

Beef Calendar of Operations

South East NSW, 3rd Edition



Year:

Beef Calendar of Operations

Version 3, published June 2020.

This calendar has been produced as a result of South East Local Land Services customers and our Farmers Network members desire to learn and implement management practices which will improve the efficiency of their beef operations. While each farm will operate differently, the calendar is designed to help remind land managers and assist them with forward planning of activities which may occur during specific months, breeding and management cycles.

Authors

Andrew Britton, Small Landholder Engagement Officer, South East Local Land Services
Helen Smith, Agricultural Advisor, South East Local Land Services
Matthew Lieschke, Senior Agricultural Advisor (Livestock) South East Local Land Services
Dr Henry Clutterbuck, District Veterinarian, South East Local Land Services
Hayden Kingston, Land Services Officer (Projects), South East Local Land Services

Acknowledgements

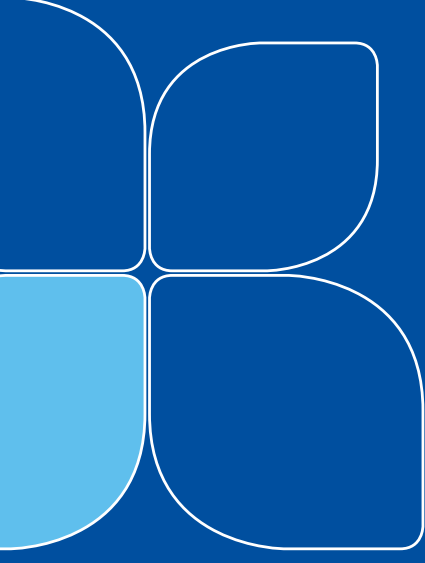
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Disclaimer

The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (June 2020). However because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that the information upon which they rely is up to date and to check the currency of the information with the appropriate officer at their nearest Local Land Services office or the users independent adviser.



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RAINFALL CHART AND MONTHLY SUMMARY	CENTRE SPREAD

LOCAL CONTACTS

SOUTH EAST LOCAL LAND SERVICES

www.southeast.ils.nsw.gov.au



Local Land Services

Local Land Services was established under the Local Land

Services Act 2013 to provide quality, customer-focused services to landholders and the community across New South Wales.

Our Region: South East Local Land Services (LLS) covers 55,600 square kilometres of south-east NSW—from Stanwell Park in the north to the Victorian border in the south and westward from Boorowa in the north to Thredbo in the south. The area covers 698 kilometres of coastline or 40% of the NSW coast. The South East LLS region has a diverse climate ranging from alpine environment to coastal areas through to grazing pastures at places such as Boorowa. Annual regional rainfall averages 730 mm and is highest in the Snowy Mountains at over 2,000 mm. Annual totals are also high on the south coast and hinterland (nearly 900 mm), but lower on the western slopes (over 600 mm).

We connect people with groups, information, support and funding to improve agricultural productivity and better manage our natural resources. Our experienced staff can answer

questions on issues including:

- agricultural production
- biosecurity
- natural resource management
- help during emergencies.

We can support you with information and resources to:

- improve your agricultural productivity
- control declared pests and meet your legal obligations
- manage and improve our natural resources.

Projects, Programs and Funding: Local Land Services delivers a wide variety of projects and programs focussed on managing feral and invasive species; improving long term viability and agricultural sustainability; protecting threatened and endangered fauna and flora communities; and the engagement of small landholders in better land management.

Local Land Services administer a variety of funding opportunities to assist farmers, landholders, Landcare, Aboriginal community groups and other partners to assist and promote the adoption of sustainable land management practices.

For more information contact your Local Land Services Office or call 1300 795 299 from Monday to Friday during business hours.



