



The Grassland Society of NSW Inc.

DRIVING YOUR LANDSCAPE to SUCCESS

Managing a Grazing Business for Profit in the Agricultural Landscape

27th Annual Conference
of The Grassland Society of NSW Inc.

WAGGA WAGGA 24-26 JULY 2012



Farming for tomorrow!

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The Grassland Society of NSW

A unique blend of people with a common interest in developing our most important resource – our Grasslands

The Grassland Society of NSW was formed in March 1985. The Society now has about 500 members and associates, 75% of whom are farmers and graziers. The balance are agricultural scientists, farm advisers, consultants and executives or representatives of organisations concerned with fertilisers, seeds, chemicals and machinery.

The aims of the Society are to advance the investigation of problems affecting grasslands husbandry and to encourage the adoption into practice of results of research and practical experience. The Society holds an annual conference, publishes a quarterly newsletter, holds field days, and has established regional branches throughout the State.

Membership is open to any person or company interested in grassland management and the aims of the Society.

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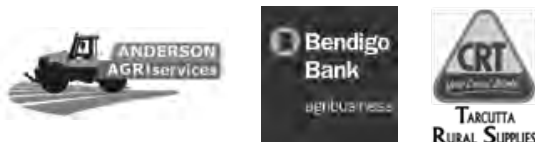
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Preface

I extend a very warm welcome to all members attending this 27th annual conference of the Grassland Society of NSW.

An equally warm welcome to those who are not members of the Society, please consider joining us to enjoy the many benefits of membership, well worth the annual subscription of \$50.00.

I am very confident that we are in for a stimulating two days of first class talks and enjoyable farm tours of the district. The tours are an important feature of our conferences and invariably provide visitors to the district with an insight into examples of highly efficient agricultural production at the local level.

Plant and animal production depend heavily on established agricultural science principles. The Grassland Society brings together producers, agronomists, agri-business firms, animal scientists and teachers of agriculture to deliver, discuss and exchange high quality information relevant to grassland farming. One basic objective of the Society is to promote agricultural systems that combine improved efficiencies with environmental responsibility.

Pastures, both native and introduced, are the powerhouse of all forms of agriculture across Australia. Pastures sustain grazing animals, suppress weed invasion and protect otherwise bare ground from erosion. Of equal importance, they feed microbial activity under the ground by adding high quality organic matter. It thus follows, that pastures both depend on and improve all aspects of soil health, including physical, chemical and microbial aspects.

This conference examines various aspects of soil fertility, pasture management and animal production, including some new and challenging developments in the area of 'alternative fertilisers' using results from well conducted studies. The organising committee, under the leadership of Nathan Ferguson, has put much time and effort into selecting expert speakers to bring delegates up to date with developments in grassland farming. Nathan

and his team are to be congratulated for putting together such a stimulating program of formal sessions and farm tours as well as the ever popular conference dinner.

I would like to acknowledge our many sponsors from corporate and government sectors, many of whom regularly support the Grassland Society. Conferences of this nature do not happen without the substantial assistance of our sponsors. Furthermore, I encourage all conference delegates to visit the well-prepared commercial displays, exhibits and posters. They are full of current information on new pasture varieties, fertiliser products, herbicides and management strategies, all aimed at assisting producers and their advisers. Please take time to talk with representatives of the trade exhibits and poster authors. They are a valuable source of information and are always happy to discuss developments with conference delegates.

Finally, I thank all of you who are here to enjoy and learn from this conference. The Grassland Society is keen to maintain the high standards of previous years, and we invite suggestions to improve future activities. Please feel free to let any member of the Organising Committee know your thoughts in this regard. After all, the Grassland Society is only as effective as its members and depends on them for continued existence.

I again encourage non-members to join and enjoy the many benefits of membership. Application forms can be printed from our internet site: www.grasslandnsw.com.au and are available from the registration desk at this conference.

Best wishes for a most enjoyable conference.

