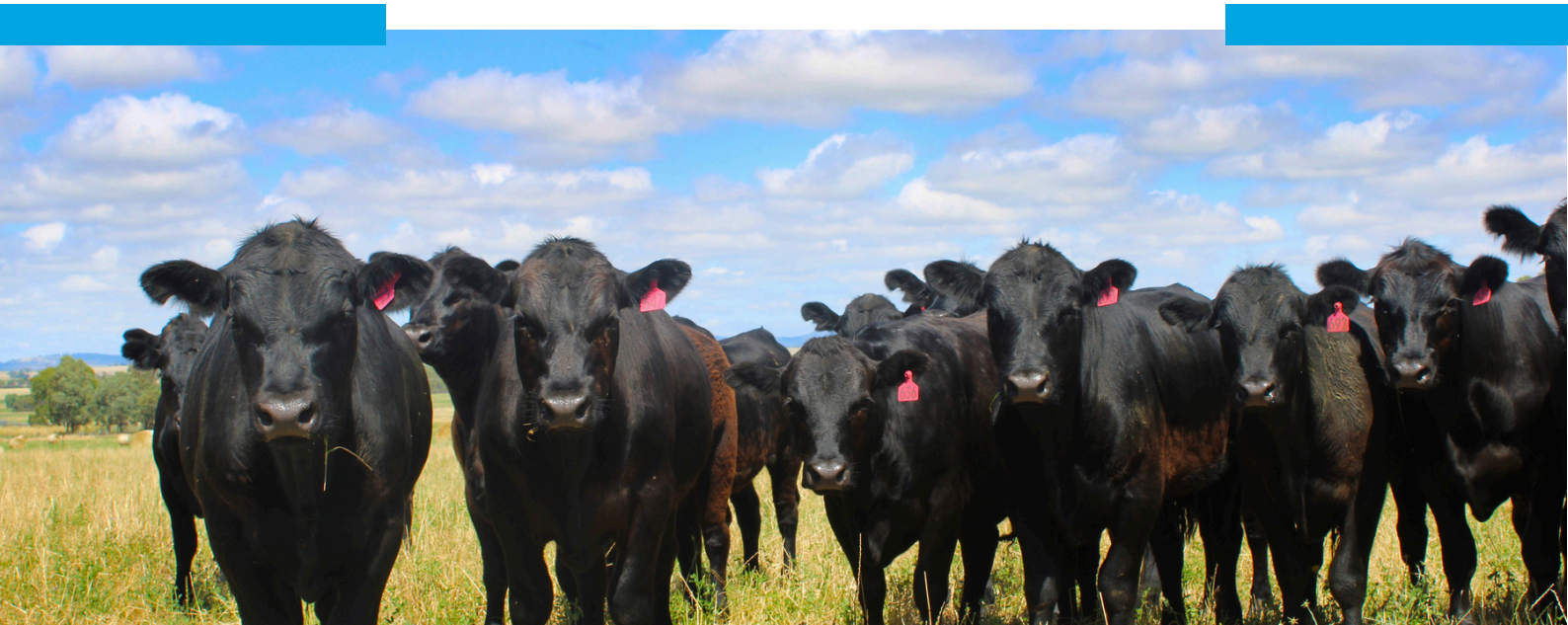


# AUSFARM NUTRITION NEWS

An informative news bulletin designed to bring the latest topical and technical nutrition product news and information to cattle and sheep producers



This annual newsletter comprises articles about seasonally significant metabolic diseases, production opportunities and general nutritional advice that may assist producers in growing their best animals this summer. Please read articles relevant to your business and contact our team if you have any enquiries.

## MESSAGE FROM AUSFARM NUTRITION PRODUCTS' MANAGING DIRECTOR

To all our customers, suppliers and readers alike, on behalf of AusFarm Nutrition Products (ANP), I hope you had a Merry Christmas and that the new year in 2025 brings more success and happiness.

Despite mixed fortunes throughout the year and a further reminder that no year in this business is like the rest, 2024 was another successful year for ANP with growth in many aspects of our business.

From the inception of ANP, in 2007, we have always endeavoured to bring new products, ideas and technical innovations to the market that are able to make a real difference to the success of the ruminant industry. 2024 has been particularly notable for us, with the successful launching of several products including BoviBloat Plus and our FlyBye range.

Notably, we have expanded ANP's business geographically through marketing and the development of key relationships with distribution partners in new regions. Despite this, we have never taken our eyes off our core business and loyal customers. This is part of our Mission!

As a result of product and geographic expansion, 2024 presented us with the opportunity to bolster our technical sales team. The inclusion of Steph and Cade in technical customer service roles, ensure that ANP can continue to build on our service offering and offer value to producers and distribution partners.

On a personal note, as the year ended, many of you may have noticed that I have been a little less conspicuous in the company than previously. I haven't retired, rather ceded some key aspects of the job to very competent and ambitious staff members, particularly Rob, Jon, Micheal, Steph and Cade. No fear, I shall be hovering in the background for some time to come and I am always available on the end of a phone.

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank all of our customers for your business and support, and don't forget that we are here to serve your needs.

Best regards,

Paul Meggison

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# YEAR IN REVIEW - 2024

Yet again, another year with seasonal fortunes clearly divided between the north (northern and central western NSW) and the south (southern NSW and Victoria), albeit opposite to last year.