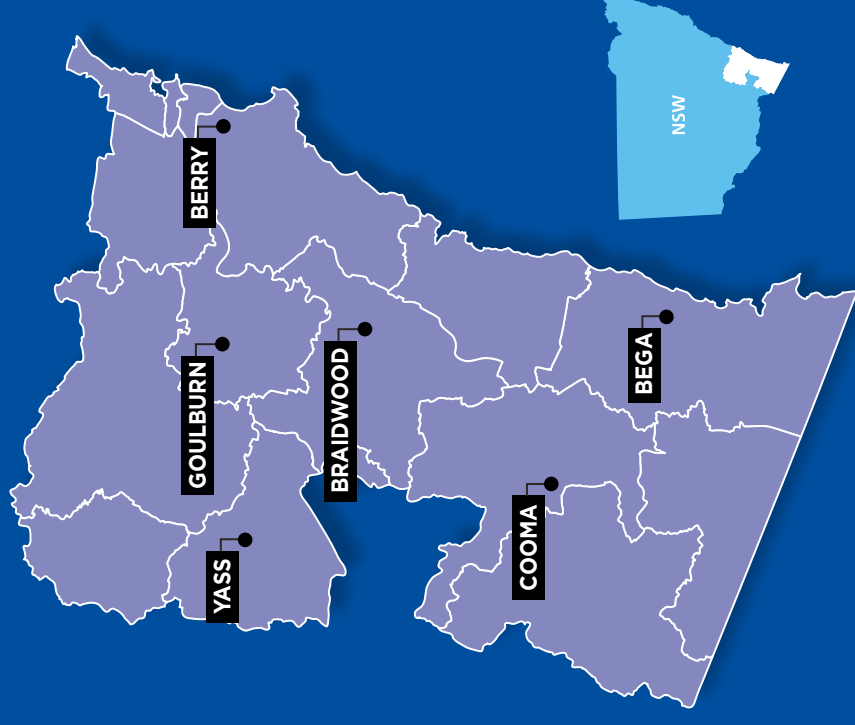
Australian Government



National Landcare Program

SOUTH EAST LOCAL LAND SERVICES ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE LOCATIONS:

BERRY	YASS
02 4464 6000	02 6118 7700
BEGA	COOMA
02 6491 7800	02 6455 7200
GOULBURN	BRAIDWOOD
02 4824 1900	02 4842 2594



www.southeast.ils.nsw.gov.au

HOW TO USE THIS CALENDAR

Information provided in this Beef Calendar of Operations has been sourced from the NSW DPI training program, PROFarm, including workshops such as PROGRAZE™ and LANDSCAN™. It should be mounted in a prominent place to remind you of the recommended procedures to be carried out in a beef enterprise each month. These recommendations are based on “typical” monthly activities of a coastal beef system:

- a late winter/ early spring calving herd,
- industry-average, British breed (e.g. Angus, Hereford),
- kikuyu and ryegrass pastures.

The resulting calf progeny can be sold once they have been weaned off their mothers, or grown to heavier weights. There are many different climates and land holdings in the South East region, so this “typical” system may not fit for you. Use this calendar as a check-list or guide, not a prescription or recipe. Consult with your nearest Local Land Services office, private vet and/or commercial advisor for specific advice on management activities and to refine a program for your herd and farm goals.

Pasture

It is important to identify the species that are growing in your pastures. This calendar is based

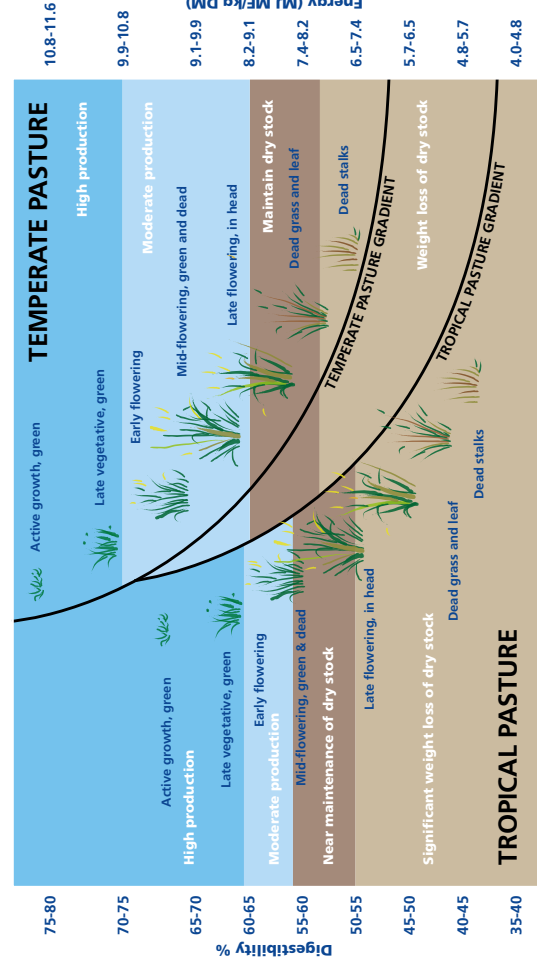


Figure 1 is adapted from Prograze, Profitable Sustainable Grazing Manual, NSW Department of Primary Industries, 8th Edition 2011

on “tropical” kikuyu and “temperate” annual ryegrass. Pasture species can be grouped into a number of categories:

- tropical (summer-growing) or temperate (winter-growing)
- annual or perennial,
- native and introduced,
- grasses or legumes (clovers and other plants that can fix nitrogen in soils), and
- broad-leaf plants (some are “weeds”, but may be grazed at times).

Pasture plants of different species and varieties vary greatly in their response to grazing. Knowledge of how individual pasture plants

respond to grazing is essential for pasture performance and persistence. It’s also important to learn about where and what time of year different species grow, and how to manage for a diverse, productive and sustainable pasture. This will include managing soil fertility, controlling weeds and maintaining ground cover to prevent soil erosion.

Numerous characteristics of the pasture influence pasture intake and performance by livestock. Of these factors, pasture quantity and quality are the most important. Gaining skills in estimating pasture quality and quantity is key to improved grazing management and decision making.

Livestock

Nutrient requirements of livestock are most cost effectively met through pasture. When pasture quantity or quality benchmarks are not met, supplementary feeding will be required (i.e. offering hay, silage, pellets, grain etc in addition to the pasture) to prevent weight loss.

