

Hunter Local Land Services

Pasture news



What's your feed plan for Autumn?

With recent rainfall tempting landholders to react quickly to sow crop / pasture, it is always important to consider how this early planting fits into the overall pasture program and what the long term rainfall prediction may be in conjunction with soil temperature. Soil temperature still remains high so remember to check against the species to be planted and the actual moisture profile of your selected paddocks. No-one wants to re-sow due to shot and burnt seed(lings).

Quick Feed Options

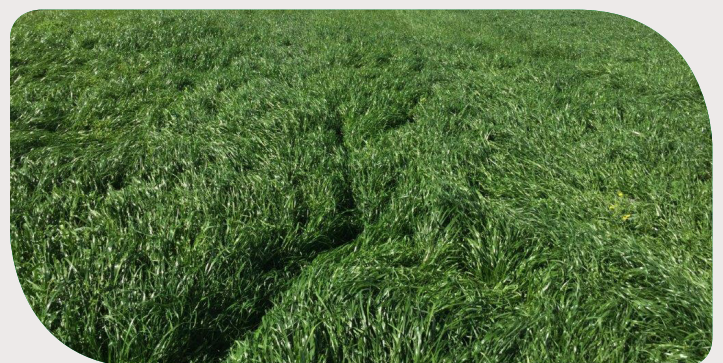
As we chase some quick feed options following the recent rainfall, it is worth considering what feed options are available, especially if moisture remains limiting.

Grazing Cereals (Oats and Ryecorn) remain a good quick feed option and so it may be also worth considering not only longer growing season varieties but also considering the end purpose - i.e. grazing only or silage / hay potential. If grazing only, consider adding some Brassica to the mix for additional protein and energy early in the season. Vetches and annual clovers (e.g. Persian) could also be added for additional protein and also provide a silage option into spring.

Brassicac on their own right are an ideal complementary feed, not just for quality and quantity, but as a cost effective dry matter source. They also act as as a break crop within a pasture program, with varieties ranging from one to three grazings, thus allowing for effective pasture planning. This can be especially helpful after a dry period, where these paddocks may then be sown to more late-maturing grasses and herbs.

Ideally, it would be desirable to see a deeper moisture profile and lower soil temperature (<15°C) before sowing Grasses and Herbs. Look to your Annual Ryegrass varieties to fit in with Kikuyu paddock and Italian and Perennial varieties for other areas for the Lower Hunter and Manning Great Lakes. Likewise for the Upper Hunter and regards to Phalaris and Cocksfoot paddocks if the opportunity presents itself. Further details to come in the next few weeks.

Oat Varieties	Ryecorn	Brassica
Aladdin	Southern Green Ryecorn	Leafy
Coosee	Turnip	Pajsa II
Wizard	Barkant	Appin
Bond	Green Globe	Falcon
Drover	Rival	Winfred
Austin	Vetch	Hunter
SF Colossus	Bentas	Mainstar
Outback	Morava	Bouncer
Coolabah	Timok	Sub Zero
Cooba		Interval
Yarran		SF Pacer
Eurabbie		
Bimbil		
Graza (multiple varieties)		
Mammoth		
SF Tucana		



Nutrient Management

Following any extended dry period, it is advisable to conduct some soil testing across key areas of the farm once reasonable rainfall has been received. Soil Test Kits are available from Hunter LLS at a cost. Alternatively, if you are working with a local agronomist and /or have a history with a particular Laboratory, continue with that relationship for consistency.

It is also important to ensure that any crop / pasture are sown with an NPS based fertiliser, e.g. 15-11-0-12. Most starter fertiliser stocks are readily available. However, there is an expected tight access window to annual top-dress fertilisers such as Single Superphosphate due to overseas production lead-times.

Weed and Pest Control

Prior to any pasture /crop is to be sown, be sure to assess your paddocks for weed and pest infestations.

Following the last two weeks, there is an increased incidence of Black Beetle and Fireweed seedlings (among many other weeds) appearing in paddocks which will not only impact upon pasture productivity but also pose potential animal health issues. Chemical control for Fireweed does incur some sterility of areas and plant-back issues, especially with regards to clovers and chicory, so please check label recommendations and the place that these paddocks form in your overall pasture plan.

Likewise with Black beetle control, it is advisable to control prior to sowing, to reduce any impacts on young seedlings as there may be some with holding periods.



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Hunter Local Land Services has just developed a new drought weed factsheet. This is available on our website www.hunter.lls.nsw.gov.au or through your nearest Hunter Local Land Services office. More information can also be found at weedwise: <http://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/>



Summer Grass: Barmac Pty Ltd

Drought support has changed in NSW. Landholders are encouraged to visit the DPI Droughthub (<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/climate-and-emergencies/droughthub>) for information on the services and support available during drought conditions. The key message is please don't self assess.

Here's how to contact your Agriculture Extension staff:

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