

PASTURE DRIVE THRU

14TH JANUARY 2021

Theme of the day: Summer Grazing
Location: Warradarge & North Badgingarra

Total Farms Visited: Three
Total Attendees: 20

Farm 1 & 2: Characteristics

- Recap of the 2021 Perennial Pasture Field Walk
- Paddocks were managed to reduce bare ground exposure and prevent grasshopper damage
- Standard perennial paddocks oversown with a readily available cereal

Key Discussion Points

- The relationship between damaging grasshoppers and perennial grasses.
- The experience differs between farms, soil types and age of perennials.
- Using a cover crop or sacrificial crop during high intensity grasshopper times to protect other species.

Farm 3: Characteristics

- Dark brown sand that was sown to Tедера as part of a DPIRD trial (not associated with WMG)
- Rotationally grazed with sheep
- Single species
- No noticeable grasshopper damage

Key Discussion Points

- Grazing potential of alternative perennial species
- How to match soil type to perennial
 - Most of the region is a sandy soil, which is suited to Panic and Rhodes
- The regeneration of perennials after an intense grazing event - regrowth management.

Questions from the event - what is next?

- How do we protect perennials from pest species, before too much damage is done?
- How can we incorporate multiple perennial species together in a farming system?