This year, southern areas of the East Coast saw a lack of significant autumn, winter and, for the most part, spring rainfall, which had a large impact on livestock activities. Although a stronger, more stable market than 2023, prices were generally driven by quality, with well-presented livestock receiving buyer support at the expense of a less attractive article.

In southern regions, the year started off well; however, a sudden change of fortunes in late summer trapped many producers with too many animals and not enough feed. This compounded in winter, with shorter days and cooler temperatures resulting in a lack of significant pasture growth until spring. A combination of supplement feeding activities and higher cost of production forced many producers to decide between selling weaners into a depressed feeder market or supplement feed and growing out to meet an uncertain trade market.

Although similar market forces were present in the northern regions of NSW, timely rainfall and greater feed availability eased trading pressure to enable many producers to present well-finished sheep and cattle at a lower cost.

The stark contrast in seasons geographically enabled AusFarm Nutrition Products (ANP) to support producers with service, advice and the use of a wide range of products. In sheep, conception rates, lambing percentages and weaning numbers were up, assisted by ANP's flag-ship brand StockMins-EweLamLac. Similarly, crop and green feed grazing activities were assisted by supplementing lambs with StockMins-Crop Grazer Plus, which, in a rapidly decreasing lamb market, proved to be extremely valuable to producers who experienced elevated live weight gains and were able to turn off lambs sooner than expected. Like a phoenix from the ashes, drier conditions saw a resurgence of StockMins-HiPro, which was previously relegated to the bench due to the swag of green feed available over the past four summers.

Similarly, in cattle, StockGro-HiPro was in high demand to assist supplement feeding activities and maximise dry feed utilisation. However, the lack of autumn and winter rainfall saw lower demand for magnesium supplementation or bloat control, as cases of grass tetany and bloat were somewhat subdued.

Despite this, in its second year since inception, ANP's BoviMag: Granular High Magnesium Green Feed Supplement for Cattle, experienced success, enabling ANP to deliver high-quality solutions for grass tetany to a greater geographical footprint than ever before.

The launch of BoviBloat Plus: Granular Green Feed Supplement for Cattle in the spring of 2024 was also a great success, allowing us to support producers in northern NSW and southern Queensland experiencing an unusually late bloat season. On the back of great feedback from producers, we are extremely excited about this product as another tool to assist in managing bloat.

Finally, great feedback from our dairy clients on a two-year trial of FlyBye and the development of the Bovi range has given us a combination of innovations to help producers reduce fly pressure in cattle through mineral, vitamin and trace element supplementation.

2024 was a big year for launching innovation, a trend we are committed to continuing. Consistent with ANP's mission to help livestock farmers produce their best animals every year, ANP is committed to continually investing in R&D and striving to remain at the forefront of ruminant nutrition innovation in Australia.



# DRY SEASON FEEDING TIPS FOR 2025

As producers turn their attentions towards maintaining breeding livestock on stubbles and dry feed, it is important to keep in mind that the cheapest feed is standing in your paddocks, and making the best use of the standing feed available is the most efficient way to maintain livestock.

Despite the cost-price squeeze, don't lose sight of the goal of getting breeding livestock into the right condition for joining, calving or lambing, or finishing terminal livestock to meet market specifications. For breeding livestock, maintaining condition over the dry period is more efficient and economic than losing condition and having to put it back on later. This can be supported with ANP's range of dry feed supplements for a fraction of the cost of buying in fodder.

Similarly, terminal livestock benefit by moving forward over the dry period, even slightly, with the hope of boosting growth after an autumn break. If buying in fodder to elevate production, allocate it to growing producing livestock. Where the immediate cash flow lies, and get the most out of the feed with protein, minerals, vitamins and trace element supplements.

The price of hay and silage is quite high for this time of the year, and despite the price, the quality varies greatly. If hay is cheap, it may be too good to be true.

## GET IT TESTED!

**When buying fodder in significant quantities, always get a feed test and purchase on a dry matter \$/energy and protein basis.**

**The four main sections of the feed test to observe are:**

### **Dry Matter %**

Buying water is expensive in more ways than one!

With hay, high moisture may suggest that the hay has not been cured appropriately and is correlated with moulding and in some cases hay fires, which we have already seen this season. The general rule of thumb for hay is to have a minimum dry matter of 88%, even higher for cereal hays. Well-sealed silage is a safe option, but consideration must be given to its water content. Moisture should be considered both in purchasing and ration formulation (more on this later).

### **Crude Protein%**

You want a hay with the highest level of protein you can find at a reasonable price. As a guide, 11 to 14% CP is an acceptable level for silage, whereas hays should be no less than 9% to offer real value.

### **Energy (MJME/kg DM)**

A hay with around 10MJME/kg DM is a good. If purchasing silage, value can be found in forage testing higher than this.

### **NDF%**

This includes the digestibility of the feed and determines how much of it the animal can eat. The lower the NDF (fibre content), the more digestible and the more feed can be eaten. An NDF of around 55% is quite good for a pasture hay, where as a lucerne hay would average in the low 40's.

Of course, legume, brassica and specialist fodders can fall outside these recommendations. To help forage buyers and sellers to evaluate fodder, we have constructed the following fodder value grid on a dry as fed basis, delivered on farm.

