

Pasture 365 - Evaluating species diverse pastures for resilience and year-round feed supply

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Context

The impacts of climate change through sustained periods of moisture deficit presents stresses on the current pasture feedbase. In many regions, livestock producers rely on a small number of pasture species, grown in either monocultures or simple pasture mixes for grazing livestock.

One approach has been to diversify the feed base across farm rather than within one pasture mix. This involves growing monoculture crops and simple pasture mixes in strategic areas across the farm. However, alternative approaches to increase feed base diversity have promoted the benefits of sowing a large number of species within one complex pasture mix. This long-term trial investment will evaluate simple and complex pasture mixes for persistence and productivity across seasons.



Aim

Evaluate whether species-diverse pastures can result in drought resilient pastures and construct a feedbase that can grow feed 365 days a year.

Desired outcome

Negate summer feed gaps while increasing resilience of grazing enterprises to droughts and climate change.



Focal sites

Nine focal sites across Southern Australia

Focal sites will evaluate up to 12 pasture mixes with species known to be adapted to that region. Each focal site will include a simple commonly sown pasture mix as a regional control along with 3 mixes that will be common across other high or low rainfall sites.

Tasmanian focal sites

TIA will establish two focal sites in Tasmania - one in the low rainfall midlands and one in the medium rainfall north-east. These experiments will be conducted on commercial farms with a high level of experimentation, measurement, and monitoring.



Satellite sites and engagement

The project seeks to engage producers through large paddock scale sowings. Five satellite farms around each focal site will be sown with selected mixes.

Project partners

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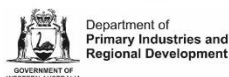
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