

Dryland Legumes Workshop

*Farmer experiences with increasing
Legume*

Chris Dawkins, The Pyramid, Waihopai Valley.

Arrowleaf Clover



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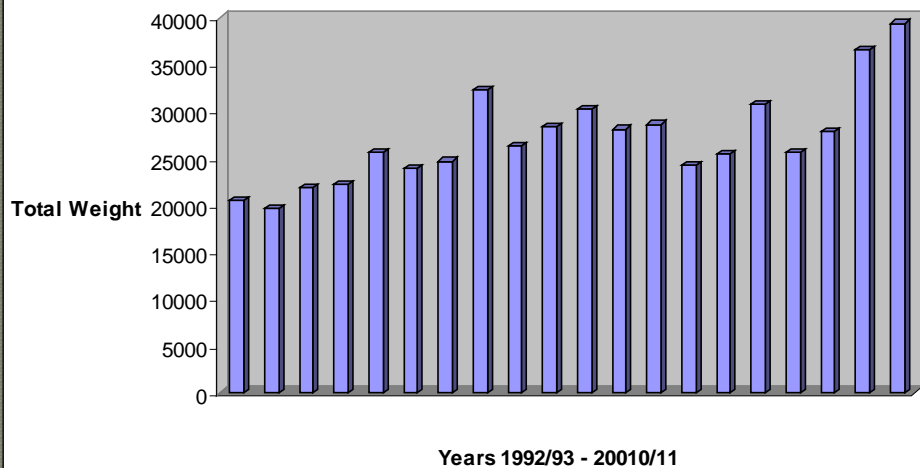
The Pyramid

- 445 ha, summer dry
- Built up the soil fertility levels to dairy farm levels, but need to increase production
- Need a high quality late spring/early summer legume to meet the specifications of a lamb supply contract.