*Please see Fodder Pricing Guideline Summer 2024/45 over the page*



**AusFarm Nutrition Products**

**Fodder Pricing Guideline Summer 24/25**

Energy (MJME/kg DM)		% Crude Protein (CP DM)																			
		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
3	\$ 61	\$ 77	\$ 94	\$ 110	\$ 126	\$ 143	\$ 159	\$ 175	\$ 192	\$ 208	\$ 224	\$ 241	\$ 257	\$ 274	\$ 290	\$ 306	\$ 323	\$ 339	\$ 355		
4	\$ 70	\$ 87	\$ 103	\$ 119	\$ 136	\$ 152	\$ 168	\$ 185	\$ 201	\$ 218	\$ 234	\$ 250	\$ 267	\$ 283	\$ 299	\$ 316	\$ 332	\$ 348	\$ 365		
5	\$ 80	\$ 96	\$ 112	\$ 129	\$ 145	\$ 161	\$ 178	\$ 194	\$ 211	\$ 227	\$ 243	\$ 260	\$ 276	\$ 292	\$ 309	\$ 325	\$ 341	\$ 358	\$ 374		
6	\$ 89	\$ 105	\$ 122	\$ 138	\$ 154	\$ 171	\$ 187	\$ 204	\$ 220	\$ 236	\$ 253	\$ 269	\$ 285	\$ 302	\$ 318	\$ 334	\$ 351	\$ 367	\$ 384		
7	\$ 98	\$ 115	\$ 131	\$ 147	\$ 164	\$ 180	\$ 197	\$ 213	\$ 229	\$ 246	\$ 262	\$ 278	\$ 295	\$ 311	\$ 327	\$ 344	\$ 360	\$ 377	\$ 393		
8	\$ 108	\$ 124	\$ 140	\$ 157	\$ 173	\$ 190	\$ 206	\$ 222	\$ 239	\$ 255	\$ 271	\$ 288	\$ 304	\$ 320	\$ 337	\$ 353	\$ 370	\$ 386	\$ 402		
9	\$ 117	\$ 133	\$ 150	\$ 166	\$ 183	\$ 199	\$ 215	\$ 232	\$ 248	\$ 264	\$ 281	\$ 297	\$ 313	\$ 330	\$ 346	\$ 363	\$ 379	\$ 395	\$ 412		
10	\$ 126	\$ 143	\$ 159	\$ 176	\$ 192	\$ 208	\$ 225	\$ 241	\$ 257	\$ 274	\$ 290	\$ 306	\$ 323	\$ 339	\$ 356	\$ 372	\$ 388	\$ 405	\$ 421		
11	\$ 136	\$ 152	\$ 169	\$ 185	\$ 201	\$ 218	\$ 234	\$ 250	\$ 267	\$ 283	\$ 299	\$ 316	\$ 332	\$ 349	\$ 365	\$ 381	\$ 398	\$ 414	\$ 430		
12	\$ 145	\$ 162	\$ 178	\$ 194	\$ 211	\$ 227	\$ 243	\$ 260	\$ 276	\$ 293	\$ 309	\$ 325	\$ 342	\$ 358	\$ 374	\$ 391	\$ 407	\$ 423	\$ 440		
13	\$ 155	\$ 171	\$ 187	\$ 204	\$ 220	\$ 236	\$ 253	\$ 269	\$ 286	\$ 302	\$ 318	\$ 335	\$ 351	\$ 367	\$ 384	\$ 400	\$ 416	\$ 433	\$ 449		

- Good quality to assist growing and maintaining livestock
- Protein supplementation will be required for performance
- Energy supplementation will be required for performance
- Energy and protein supplementation will be required for performance

\*Fodder Pricing Guideline Summer 24/25 is a tool designed to assist producers in fodder trading decisions based on nutritional value. All prices are based on a delivered on farm basis using barley (11% CP, 13 MJME/kg DM, \$300/tonne) as the marker.  
 ^When trading silage it is important to consider the moisture content and make decisions based on an air dry as fed basis.

# AUSFARM COMPANY NEWS

## WE EXPAND OUR TEAM WITH TWO NEW FACES

The growing demand for our products and services has spurred ANP to grow our team. As a growing business based on technical sales and customer service, we are always looking to add the right people to our team and continue to build our value to customers.

Through an extensive search and rigorous selection process, we are proud to add two new quality additions to our technical sales team.

### STEPH SAYERS: TECHNICAL SALES MANAGER

Steph Sayers has joined our team in the role of Technical Sales Manager, where she will be working with our clients, customers and distribution partners in boosting production and profitability through nutrition, investigating metabolic diseases, building valuable relationships and communicating technical nutritional information.

Steph brings a wealth of experience in animal health, including roles with Charles Sturt University as a Technical Officer and more recently over two years with AGnVET Services as a Branch Manager (Ganmain) and a member of the Animal Production Advisory Team.

Steph has been with ANP for six months, so many of you would have had the pleasure of meeting her already. Steph is from a mixed enterprise farm in Coolamon and will be initially responsible for southern NSW.

### CADE LETTE: TRAINEE NUTRITIONIST/TECHNICAL SUPPORT OFFICER

Cade Lette has joined the team in the role of Trainee Nutritionist/Technical Support Officer. Cade will be working with Paul and our external consultants on diet formulations, research and development and managing product trials.

