

Property Snapshot

Wilgo is a dairy farm that has been owned by the Salway family since the 1870s. It is run by Aaron Salway, who is the sixth generation on the land and his wife Emma Ringland who is also a fifth generation dairy farmer.

They run around 180 milking cows, supplying dairy products to the Bega Cheese company.

Wilgo has traditionally been used as a dairy property with a focus on improved pastures and rotational grazing.

Location: Cobargo, in in the Bega Valley, south east NSW

Size: 190 hectares

Enterprise: Dairy

Challenge

The Salways graze between 200 and 250 Jersey cattle rotationally on improved pastures of kikuyu, rye and clover. However, there are limited areas of shelter. Some parts of the property are also inaccessible and



choked with Black wattle.

Mr Salway contacted Local Land Services about creating more grazing space for heifers while also providing winter shelter options.

Approval was provided through a certificate under the Part 5, Division 4 Equity section of the Land Management (Native Vegetation) Code to remove vegetation from a six hectare treatment area.

The Salways also received authorisation through a notification under Part 2 Division 4 to manage Invasive Native Species on a 0.5 ha patch to remove Black wattle.

Work undertaken

Four patches of timbered country over six hectares were cleared of shrubs

and smaller trees and are being sown to kikuyu, rye and clover. Large trees have been retained for shade and shelter.

A set aside area of 18ha of vegetation on the steep slopes that adjoins the Kooraban National Park will be actively managed to complement the park's plan of management.

Black wattle was removed from a 0.5 ha area, promoting natural native grass growth and increasing accessibility.

"We've taken out undergrowth and left shade trees, basically providing more usable country. This has well and truly achieved the results we were after. We are seeing the benefits already and in providing a fodder source we didn't previously have. It has made a huge difference to our feed supply."

- Aaron Salway, owner Wilgo

CASE STUDY

On-ground achievements

After receiving certification the Salways undertook the work and sowed millet to stabilise the soil. This provided an immediate and much needed fodder source.

Once sown with improved pasture, grazing of the treatment areas will occur at limited times in winter by heifers. The resulting paddocks will be incorporated into the farm's rotational grazing regime, reducing the need for agistment of young cattle.

The family has been provided with greater insurance against dry times and security to plan for the future.

The Salways hope the works will give their sons confidence to take on the farm as the seventh generation.

"Land isn't easy to come by anymore. Emma and I came up with the idea, if we can do it this way it's a lot cheaper than to buy another farm. Hopefully it will help my boys come through and have a bit more country to use."

- Aaron Salway, owner, Wilgo



Fact file:

- 190 ha dairy farm run by fifth and sixth generation dairy farmers
- Currently limited sheltered paddocks for winter grazing
- Use of the Equity section of the Land Management Code to create six ha of new pastures while setting aside 18 hectares of vegetation for conservation in perpetuity
- Active management of the set aside to complement the plan of management for the adjoining Kooraban National Park
- Creation of more paddocks for grazing, reducing the need for agistment and providing greater insurance against dry times.
- Use of the Invasive Native Species section of the Code to remove overgrown Black wattle to further increase grazing areas and increase accessibility