Mick Duncan
President

Conference Program

Time	Speaker	Topic
Tuesday 24th July		
1:00–5:00 pm	PRE-CONFERENCE TOURIST ATTRACTIONS (AT YOUR OWN LEISURE)	
5:00–6:00 pm	PRECONFERENCE REGISTRATIONS AND NIBBLIES AT JOYES HALL	
6:00 pm	AGM AT JOYES HALL	
SESSION 1 Wednesday 25th July CHAIR?		
7:00–8:45 am	JOYES HALL - REGISTRATIONS TEA AND COFFEE ON ARRIVAL	
8:45–9:00 am	OPENING OF CONFERENCE AND HOUSEKEEPING / WELCOME	
9:00–9.45 am (35+10)	Belinda Hackney (NSW DPI)	Matching management of a grazing business to the landscape
9:45–10:15 am (20+10)	Rodney Purcell, Producer, Brungle	Follow up to 2001 Gundagai conference, how has grazing management changed to utilise differences in the landscape.
10:15–10:45 am	MORNING TEA AND TRADE DISPLAYS	
SESSION 2 Wednesday 25th July PETER ORCHARD		
10:45–11:15 am (20+10)	Susan Orgill (NSW DPI)	Soil Carbon, variation across the landscape
11:15–11:45 am (20+10)	Fiona Leech (NSW DPI)	Alternative Fertiliser, what do trial results tell us?
11:45–12:15 pm (20+10)	Kim Billingham (NSW DPI)	Humic products - potential or presumption for agriculture
12:15–12:45 pm	LUNCH AND TRADE DISPLAYS	
SESSION 3 Wednesday 25th July BUS TOURS		
12:45–1:00 pm	BUSES DEPART	
5.30–6.00 pm	BUSES RETURN	
6:30–7:00 pm	PRE-DINNER DRINKS AND CANAPES	
7:00 pm	CONFERENCE DINNER WAGGA WAGGA RSL	

SESSION 4 Thursday 26th July CHAIR?			
8:30–9:15 am (35+10)	Richard Simpson (CSIRO)	Phosphorus in the landscape, how to sharpen the pencil. Peak Phosphorus. Optimal P in relation to live weight per paddock. Future options for improving P efficiency.	
9:15–9:45 am (20+10)	Oli Cay, Producer, Bungarby	How GrassGro helped get tailored analyses of my farming systems and challenging other graziers to more seriously consider the possibility of using DS tools	
9:45–10:20 am (25+10)	Luke Pope / Doug Alcock, (NSW DPI)	What's the impact of increasing fertility on Native Pasture	
10:20–10:35 am	Poster papers three by five minute presentations, two slides each, Chair to control powerpoint, presenters on stage ready to go from 10.20 am		
10:35–11:00 am	MORNING TEA /TRADE DISPLAYS /POSTERS		
SESSION 5 Thursday 26th July CHAIR?			
11:00–11:30 am (20+10)	Mike Keys, Consultant	Fertiliser use on modified native pastures. Impact on soil fertility, pasture composition, pasture persistence, animal production and economics	
11:30–12:00 pm (20+10)	Warwick Badgery (NSW DPI) + Producer	Rotational (Tactical) grazing Native Pastures in a variable landscape, EverGraze results	
12:00–12:30 pm (20+10)	Richard Hayes (NSW DPI)	Perennial pasture species for the mixed farming zone – we don't have many options	
12:30–1:20 pm	LUNCH		
SESSION 6 Thursday 26th July CHAIR?			
1:20–1:50 pm (20+10)	Jeff McCormick (NSW DPI)	To cover crop or not? A decision support tool to determine the most profitable method of pasture establishment	
1:50–2:20 pm (20+10)	Ed Clayton (NSW DPI)	Researcher EH Graham Centre	
2:20–3:30 pm (60 interactive)	Panel Session. Jim Virgona to facilitate. Panel Members: Mark Pearce, Michelle Jacobs- Walsh, Richard Simpson	Q&A, What are the key profit drivers in grazing businesses? A one hour facilitated session to close the conference, with a panel of farmers and advisers.	Paul Roche Mark Pearce Nick Austin Michelle Jacobs-Welsh Hayley Rutherford Shaun Robinson Chris Shannon Julie Brien Jenny Blake Vicky Geddes
3:30–4:00 pm	CLOSE & AFTERNOON TEA		



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