

Cam Nicholson

Making the decision to transition (or not)
to multispecies pastures

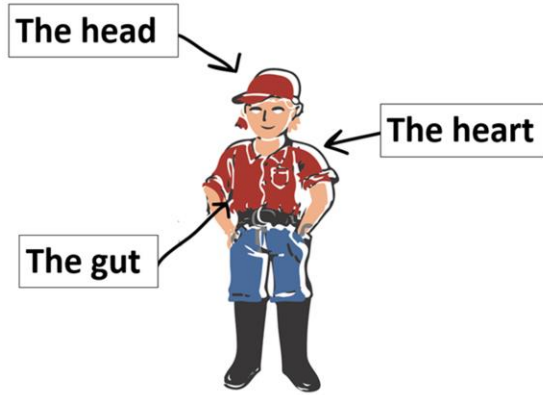


**Just because we make decisions
all the time doesn't mean we are
good at making them!**

*When were you taught to make a good
decision?*

(The same way you were taught to read, write and do arithmetic)

Thinking through a good decision



Critical factors



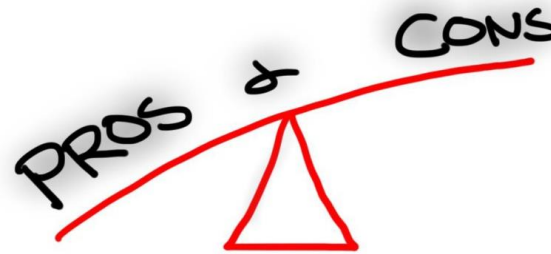
Critical factors have "tipping points"



Well above average

Average

Well below average



Make decisions 'on balance'





The 8 step decision matrix

Step 1: Define the decision.

Decision: Should I sow multispecies pasture?

Step 2 (optional): Define when the decision needs to be made.

Step 3: List the major considerations (critical factors) that should influence the decision.



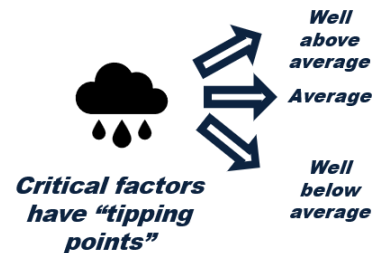
***Critical
factors***



***Critical
factors***

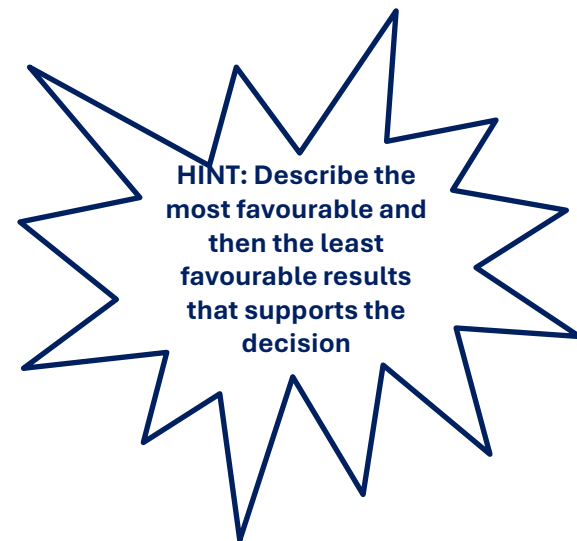
Critical factors
Persistence compared to current feedbase
Pasture growth pattern
Opportunity to manipulate the growth pattern
Cost of 'transition'
Managing pasture quality
Opportunity to make silage

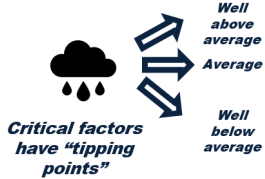
Step 4: For each major consideration ask:



at what point would I think differently about my response?
(tipping points)

Critical factors	Consideration (tipping points)
Persistence compared to current feedbase	Will improve feedbase persistence (less resowing)
	No significant change
	Will decrease feedbase persistence (more resowing)





Critical factors	Consideration (tipping points)
Persistence compared to current feedbase	Will improve feedbase persistence (less resowing)
	No significant change
	Will decrease feedbase persistence (more resowing)
Pasture growth pattern	Will be positive to our pasture growth at critical times
	Will be positive to our pasture growth but at non critical times
	No significant change
	Will detract from our current pasture growth pattern
Opportunity to manipulate the growth pattern	High, have the tools and confidence to do so
	Unsure of the likely responses (e.g. to N, Gibb acid etc)
Cost of 'transition'	Costs similar to current resowing program
	Costs greater but can be managed
	Costs significant
Managing pasture quality	Have the skill, confidence and capacity to manage quality issues
	Unsure about managing quality issues
Opportunity to make silage	High, will make good silage
	Low, will have quality issues

Step 5: Assign values to each description

Not all critical factors are of equal importance

HINT: Assign all least favourable descriptions zeros

Critical factors	Consideration (tipping points)	Values
Persistence compared to current feedbase	Will improve feedbase persistence (less resowing)	
	No significant change	
	Will decrease feedbase persistence (more resowing)	0
Pasture growth pattern	Will be positive to our pasture growth at critical times	
	Will be positive to our pasture growth but at non critical times	
	No significant change	
	Will detract from our current pasture growth pattern	0
Opportunity to manipulate the growth pattern	High, have the tools and confidence to do so	
	Unsure of the likely responses (e.g. to N, Gibb acid etc)	0
Cost of 'transition'	Costs similar to current resowing program	
	Costs greater but can be managed	
	Costs significant	0
Managing pasture quality	Have the skill, confidence and capacity to manage quality issues	
	Unsure about managing quality issues	0
Opportunity to make silage	High, will make good silage	
	Low, will have quality issues	0

