Grounds for Growth 2025

Perennial Pastures in Variable Climate

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What is being left on the pasture plate?

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Performance Gap in East Gippsland

8 dse/ha

Merino Sheep

16 dse/ha

High Performing Weaners & Prime Lamb

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Victorian Livestock Farm Monitor

Farm No	Gross Farm Income	Net farm income	Return on Assets	Return on Equity
	$/ha	$/ha	%	%
G1017	541	97	0.70%	0.70%
G1019	714	228	2.00%	1.80%
G1021	1339	930	9.00%	9.10%
G1023	691	80	1.40%	4.90%
G1024	1732	416	2.10%	2.10%
G1025	704	-1076	-2.20%	-5.90%
G1027	3370	1600	8.20%	11.90%
G1028	1064	529	3.80%	3.80%
G1029	1674	503	2.40%	2.40%
G1030	754	-57	0.20%	-0.60%
G1031	972	279	2.90%	3.00%
G1032	1359	-226	-1.00%	-1.00%
G1033	1073	196	0.80%	0.80%
G1034	1777	-831	-1.40%	-8.20%
G1035	2067	94	2.00%	1.10%
G553	1371	573	4.40%	4.20%
G555	1207	462	3.80%	4.50%
G638	1992	873	2.80%	2.80%
G653	811	265	1.90%	1.90%
G663	2160	758	3.60%	3.60%
G667	742	-208	-0.70%	-0.70%
G698	2352	527	1.80%	1.80%
G701	1697	563	3.10%	3.20%
G755	1904	841	3.10%	3.20%
Low	541	-1076	-2.20%	-5.90%
High	3370	1600	8.20%	11.90%
Difference	**2829**	**2676**	**10.40%**	**17.80%**
Average	1419	309	2.30%	2.10%

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Establishing Perennial Pastures in a Variable Climate 2020 - 2025

Determine the most persistent and productive perennial pastures for Gippsland, by investigating species, establishment methods, groundcover potential, species persistence and the impacts of soil moisture levels.

- 5 years
- 1 Trial at the Gippsland Research Farm
- 6 Demonstration Farms

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Gippsland Research Farm Trial

Trial Design

Block A	Block B
Knock Down Spray	Knock Down Spray
Burn	Burn
Sowing	2 Month Fallow
	2nd Knock Down Spray
	Sowing
Block C	**Block D**
Knock Down Spray	Knock Down Spray
2 Annual Crops	3 Annual Crops
Summer Fallow	Summer Fallow
Sowing	Sowing

Plot No.	Seed Mix
1	Perennial ryegrass (Drylander)/Sub clover (Seaton)/White clover (Haifa)
2	Winter active fescue (Fiecha)/Sub clover (Riverina)/Sub clover (Coolamon)
3	Summer active fescue (Fortune)/Phalaris (Holdfast)/Sub clover (Monti)/Sub clover (Campeda)/Cocksfoot (Safin)
4	Phalaris/Cocksfoot/Plantain/Chicory/White clover/Sub clover
5	Lucerne/Sub clover/White clover in the first year; Chicory/Plantain/Winter active fescue/Perennial ryegrass in the second year
6	Phalaris (Holdfast)/Oats (Express)/Chicory (Commander)/Sub clover (Campeda)/Sub clover (Monti)
	Brome (Bareno/Arrowleaf clover/Tillage radish/Plantain/Forage brassica

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Comparison of Four Satellite Farms

Figure 1: Total harvested kg DM/ha per year

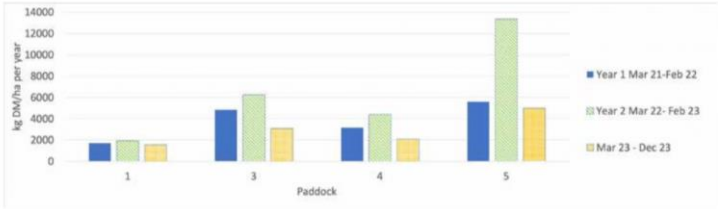


Figure 2: Average DSE/ha year on year

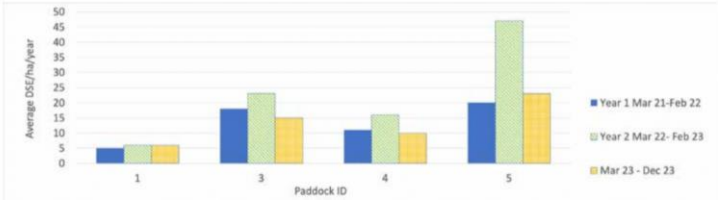


Table 4: Stocking rate increase

Farm	Base stocking rate DSE/ha	Stocking rate DSE/ha of new perennial paddock	% Increase
1	4	6	140%
3	17	18	106%
4	12	12	100%
5	17	29	171%

Figure 3: Mean pasture protein % for each paddock since establishment

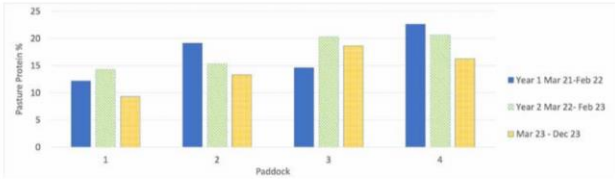


Figure 4: Mean pasture energy value MJ ME/kg DM for each paddock since establishment

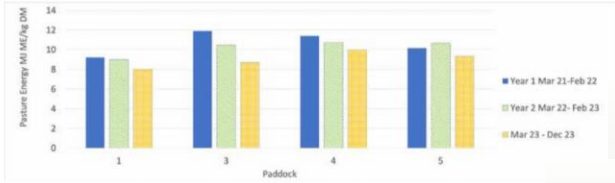


Figure 5: Cost per tonne of feed consumed using 2024 costings

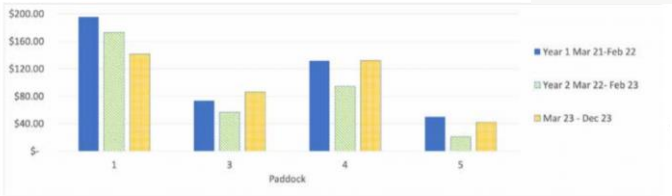
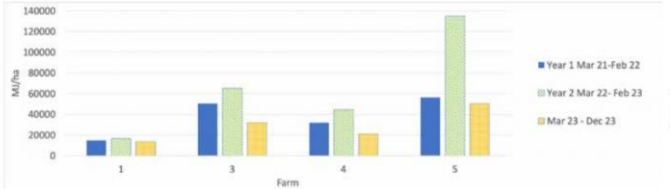


Figure 6: MJ ME harvested per ha per year



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Perennials VS Annual Pastures

Table 1: Summary of costs and production for annual and perennial pasture comparision. Gippsland Research Farm May 2022–May 2024.

	Establishment and maintenance cost	kg of DM/ha	Cost/tonne of DM	Protein (%)	MJ of energy per kg of DM	Cost C/MJ energy
Perennials Year 1	$267.48	9,244	$28.94	13.63	9.48	$0.003
Perennials Year 2	$267.48	3,268	$81.85	16.3	10.35	$0.008
2 Annual Crops Year 1	$1,185.96	13,596	$87.23	16.47	11.77	$0.017
2 Annual Crops Year 2	$907.75	10,741	$84.51	21.3	11.1	$0.016

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What is now on the plate?

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