

PERENNIALS AND LIVESTOCK TOUR

30TH NOVEMBER 2022

Theme of the day: Alternate Grazing
Options to Annuals
Location: North Badgingarra & Hill River

Farm 1: Characteristics

- Backgrounding operation - livestock numbers can fluctuate
- White sandy soils with high soil erosion risk
- Perennial grass based pastures - Gatton Panic & Rhodes grass form the base of these pastures
- Ongoing program to sow ~200ha of perennials each year

Total Farms Visited: Two
Total Attendees: 30 (?)
Event Sponsor: NACC

Key Discussion Points

- Newly established perennials paddocks are locked up for at least 10 months post sowing before the first graze.
- Understand and manage non-wetting soils
- Work with established serradella seed banks when sowing perennials to enjoy a year round green feed.

Farm 2: Characteristics

- Backgrounding operation - used to educate Northern Cattle on southern conditions
- ~5000 ha property, predominantly tag & annuals
- Runs ~4000 head of cattle between the 360 - 420 kg weight range
- Cattle are primarily fed on pastures and hay.
- ~800 ha of Tagasaste

Key Discussion Points

- Best Practise Management for Tagasaste Stands
- Expensive tag trim occurs every 3 - 5 years.
- Tagasaste increases the farms ability to be drought tolerate.
- Northern cattle enjoy grazing at height - makes Tag a great option
- Calves could put on up to 1kg per day on Tagasaste

Questions from the event - what is next?

- How could we incorporate Tagasaste and Perennials together?
- Could this be an amelioration, establish Tag and then establish the perennials?