Step 5: Assign values to each description

Not all critical factors are of equal importance

HINT: Assign values to the most favourable descriptions relative to each other (rank first)

Critical factors	Consideration (tipping points)	Values
Persistence compared to current feedbase	Will improve feedbase persistence (less resowing)	12
	No significant change	
	Will decrease feedbase persistence (more resowing)	0
Pasture growth pattern	Will be positive to our pasture growth at critical times	12
	Will be positive to our pasture growth but at non critical times	
	No significant change	5
	Will detract from our current pasture growth pattern	0
Opportunity to manipulate the growth pattern	High, have the tools and confidence to do so	8
	Unsure of the likely responses (e.g. to N, Gibb acid etc)	
Cost of 'transition'	Costs similar to current resowing program	6
	Costs greater but can be managed	
	Costs significant	0
Managing pasture quality	Have the skill, confidence and capacity to manage quality issues	6
	Unsure about managing quality issues	0
Opportunity to make silage	High, will make good silage	4
	Low, will have quality issues	0

Step 5: Assign values to each description



Critical factors	Consideration (tipping points)	Values
Persistence compared to current feedbase	Will improve feedbase persistence (less resowing)	12
	No significant change	6
	Will decrease feedbase persistence (more resowing)	0
Pasture growth pattern	Will be positive to our pasture growth at critical times	12
	Will be positive to our pasture growth but at non critical times	10
	No significant change	5
	Will detract from our current pasture growth pattern	0
Opportunity to manipulate the growth pattern	High, have the tools and confidence to do so	8
	Unsure of the likely responses (e.g. to N, Gibb acid etc)	0
Cost of 'transition'	Costs similar to current resowing program	6
	Costs greater but can be managed	4
	Costs significant	0
Managing pasture quality	Have the skill, confidence and capacity to manage quality issues	6
	Unsure about managing quality issues	0
Opportunity to make silage	High, will make good silage	4
	Low, will have quality issues	0

Step 6: Determine the possible decisions



Decision: Should I sow multispecies pasture?

Read all best
descriptions – what
would you do?

Will improve feedbase persistence (less resowing)

Will be positive to our pasture growth at critical times

Have the tools and confidence to manipulate the
growth pattern

Transition costs are similar to current resowing
program

Have the skill, confidence and capacity to manage
quality issues

Species will make good silage

Step 6: Determine the possible decisions



Decision: Should I sow multispecies pasture?

Repeat for all the worst
descriptions

Decision
Yes sow multi species pasture
No , don't sow

Step 7: Assign an interim 'on balance' value



Add up all the maximum values for the critical factors (48)

Multiply the maximum value by 0.7



'On balance' value is =33.6 (48 x 0.7)

Step 7: Assign an interim 'on balance' value



Decision: Should I sow a multi species pasture		
Critical factors	Consideration (tipping points)	Values
Persistence compared to current feedbase	Will improve feedbase persistence (less resowing)	12
	No significant change	6
	Will decrease feedbase persistence (more resowing)	0
Pasture growth pattern	Will be positive to our pasture growth at critical times	12
	Will be positive to our pasture growth but at non critical times	10
	No significant change	5
	Will detract from our current pasture growth pattern	0
Opportunity to manipulate the growth pattern	High, have the tools and confidence to do so	8
	Unsure of the likely responses (e.g. to N, Gibb acid etc)	0
Cost of 'transition'	Costs similar to current resowing program	6
	Costs greater but can be managed	4
	Costs significant	0
Managing pasture quality	Have the skill, confidence and capacity to manage quality issues	6
	Unsure about managing quality issues	0
Opportunity to make silage	High, will make good silage	4
	Low, will have quality issues	0
Maximum value		48

Decision	Value
Yes sow multi species pasture	Greater than 33
No, don't sow	33 or less

Step 8: Scenario testing

Critical factors	Consideration (tipping points)	Values	Score
Persistence compared to current feedbase	Will improve feedbase persistence (less resowing)	12	12
	No significant change	6	
	Will decrease feedbase persistence (more resowing)	0	
Pasture growth pattern	Will be positive to our pasture growth at critical times	12	10
	Will be positive to our pasture growth but at non critical times	10	
	No significant change	5	
	Will detract from our current pasture growth pattern	0	
Opportunity to manipulate the growth pattern	High, have the tools and confidence to do so	8	0
	Unsure of the likely responses (e.g. to N, Gibb acid etc)	0	
Cost of 'transition'	Costs similar to current resowing program	6	4
	Costs greater but can be managed	4	
	Costs significant	0	
Managing pasture quality	Have the skill, confidence and capacity to manage quality issues	6	6
	Unsure about managing quality issues	0	
Opportunity to make silage	High, will make good silage	4	4
	Low, will have quality issues	0	
Maximum value		48	36

Decision	Value
Yes sow multi species pasture	Greater than 33
No, don't sow	33 or less

What I like about the decision matrix

- *It slows down your thinking*
- *It makes it transparent for others to contribute / follow*
- *Narrows down what information you want and the skills you need*



Dashboard

Dashboard / Decision and Timing / Considerations / Conditions / Relative values / Decision Table / Decision Scores / Scenario Testing

If You haven't defined any decisions yet appears, then no decisions have been saved.

Clicking on Define a decision starts the process.

Define a decision

These are your previous decision matrices. Click on the appropriate decision to reload the matrix. Once loaded the decision matrix can be printed, exported or modified. If adjustments are made make sure you save the changes. If you wish to save the original as well as a changed version, then the new version needs to have a slight difference in the decision description. This could be as easy as a (2) after the decision description.

A person is crouching in a field of dry grass under a cloudy sky. A video player overlay is centered on the image, featuring a blue header bar, a white body with the title text, and a brown footer bar. A play button icon is positioned over the text.

Building a decision matrix