



Program Overview

Pasture management is the fundamental skill that determines the financial performance of pasture based grazing systems. Managers that exhibit a high degree of pasture management skill are far more profitable than those with less developed skills.

The aim of Pasture Principles is to provide farmers with a set of guiding principles that will allow them to manage confidently regardless of the season, situation or system. The program was developed by Basil Doonan B. Ag. Ec., Dip. Appl. Sc. (Hons), Principal Consultant at Macquarie Franklin, in conjunction with valuable input from a range of experienced individuals.

Program Content

The key areas covered in the program are:

1. An understanding of the relationship between plant requirements, leaf emergence rates and pasture growth
2. Plant morphology and the relationship with pasture quality, pasture quantity and plant persistence
3. Measuring and predicting pasture growth
4. Allocation of pasture on a dry matter basis
5. Variations in pasture quality throughout the season
6. The relationship between stocking rate and pasture utilisation
7. Animal requirements for maintenance, growth, pregnancy and lactation
8. Feed budgeting
9. Feed planning
10. Marginal cost and marginal revenue decisions associated with feeding livestock

Program Delivery

The program is offered in a group training environment. Delivery consists of two days of workshops which cover the theory of grazing, understanding the language and key principles.

Following the workshop, participants engage in a 12-month program consisting of six on-farm coaching sessions that puts the theory into practice and develops the key skills associated with pasture management. The coaching sessions are aimed at both skill development and the implementation of grazing strategies and management on participants' farms. They provide an opportunity for participants to discuss issues with each other and the experienced Macquarie Franklin coach, and develop workable solutions.