Cade joined us in November as a graduate from Charles Sturt University. Cade is from Merino country where he grew up on his family farm in Cooma and comes highly recommended from industry representatives.

Cade will already be well known to our dairy customers and will be working predominantly behind the scenes making sure we are sharing the most up-to-date technical information and technology with our customers.

## MICHEAL SAVLI MOVES ONTO OTHER PASTURES

It is with a heavy heart that we say goodbye to Micheal Savli, but some times you have to let free birds fly.

After almost six years of great service, mateship and exceptional value offered to ANP and our customers, Micheal has decided to move onto other pastures as he takes the next step in becoming the nutritional powerhouse we expect him to become. In a career move that will see Micheal continue to build knowledge in feeding systems, diet formulation and silage production, he will be joining Lallemand in a technical sales role.

Micheal departs ANP with all our best wishes and appreciation for his hard work and dedication. Without Micheal's contribution over the past six year ANP would not be in the position it is today.

This is not the last you see of Micheal, as his knowledge, personality and willingness to have a crack will, without doubt, see him excel in a nutritional consulting role in the future.



## AUSFARM COMPANY NEWS

### ➤➤➤ LOOKOUT! SNAKES ARE ABOUT!

Now that summer is very much upon us, there are likely to be snakes on the move. In the middle of a dry paddock on a hot day a big blue tub would look quite comfy for a snake to have a camp. Have a decent look for snakes under and around tubs before moving them.

When moving tubs tip them towards yourself first, giving any creatures living underneath a clear path to escape with you out of harms way.



### ➤➤➤ MORE ON TUBS

While we are talking about tubs...

This is a call out to all producers who have borrowed some of our big blue tubs. If you are not currently using the tubs could we please have them back to clean and redistribute to those customers who will be chasing our liquid feed supplements. If you have tubs on hand, please contact one of our staff, and we can arrange a time to come by and pick them up or return them to us or your distributor.

We also ask that if you are picking up product from us, please reuse your IBC's (1,000 L Shuttles). Bring them in empty and we will replace them with the full one ordered. We would like to keep IBC's in circulation as much as possible and avoid unnecessary waste. When stored on-farm please keep them out of the sun to avoid damage to the product and IBC.



# CATTLE NEWS

## SUCCESSFUL TRIALS WITH NEW BOVIPRO FLYBYE

### »»» KEY POINTS

- Flies play a major role in spreading pinkeye throughout the herd
- One of the ingredients in FlyBye has data supporting a 47% reduction in fly cover on cattle
- Following three seasons of product use in dairy rations, ANP dairy clients have reported exceptional results from using FlyBye in their summer rations

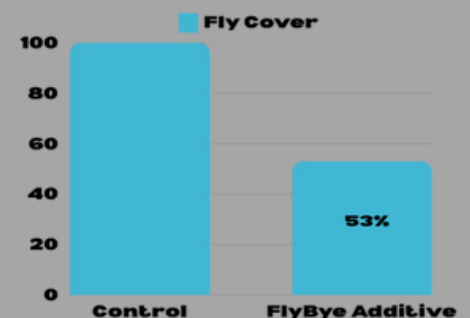
On the back of late spring and early summer storms, fly pressure has noticeably increased and will likely set in for the rest of summer. At the same time, increasing reports of resistance have resulted in shorter protection periods for chemical control.

Pinkeye outbreaks tend to flare-up over the warmer months, as grass seeds, dust and flies play their part in aggravating and spreading the disease. Flies are attracted to the infected eyes, feeding on the secretions before moving from animal to animal spreading the disease. As a result, cattle producers may need to pull out all the tricks in their bag to break the chain and manage nuisance flies this summer.

Ongoing research and trials over the past four years culminated in the creation of FlyBye, a specifically formulated combination of several organic and inorganic ingredients, that when ingested, circulate within the blood and, on excretion from the skin, have been shown to repel flies in cattle. A study involving one of the individual components of FlyBye saw a reduction of pest-fly coverage on beef cattle by 47% and a reduction of observed defensive behaviours by cattle of 41%.

Similarly, reports from early use of some of the ingredients within FlyBye in northern Australian cattle have been encouraging, with anecdotal evidence suggesting that fly and tick pressure has decreased since adopting the technology.

### SUPPORTING DATA



A recent study of beef cattle reported that dietary supplementation with effective quantities of one of the ingredients in FlyBye resulted in a 47% decrease in fly cover.

Durumna & Lardner, 2021



At a local level, for the past three years FlyBye has been included in many for AusFarm Nutrition Products' dairy client's diets during the warmer months, with all reporting noticeable decreases in fly cover on cattle and defensive behaviours by cattle before and during milking.

The release of AusFarm Nutrition Products' Bovi range of loose-lick supplements for cattle has been quite timely, as it has proven to be an effective carrier for FlyBye by delivering the recommended dose on a consistent basis to deliver results.

FlyBye has been successfully trialed and is currently available as **BoviPro FlyBye: Dry Feed Supplement for Cattle** and **BoviFlyBye: General Purpose Supplement for Cattle**. These supplements are designed for dry feed supplementation and green feed supplementation, respectively. Both supplements are available to order from your local farm retail store now. Custom mixes containing the FlyBye package can be considered on request.



