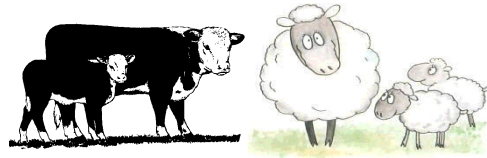




Euroa Grazing Group



Next session "Heading West" excursion on Thursday and Friday the 4th and 5th of June.

There are still more places on the bus if you would like to come and haven't already let me know.

Location: Meet at Jane Davey's property (if people would like to be picked up in Seymour, it can be arranged but you will be leaving your car in town at your own risk)

From Longwood, take the Longwood-Curwin Rd towards Shepparton for about 4km until you reach Davey Rd on the left. Take Davey Rd past the shearing shed and the driveway is on the left (go over the cattle grid). The property name is "Shandon Park".

Time: Be there at 7:15am to load on the bus and be gone by 7:30am

Cost: \$80 per person includes bus, dinner on 1st day, accommodation. Bring extra for lunch and takeaway dinner on 2nd day. BYO lunch on 1st day. Please bring cash or cheque with you. Cheques to be made out to Department of Primary Industries.

Plan:

Day 1

- 7:30am Leave Longwood
- 8:50am Arrive Heathcote for toilet stop and quick morning tea (you can buy lunch here but will be quicker if you bring from home.)
- 9:10am Travel from Heathcote to Bealiba Future Farm Industries CRC Perennial Pastures research site.
- 10:30am Steve Clarke presentation and inspection of research site.
- 11:30am Travel to Elmhurst and eat lunch on the way
- 12:30pm Ben Greene's farm - "Millbanks". Dual purpose crops, lucerne, phalaris, grazing management, bull beef and prime lambs.
- 2:30pm Travel to Ballyrogan
- 3:30pm Charlie De Faguely's farm "Quamby". High input pastures, banquet ryegrass, grazing management, prime lambs.
- 5:30pm Travel to Ararat
- 6pm Check into motel and free time
- 7:30pm Dinner at Sicilians pizza and pasta restaurant.

Day 2

- 7:30am Leave Ararat
- 9:30am Arrive and morning tea Hamilton Research Station. Tour of EverGraze Proof Site - Steve Clarke and Anita Morant.

11:30am Depart Hamilton Research Station
12pm Lunch at bakery in Hamilton
12:30pm Travel to Jigsaw farms
1pm Presentation and tour of Jigsaw farms from Mark Wooten (carbon neutral farming, reducing the cost of production beef and sheep, resilient perennial pastures).
3pm Depart Jigsaw farms, takeaway dinner on the way home.
9pm Arrive Longwood.

Report on Reg Hill session, Longwood, 1st May 2009

We had such a great session with Reg Hill (Wrightson Research) at Longwood that I forgot to delegate this report at the time. You are therefore stuck with a boring report from me. To prevent this from happening again, I would love a few volunteers to do reports on the various stages of our excursion next month.

We had a reasonable turnout to the session, but with the recent rains and sunny day, there were quite a few absentees who were no doubt sitting on tractors. I started the session by reporting on our success in getting funding for the MLA Producer Demonstration Sites which will take place at the properties of Andrew Walta and John Kelly. The seed for the pastures has arrived and is being sown hopefully as you read this letter. We now just need to pray for some rain!

We had a quick whiparound and heard from several people who were happy with the rain and had plans to sow pastures and crops. Unfortunately we have not received follow-up rains since then. Reg didn't disappoint, giving an excellent presentation and covering most of the issues that people brought up. He presented in detail on pasture establishment techniques, grazing management, lucerne variety selection, establishment and management, perennial ryegrass variety selection (with particular reference to new Spanish varieties that have no winter dormancy), endophytes and the best options for quick winter feed.

Of particular interest were the trials on Southern Green ryecorn (a grazing cereal rye), which showed that it was by far the highest producing cereal in early winter, producing over 6 tonnes/ha of winter feed. Reg said that it got out of the ground more quickly than the other cereals but finished in early September, producing large amounts of seed that could regerminate or allowing for a summer crop to be sown gaining benefit of the spring conditions. The seed needs to be sown at 80kg/ha, so at \$1.50/kg it obviously needs to be successful to be economical. John and Lu Craven are giving it a go this year so it will be interesting to see how it performs in our environment.

We travelled to Jane Davey's property in Locksley where we looked at two paddocks of perennial ryegrass pasture, one with chicory. Some good discussion was had around whether ryegrass was a good option for the area or not, as the ryegrass was thinning out. After looking at Jane's paddock, we travelled to Simon Edward's paddock where he showed us a pasture mix that included phalaris, cocksfoot and perennial ryegrass and had been quite successful. We finished with the new trial site at Andrew Walta's property where he plans on sowing the ten one hectare plots and fencing them for strip grazing. The seed bed looked quite good, but the group decided that the paddock definitely should be sprayed before sowing. Everybody seemed to have a great day. Thanks to Jane for organising the hall and having us at her farm, and also to Simon and Andrew for their input.

BWBL FEWETURE Farming Conference - Maintaining the Momentum

The invitations went in the mail today to the annual BWBL FEWETURE Farming - Maintaining the momentum Conference. If you missed it last year here is your opportunity to see what everyone is talking about.

This year's conference on Thursday 18th June at the Bendigo Exhibition Centre will highlight Paul Swan - Reinvigorating the Wool Mark brand and future plans for AWI, Rob Banks - Sheep Genetics, Past, Present the Future and Andrew Fisher - Future of Animal Welfare, why it is not just a flash in the pan

as the keynote speakers. These speakers will be followed by 10 concurrent sessions which will be run three times so that participants can see at least 6 sessions out of the 10. These sessions include

- Impact and economics of sheep in a no till cropping system - Cam Nicholson
- Identifying the cause of lamb deaths - David Rendell
- Capturing sheep performance using EID, making genetic progress within flock - Charlie de Fegely & Mark Copeland
- Analysing the economics of lamb finishing - Gary Hallam
- Improving the density of drought affected pastures how to fill the bare spaces - Lisa Warn
- Parasites - new drench coming? Eradicating lice - possible? - David Rendell
- Rotational Grazing Management, what to monitor to make it work for you - Graeme Hand
- Feeding Efficiency - Getting 20 miles/gallon from your lambs - Nick Linden
- Integrated pest management - Cam Nicholson
- Making sure pregnancy scanning ewes pays - Jason Trompf

A dinner at the All Seasons Bendigo will proceed the conference with Nuffield winner David Jochinke as the guest speaker. This enables those who have to travel a long way the opportunity of a lovely three course meal and guest speaker for \$20 and reduced accommodation rates at the All Seasons Bendigo then a not so early start to get to the conference on time.

Admission is **FREE** to group members - \$30 for Associate members - \$50 for General Admission (Sign up for free associate membership on the day and pay only \$30)

Registration is essential phone 03 5355 0531 - registrations close Friday 5th June

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