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
- l out of Omaka Barley

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



Disaster

- Soil condition too wet
- Coated seed
- Orilled 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

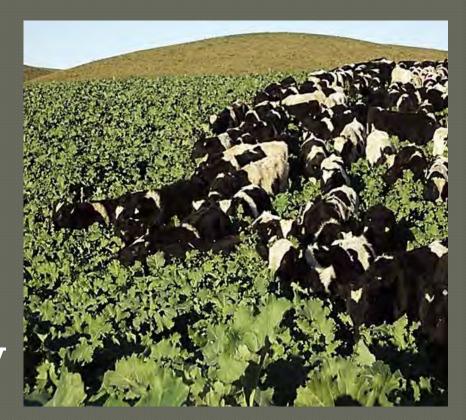
What now?

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



Bulls

- Bulls arrive 100 kgnow 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.

