

Dryland Legumes Workshop

*Farmer experiences with increasing
Legume*

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Lucerne at Jedburgh

- Jedburgh legume development



Farm overview

- 800 ha total ha
- 150 ha flat to rolling
- 120 ha workable with duals on tractor
- 36 ha in lucerne now 15 ha to drill this spring
- 34ha of the workable hills direct drilled in sub clover



Why lucerne?

- 2008 spring sub clover
- 60% of twin lambs off mums after 82 days @ 18.5 kg
- 2009 boom bust cycle
- Lamb all twin ewes on lucerne
- To increase weaning weights of ewes and lambs.
- Lengthen our growing season



Start of lucerne

First 4 paddocks

- 3 out of interval rape
- 1 out of Omaka Barley

- 1 into Torlesse,
- 1 into Icon,
- 1 Super Sonic
- 1 Super Sonic + grazing brome, direct drilled
and
- 1 deep ripped cultivated and drilled



Disaster

- ⦿ Soil condition too wet
- ⦿ Coated seed
- ⦿ Drilled too deep
- ⦿ Cut worm



The Fix

- Cutworm sprayed Lorsban
- Super sonic in Omaka barley
- Torlesse & Icon, set seed and redrill
- Grazing brome, plantain over sown
- Lucerne driving me mad



Starting to look profitable

- 10 twin ewes/ha
- Ewes rotated around 3 paddocks cut into 6
- First ewes into lucerne + brome mix
- Also ewes set stocked onto sub clover 7/ha
- 3 extra ewes/ha @135% lambing = 4 extra lambs @ \$120 / lamb=\$480



Results

- First draft 29/11
- Not worth drafting sub clover lambs until 9 days after lucerne lambs
- Lambing started 15th August
- Used 25th August as lambing date
- \$8.14 difference
- Ewes were in better condition
- Weaning 9 days earlier



Results from lambing

	Lucerne (29 Nov)	Sub clover (8 Dec)
No. Lambs	150	84
Days to Finish	97	106
Draft Live Weight (kg/head)	37.6	36.1
Carcass Wt (kg/head)	18.5	17.7
Yield	49.2	49
Average growth rate (g/head/d)	388	340
\$	145.2	137.1

Opportunities

- Lambs gone early

What now?

- Fresian weaner bull calves
- 104 bought in Jan
- Rotation around 29 ha of lucerne until march with lambs
- bloat



Bulls

- Bulls arrive 100 kg
now 264 kg
- 164 kg @ \$2.70/kg
\$442
- 173 days, 964 gms/day
- Bulls wouldn't normally be on.



Drilling again

- January drilling
- Bare seed ALOSCA
- Good strike
- Weeds & compaction
- Mallow, Preside, March



What now?

- Winter spraying for weeds
- Mainly annuals
- Knapsack spray horehound, mallow
- Permanent 4 wire electric fencing
- Water
- Fertiliser spring
- Prepare next paddocks going into lucerne & rape



Conclusions

- We need 55 ha for all twins on lucerne
- Lucerne gives opportunities
- Bugs and weeds sprays
- Expensive to set up
- The rewards are there.