# CATTLE NEWS

## COST EFFECTIVE DRY SEASON FEEDING

### KEY POINTS

- The most cost effective (efficient) feed is what is growing in your paddock when used well
- For a cost of around \$2.70/hd/week dry feed + StockGro-HiPro can provide maintenance for dry cows
- Continue to monitor livestock and pastures and make the right decisions early to avoid taking tough decisions later

Before buying expensive hay, we recommend assessing the quality and quantity of your standing feed. Can you better utilise this feed for the growth and maintenance of different classes of cattle? Similarly, if you must buy in feed for maintenance of dry cows, is there a cheaper alternative that can do the same job?

As the dry period persists, it's valuable to assess your feeding options, and the costs associated with each activity. Do you have enough feed, supplementary or standing feed, to feed your animals for a month? Three months? Six months? Or a year or more?

It goes without saying that the most cost-effective feed in any season is home-grown feed, with efficiency gained in the matching of feed value with the class of livestock. AusFarm Nutrition Products (ANP) have run the numbers in a cattle operation, and at current prices, feeding cereal hay to growing cattle can be up to 10 times more expensive than effectively utilising dry pasture by supplementing with StockGro-HiPro. Similarly in dry cows, maintenance feeding with hay is up to 7 times more expensive than supplementing with StockGro-HiPro while grazing stubbles, and almost double the cost of feeding StockGro-HiPro and buying in barley straw.

Dr Meggison has been comparing the cost of providing production and maintenance to cattle during the dry season on his property Rock View near Maxwell, just south of Wagga Wagga. The table below is a comparison of the costs associated with adopting four different dry season feeding options to satisfy low level growth and maintenance.

**Cost Comparison of Different Dry Season Feeding Options**

Liveweight (kg)	Expected Production (kg/hd/wk)	Cereal Hay <sup>#</sup> (\$/hd/wk)	Dry Pasture <sup>*</sup> + StockGro-HiPro (\$/hd/wk)	Stubbles <sup>^</sup> + StockGro-HiPro (\$/hd/wk)	Straw <sup>#</sup> + StockGro-HiPro (\$/hd/wk)
250 kg weaner	1.4 kg	\$12.95	\$1.20	Maintenance only	Maintenance only
300 kg weaner	2.1 kg	\$15.55	\$1.50	Maintenance only	Maintenance only
350 kg weaner	2.8 kg	\$18.15	\$2.10	Maintenance only	Maintenance only
400 kg weaner	3.5 kg	\$20.70	\$2.40	Maintenance only	Maintenance only
450 kg cow	Maintenance	\$16.75	\$2.40	\$2.40	\$9.40
500 kg cow	Maintenance	\$18.15	\$2.70	\$2.70	\$10.40
550 kg cow	Maintenance	\$19.75	\$2.70	\$2.70	\$10.80

<sup>\*</sup>Dry ryegrass pasture given a cost of \$0. <sup>^</sup>Stubbles given a cost of \$0. <sup>#</sup>Straw of moderate quality (\$110/tonne delivered) and cereal hay of moderate quality (\$285/tonne delivered) costs as per Hay Prices, The Land, December 12, 2024.

For dry cows looking to maintain condition through the dry period, the greatest efficiency is achieved by grazing home-grown stubbles and supplementing with StockGro-HiPro for a cost of 38c/hd/day or \$2.70/week. Monitor feed availability and plan for alternatives if feed becomes limited.

For lactating cows, stubbles or low value pasture is also recommended when supplemented with StockGro-HiPro. Cows should be in good condition (Body Condition Score 3.5+) since, due to the increased milk production they will likely lose weight as the calves grow. It is recommended to use hay or silage to help maintenance or control weight loss. When controlled, weight loss is not a bad thing, especially for spring calvers in association with early weaning.

Where the quantity of home-grown forage is limited, maintenance in dry cows and improved performance of lactating cows can be achieved efficiently by feeding good quality straw (barley straw) or moderate quality hay and supplementing it with StockGro-HiPro, or BoviPro.

According to the Hay Prices indicator reported in The Land on December 12th, 2024, mid-quality barley straw can be bought for \$110/tonne delivered on-farm.

An improved pasture, like ryegrass, in its early dry stage, where there are plenty of leaves still on the plants, can be most efficiently utilised by grazing with your high producing animals (steers, heifers and lactating or late pregnant cows) when supplemented with StockGro-HiPro.

A word of caution – the value of standing dry feed significantly declines when leaves drop from the plant or when rained on. It is important to monitor dry feed and re-assess its production capacity while grazing and following rain events. Furthermore, on the back of a few high-producing seasons, ANP is expecting the quality of dry pasture to be lower than usual.

One way to judge the quality of your standing pasture is to place a bale of barley or oat straw in the paddock. If they ignore it, the pasture is higher quality than the straw and is good to support lactating animals. However, when they eat an average of 2kg/hd/day of the straw, it will tell you that the pasture is unsuitable for lactating cows.



To make best use of dry pasture for production purposes, supplement with StockGro-HiPro or BoviPro early and make the most of the pasture before it's reduced to dry stalks and stems, or its quality diminishes following rain.

Feeding hay is the least efficient option assessed and really should only be offered to producing cattle when quality and/or quantity of dry pasture is lacking. For a producer feeding hay to growing cattle, the measure of efficiency comes back to production goals and where individuals think the market is going to be come sale time.