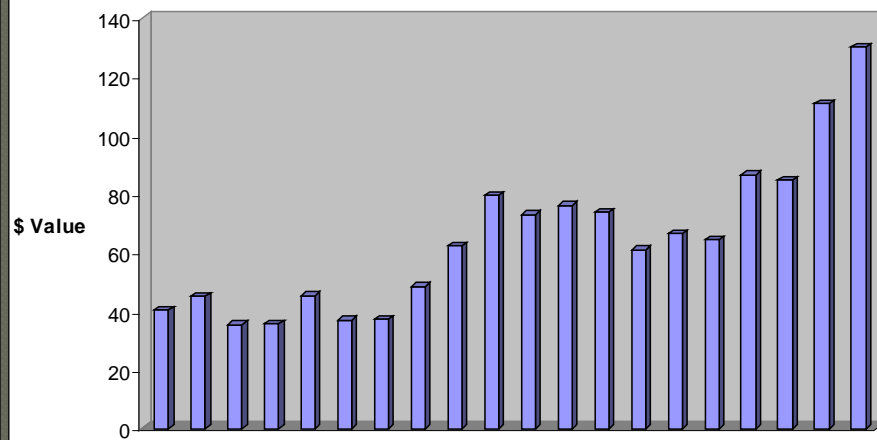


Total lamb carcasse weight & \$\$ per head for Pyramid lambs

Lamb Performance



Lamb Performance

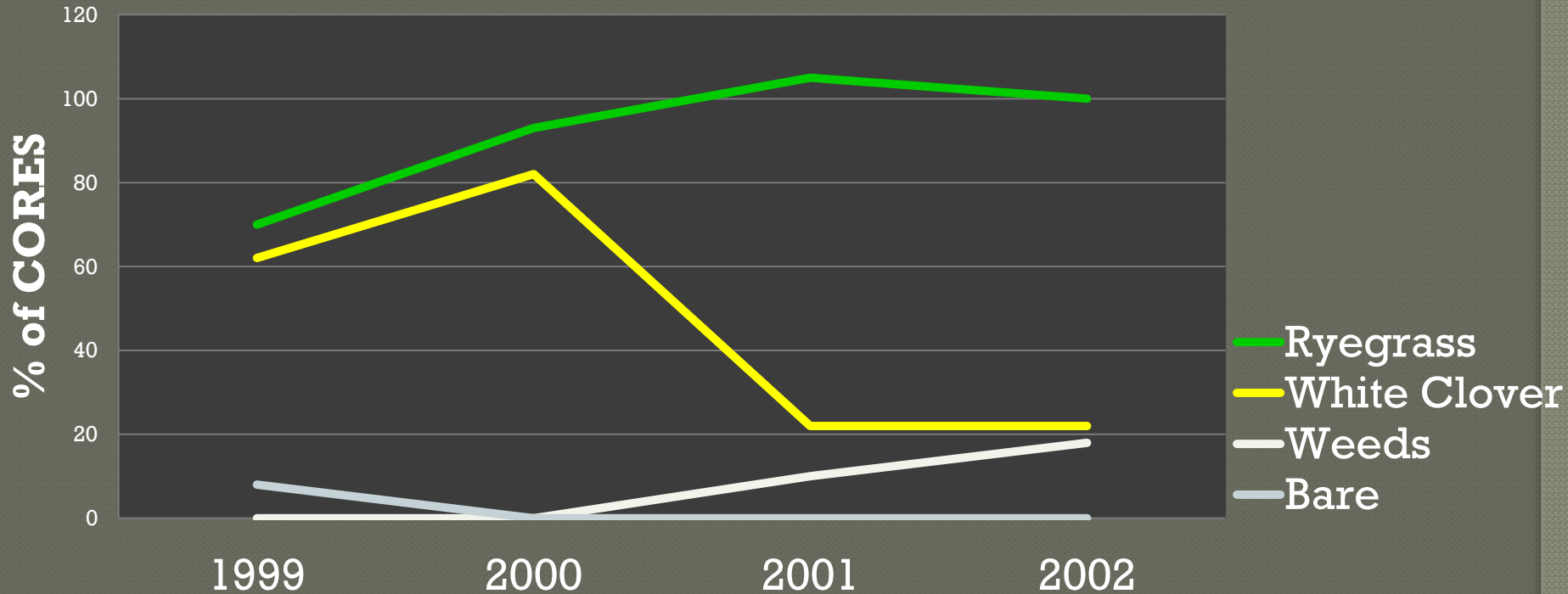


Pasture Persistence Programme

- Carried out by AgResearch with funding from M&WENZ
- What are the limiting factors to drought tolerant pasture plants?
- *Found that management was the limiting factor, not necessarily climate or species or soil fertility.*



Pasture Persistence monitoring results



Why not use a better performing annual legume other than white clover?

Arrowleaf clover (*Trifolium vesiculosum*)

- **Plant:** temperate annual legume. Thick hollow stems reaching one metre in height.
- **Leaves:** Trifoliate, with leaflets up to 6 cm long & 3 cm wide, pointed at the tip.



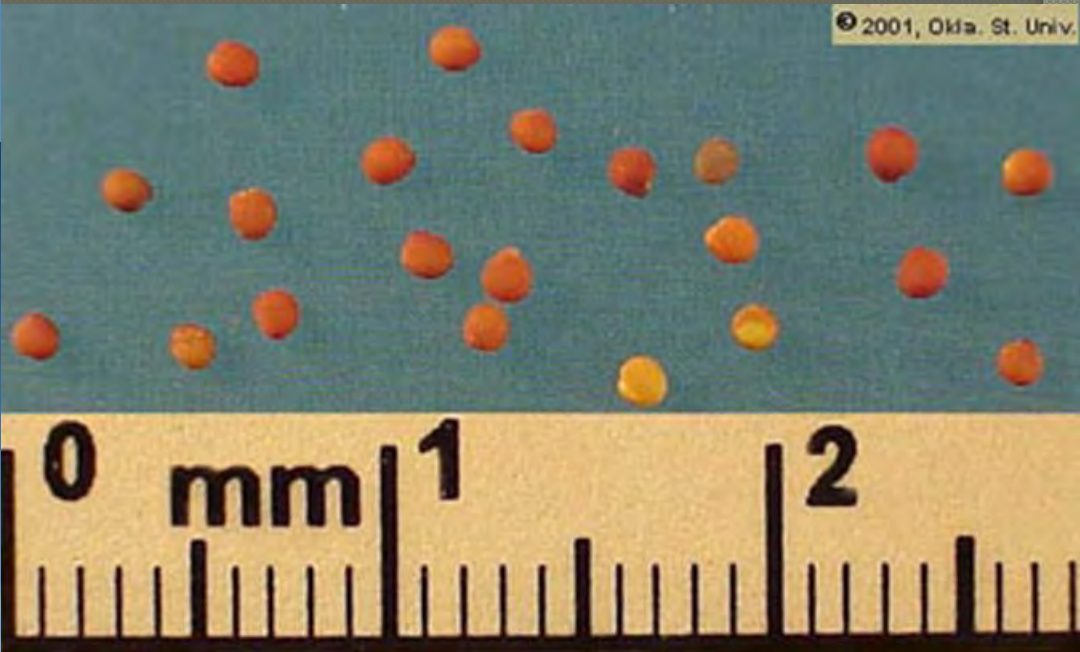
Flowers and Seeds



Photo: Keith Pollock
Lincoln University



Photo: Keith Pollock
Lincoln University



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March 2009

Field day at the Pyramid standing in paddock of Arrowleaf.



Same paddock...
Cut for hay in 2012

How is Arrowleaf used?

- Use to bridge a gap between sub clover peak (late Nov) and the lucerne (used when the Arrowleaf runs out).
- Wean lambs onto the Arrowleaf.
- Starts flowering early December (only allow Arrowleaf to reseed 1 year in 5).



Trials and Tribulations – lessons to be learnt.

- Wet Feet
- Scotch and Winged thistles
- Sensitivity to herbicides
- Management plan





Photo: Annamaria Mills
Lincoln University



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Photo: Annamaria Mills
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