

Elmsleigh Farm

The Oaks

CASE STUDY

Lisa and Brad Martin bought their 80ha property, Elmsleigh Farm, about five years ago.



In 2018 they trialed direct to the public beef sales and marketed their 'seasonal' beef and regenerative and ethical farm practices.

Lisa and Brad Martin run a Black Angus beef enterprise on their 80ha property, Elmsleigh Farm, at The Oaks. They have adopted a holistic approach to grazing management on their property, which includes actively planning for drought, destocking early and managing their animals to regenerate the landscape while monitoring pasture recovery.

"Farming is hard work, and I have learnt to observe natural systems. It takes time to learn and build your confidence, so don't be in a hurry to make large scale investments," Lisa says.

Through trial and error, asking questions and attending courses the Martins have developed the practical skills and knowledge required to run a successful operation. Lisa studied holistic grazing management and says this approach gives a framework to makes complex land management decisions with confidence.



The couple are currently considering agri-tourism to diversify. "You have to work to your strengths," Lisa says. "By knowing your values and your context you can determine the best fit enterprises to add to the business and create complimentary income streams."

In 2018 the Martins trialed processing and marketing their 'seasonal' beef direct to the public, a decision motivated by the challenges associated with drought. They use their regenerative and ethical farm practices to tell their story to customers.

Lisa and Brad have a well organised system to store and carry farm equipment. They have learnt the value of creating system efficiencies and also keep master farm records.

"Our business model is flexible but in general we breed and grow within our herd," says Lisa. "When we do have new stock brought on to the property, they spend time separate from the main herd to reduce the risk of introducing new weeds and diseases".

Lisa and Brad follow a vaccination schedule and also regularly check their herd to observe how they are walking, body condition, herd behaviour and temperament.

The couple have established Spring Creek Landcare group and received funding from Greater Sydney Local Land Services to conserve the three endangered ecological communities on property using bush regeneration techniques.



What is climate smart farming?

- The CSIRO considers agriculture to be "climate smart" when it contributes to increasing food security, adaptation and mitigation in a sustainable way.

What is holistic grazing management?

- System of rotational grazing with a focus on maintaining ground cover, that reduces soil erosion, increases water infiltration and thus the effectiveness of rain received.
- Holistic managers use grazing charts to consider complexity, predict available feed, and forward estimate how many days of feed they have for their stock if it does not rain. This is an effective monitoring and decision making tool, creating resilience to drought and protecting the natural resource base of the property.

For further information:



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Elmsleigh Farm



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