ANP's liquid StockGro-HiPro supplement is designed to correct protein, energy and mineral deficiencies and maximise the health and performance of cattle on mature dry feed and stubbles. StockGro-HiPro achieves this by supplying several sources of rumen degradable protein in the form of urea and ammonium salts (non-protein nitrogen) and a range of essential minerals, vitamins and trace elements delivered on a little and often basis. Furthermore, the growth in rumen micro-flora elevates fibre digestion, thus allowing for greater feed conversion efficiency of stubbles and dry feeds.

# CATTLE NEWS

## CONSIDERATIONS FOR WEANING THIS SEASON

### ➤➤➤ KEY POINTS

- Weaner growth and development is arguably the most important point of weaning
- The condition of the cow is the best indicator for when it is time to weaning
- It is more efficient to wean and feed weaners and cows separately than together
- Effective weaning can boost the productive capacity of weaners throughout their lives

Milk is a highly nutrient-dense substance and requires a significant amount of quality feed to be consumed by the cow to produce enough of it to satisfy the demands of a growing calf. During lactation, it is common for cows to lose condition, as they partition almost all their consumed nutrition towards milk production.

Despite having a calf weaning weight benchmark in mind, the condition of the cow will be the best indicator of when to wean. If cows have been “milking off their backs” for an extended period, early weaning should be considered to get the calves off and get cows back into condition for the next joining cycle.

As dry seasonal conditions bite and the quality and quantity of feed declines, the most efficient production may be generated from early weaning, as opposed to supplementary feeding of cows with the current hay costs.

Irrespective of when you decide to wean, continuing the rapid growth of calves during the weaning process is of the utmost importance, as this period can determine the body composition and productive capacity of weaners throughout their lives. Feed conversion in calves, on good quality feed, is also relatively efficient.

### Key Considerations for a Successful & Stress Free Yard Weaning

- **Imprint feed the calves at least three times prior to weaning to introduce them to a new feed**
- **Creep feeding a pellet or grain mix is good practice – talk to Paul for suggested diet specs and formulations**
- **Wean animals in appropriate conditions. Pick a mild day when it's not raining and the maximum temperature is less than 30 degrees (can be difficult during hot summers. If unavoidable, wean early in the morning to minimise heat stress)**
- **Group animals into weight classes if possible**
- **Provide access to clean fresh water and a diet of ad lib high quality hay or silage, some straw for extra roughage and an increasing diet of a simple grain mix or pellets**
- **Ensure that essential mineral, vitamin and trace element requirements are being met, specifically calcium, sodium, vitamin A, vitamin E and trace elements. These need to be supplemented as the calves are no longer receiving adequate levels when no longer drinking milk. StockGro-EziWean is a great supplement for filling this void during weaning**

**StockGro-EziWean: Weaning Supplement for Cattle** is an effective liquid feed supplement, specifically designed to satisfy mineral, vitamin and trace element requirements, reduce cow and calf stress and support rumen development, allowing weaners to retain weight and transition onto new diets quickly.

# SHEEP NEWS

## MAINTAINING LAMB GROWTH RATES ON SUMMER PASTURES

### KEY POINTS

- The nutritional value of winter grasses declines as it matures
- Supplementation of lush lucerne with grain can significantly boost live weight gain
- Feeding a palatable hay (cereal hay) on lucerne can help reduce the risk of 'Red-gut'

The recent storms have seen pasture growth kick into action in the more temperate areas, but would likely have seen the value of standing dry feed decline as soluble minerals leach into the soil.

Optimal levels of protein and energy for rapidly growing lambs are 16% protein and 12MJ ME/kg DM of energy. This level of nutrition is common when grazing actively growing winter pastures, like Ryegrass and Phalaris, during the cooler months. However, the nutritional value of winter-dominant pasture declines as it goes to head and matures.

### Grazing Lucerne

A combination of higher than usual summer soil moisture and long sunny days has really seen lucerne stands kick to life and freshen up over the last few weeks. This is perfect timing for almost perfect summer feed. The high level of protein in lucerne makes it ideal for growing lambs, especially during summer when adequate protein sources are limited. However, lucerne, especially mature lucerne, is low in energy at around 10MJ/kg DM. Furthermore, with a crude protein level of around 28%, lucerne can be too rich in protein. In this case, the animal needs to expend energy in excreting residual protein, which can put further downward pressure on energy availability.

The energy shortfall and high protein can be corrected by offering grain (barley) at around 400g/hd/day, and when paired with StockMins-Lamb Finisher, producers have reported live weight gain in lambs at around 350g/hd/day.

A form of roughage (hay or straw) should also be provided free access when grazing lucerne to stimulate cud chewing, promote optimal rumen function and reduce the risk of 'Red-gut'. Contrary to the belief that feeding roughage on lucerne reduces production, it in fact can increase production as it slows passage rate and enables the animal to extract more nutrients from the feed which would generally run through the animal too quickly.

### Boost Liveweight Gain with StockMins-Lamb Finisher

During summer, StockMins-Lamb Finisher is the ideal green feed supplement in grain-assisted grazing situations. A balanced combination of essential minerals, vitamins, trace elements and Bovatec® assists with the development of rapidly growing lambs. Additionally, StockMins-Lamb Finisher contains long, mid and short acting acid buffers to support mid-level grain supplementation.

