten from DPI Leongatha. Ross shared his experiences with heifer and cow management with particular emphasis on looking after heifers in the lead-up to joining and a very strict culling policy to minimise labour costs. His view was that any cow or heifer that had trouble calving was used for increasing the cash flow throughout the year. We had an interesting session in the shed learning to condition score ewes. We discussed the importance of regularly condition scoring throughout the year, aiming to keep the ewes at 3 for joining and lambing. Significant increases in lambing percentage can be achieved by achieving these targets. In the paddock, we looked at Geoff and Jan's new Flecha tall fescue and chicory pasture which has established extremely well. It will be interesting to see how it goes.