StockMins-Lamb Finisher is built with Bovatec® to boost live weight gain and feed conversion efficiency in sheep. In fact, numerous studies have shown Bovatec to generate up to 14% extra growth in livestock grazing green feed.<sup>1</sup>



1. Zoetis Data on File. ®Bovatec is a registered trademark of Zoetis.

# SHEEP NEWS

## REDUCE THE RISKS OF GRAZING SUMMER WEEDS IN PASTURE & STUBBLES

### ➤➤➤ KEY POINTS

- Weeds springing up in summer pastures and stubbles can be harmful to livestock
- Weeds can be the only green forage available in dry stubbles and pastures
- Common signs of toxicosis include red faces, yellow and weepy eyes and swollen head
- Toxin binders are effective at binding and neutralising the toxins in the weeds
- Immune response and tissue repair play a large role in managing toxicosis in livestock

Signs of toxicity in stock when grazing weeds in pasture and stubbles is a reoccurring issue for producers with weed control both difficult and costly. Weed control and management is an obvious step towards reducing the risks involved, as is controlling where and when stock graze weed-affected pastures. Despite this, there are many scenarios where total aversion is difficult. That is where toxin-binding agents, such as StockMins-Detox, come to the fore and prove their value to animal health.

Plant toxins are secondary metabolites that have largely evolved as defensive mechanisms to combat grazing pressure from animals. There are a vast number of different plant toxins that are of concern for ruminants when grazing weeds. Photosensitisation, jaundice, head, jaw, and eye swelling, and weight loss are all visible signs of plant toxicosis. These symptoms generally stem from a dysfunctional and damaged liver that can have long-term consequences for animal health, production, and welfare. The most encountered weeds that cause these concerns are Hairy Panic, Heliotrope, Caltrop, Paterson's curse, and Goosefoot.



**European Heliotrope**  
*Heliotropium europium*



**Hairy Panic**  
*Panicum effusum*



**Caltrop**  
*Tribulus terrestris*



**Clammy Goosefoot**  
*Dysphania pumilio*

### How StockMins-Detox works

StockMins-Detox has two broad modes of action against toxic insult DEFEND (within the animal) and DEACTIVATE (against the toxins).

### Defending against toxins

Defending against toxic insult involves boosting the animal's immunity, gut integrity, energy metabolism and repairing damaged tissue. This is achieved by supplying high levels of organic and inorganic essential trace elements (Co, I, Se, Mn, Mo, Zn) and vitamins, including high levels of vitamins E and C for their role in tissue recovery among other benefits. When the animal's mineral, vitamin and trace element levels are at their highest and internal functions are performing at their best the animal's defence against disease can be a significant factor when staving off toxic insult.

### Deactivating toxins

Deactivating toxins is a large part of the process and involves the inclusion of specially designed ingredients and antioxidants that actively work to denature and mop up free radicals when toxic material is ingested. StockMins-Detox contains a high level of broad-spectrum toxin deactivators, clays and other specifically targeted binding agents to do this job. The combination of these ingredients actively helps to deactivate both mycotoxins and endotoxins in the gut before they can damage the gastrointestinal tract. Therefore, helping to sustain normal nutrient absorption and prevent immune activation caused by these degenerative changes.



In combination with these toxin binders, StockMins-Detox contains added sources of inorganic sulphur and molybdenum. Sulphur is added for its role in the detoxification of prussic acid in vivo to form thiocyanate, which can then be excreted in the urine. Molybdenum is present to 'mop up' excess dietary copper that could otherwise lead to chronic or acute copper poisoning in animals consuming large amounts of toxic alkaloids (hepatotoxins). Damage from the ingestion of hepatotoxins can cause the liver to alter its normal function thereby accumulating high levels of copper. Under conditions of stress, stored copper can be abruptly released into the blood, often resulting in mortality.

**StockMins-Detox** is the first product of its kind available for livestock grazing weeds in pasture and can reduce the effects of toxins in three distinct ways:

- Protecting against the absorption of a variety of harmful toxins in weeds
- Stimulates and supports normal liver function
- Assists with tissue recovery and repair

# SHEEP NEWS

## MAKE THE BEST USE OF STUBBLES THIS SUMMER

### »»» KEY POINTS

- Spilt grain in recently harvested stubbles is a great resource for boosting growth in sheep
- A paddock grain assessment is vital in managing the grain load and risk of acidosis
- For growing lambs, the inclusion of a protein source (lupins) can assist growth
- StockMins-Stubble Starter is a buffered high protein supplement designed to assist grain consumption during dry feed grazing

Grazing stubbles is another great example of the synergies between crop and livestock production. Stubbles, when grazed effectively, can assist in the growth and maintenance of livestock during summer, when feed availability and quality are generally limited. In return, grazing livestock help to physically break down stubbles to assist with future sowing activities.

Another useful by-product of the winter grain harvest is spilt grain within stubbles. As sheep are very efficient at digesting whole grain, they can make the best use of recently harvested cereal crops cleaning up spilt grain.

Spilt grain in stubbles is ideal for generating moderate growth in dry ewes, wethers and lambs, especially during the dry period when quality feed can be in short supply. Like most grain feeding programs there are risks involved. Care should be taken when introducing animals to grain, the amount of grain in the paddock should be assessed prior to induction and piles of grain should be spread out to avoid over consumption. To lower the risk of acidosis and support production, ANP advise pairing freshly harvested stubbles with a buffer and a supplementary protein source (lupins or beans).

### Benefits of Stubbles to Dry Stock

- Low worm pressure
- Keep wool clean from burrs and debris
- Low irritation of eyes compared to straw or hay feeding
- Spilt grain can help increase liveweight gain
- Stubbles and StockMins-Stubble Starter can fulfil maintenance

**StockMins-Stubble Starter** is a buffered, high protein, mineral supplement that is specifically designed to be fed to sheep for the first 14 days of grazing new stubbles when spilt grain may be present. StockMins-Stubble Starter is fortified with several effective long, mid and short acting buffers to assist in balancing rumen pH in sheep consuming high grain diets.

The inclusion of protein in the form of urea boosts the value of stubble grazing by assisting in fibre digestion and energy utilisation. In fact, it is commonly known that low level protein supplementation with a rumen degradable source of protein, can increase the utilisation of dry feed by up to 30%.

After spilt grain has been cleaned up in stubble paddocks, StockMins-HiPro is the ideal supplement to boost protein and assist with efficient dry feed digestion and utilisation. StockMins-HiPro also provides RDI levels of essential minerals, vitamins and trace elements to improve energy utilisation, immunity, fertility and all-round animal health. As mentioned above, stubble supplemented with StockMins-HiPro can fulfil the maintenance requirements of dry ewes and help get them in top condition for joining.

# SHEEP NEWS

## MANAGE LAMENESS BEFORE JOINING FOR BETTER LAMBING RESULTS

### »»» KEY POINTS

- Are your rams in condition to perform flat out for 5 weeks?
- Performing ram checks 12 weeks prior to joining is ideal for ram preparation
- Lameness can significantly impact ewe and ram fertility and ability to perform
- Effective mineral, vitamin and trace element supplementation from six weeks prior to joining can boost fertility

Despite the current poor marketing conditions for lambs, recent indicators and commentary paint a positive picture of the market in the new year. As some northern producers take a “wait and see” approach to joining activities, mild seasonal conditions have gifted southern producers with the potential to join ewes in good condition. When harvest is out of the way and with joining just around the corner, ewes will be on the mind of every sheep producer as they look to lay the foundations for another successful lambing season in 2024. But what are they doing with their rams?

Rams are a crucial part of any sheep breeding system. Rams account for 50% of the breeding equation, and because there are less rams than ewes (at around 3% of total ewes), each ram must perform at least 33 times to achieve breeding success. Therefore, having one or more underperforming rams can have a devastating effect on scanning rates.

The ideal joining period is no longer than 6 weeks. This means that for best results, rams need to be in peak condition and fully functional from day one to day 42.

To ensure rams are in peak condition to perform at their best for 42 days, ANP recommends performing an initial ram assessment on the ram team 12 weeks prior to joining. The reason for 12 weeks is so rams that are out of breeding specification, ill or injured have time to heal, get into breeding condition or be replaced well before day one of joining.

### Ram Assessment Checklist

- **Teeth:** Check for broken teeth that may affect feeding behaviour.
- **Toes:** Hooves should not be tender and tail tissue should be firm. Foot pair and treat for infections prior to joining
- **Testes:** Visually examine and squeeze each teste. They should be around the size of a coke can and feel firm yet springy, like a flexed bicep
- **Tackle:** Visually examine the penis for infection or damage (only check visually and contact a vet if an infection is suspected)
- **Body:** Work towards a target body condition score of 3.5. Supplement feed if required. Also, check for flystrike or other infections and treat accordingly

Although 2024 has seen some reprieve from hoof issues, hoof infection and lameness can be detrimental to joining in several ways. Most noticeably, lameness can seriously hinder mobility reducing grazing time and the capability to feed selectively. Furthermore, a ram and ewe’s inclination and capacity to serve and be served is greatly diminished. On top of this, a combination of the activation of the immune system, to help fight infection, and increased stress can significantly disrupt fertility.



Summer is the perfect time to control hoof infections, as a combination of warmer and drier conditions can assist with getting livestock off their feet, giving hooves the opportunity to dry out. Supporting hoof pairing with mineral supplementation and foot bathing has been shown to deliver the best results, especially when performed during the drier months.

Feeding affected or at-risk livestock a mineral supplement fortified with Biotin, organic and inorganic zinc and iodine can provide both short and long-term hoof health benefits. In StockMins-Hoof n Horn, elevated levels of organic and inorganic zinc and therapeutic levels of iodine and vitamin E can help fight infection, repair damaged tissue and strengthen the hoof in the short-term, while Biotin promotes healthy hoof growth and structure that may assist hoof integrity in time for the wetter months.

These active ingredients in combination with phosphorus and the other essential minerals, vitamins and trace elements within StockMins-Hoof n Horn also support fertility, making StockMins-Hoof n Horn the perfect supplement to assist joining preparations this summer.



## **THANK YOU & ALL THE BEST FOR 2025**

Thank you for reading our summer newsletter. If you are interested in finding out more about any of the articles or would like assistance in managing the nutrition of your livestock, please call one of the ANP team.

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