Weight loss may occur:

- when grazing pasture of poor quality (low digestibility) or not enough quantity,
- seasonally, eg. "the winter feed gap", or
- driven by climatic conditions, such as drought.

Weight loss and poor body condition can become a welfare issue. Also beware of your animals becoming overfat, as this can also cause health issues (sometimes weight loss is inevitable and even desirable). Ensure you have the appropriate skills to plan, manage and take action to maintain good animal welfare.

Figure 2 shows how energy requirements vary for a breeding cow. Energy requirements increase dramatically during the last 3-4 weeks of pregnancy and continue to climb until the cow hits peak lactation, which occurs around

8 weeks after calving. This sudden change in energy requirement can cause rapid weight loss, particularly if nutritional requirements (via pasture and/or a suitable supplement) are not met.

In most environments throughout Southern Australia late winter/ spring calving means that pasture supply is more closely aligned with livestock feed requirements, thereby reducing the need for supplementary feeding and the overall cost of producing calves.



PROGRAZE™

PROGRAZE™ is a series of workshops that develops producers skills in pasture and livestock assessment, their interactions and management. Workshops are coordinated by the Agricultural Team for Local Land Services across the southeast region.

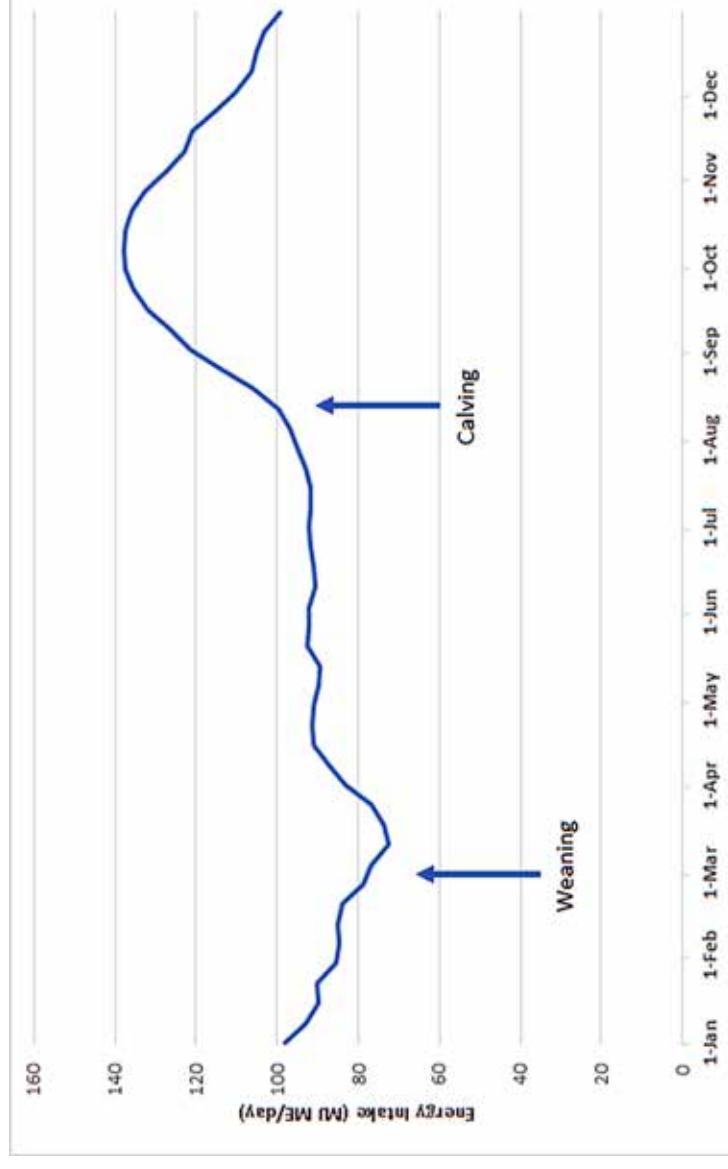


Figure 2: Energy intake of 550kg British Breed Cow (mid August calving 1), expressed in Megajoules of Metabolisable Energy (MJ ME). Data obtained from GrassGro.

MANAGING FARM BIOSECURITY

LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION ASSURANCE (LPA) PROGRAM

The LPA program is the Australian livestock industry's on-farm assurance program covering food safety, animal welfare and biosecurity. It provides evidence of livestock history and on-farm practices when transferring livestock through the value chain. LPA is a voluntary industry program, however the majority of meat processors require livestock to be sourced from LPA-accredited properties. Producers who become LPA-accredited commit to carrying out specific on-farm practices in order to fulfil their responsibility to produce red meat that is safe, ethically produced and with due consideration of biosecurity.

FARM BIOSECURITY PLANS

A farm biosecurity plan is a practical way of showing how you are preventing the introduction of pests, disease, weeds and contaminants to your property, spreading around your property, or spreading from your property.

From 1 October 2017 all Australian red meat producers are required to have a Farm Biosecurity Plan in place and implement best-practice biosecurity practices in their on-farm management as a requirement of LPA. As a minimum, each Property Identification Code (PIC) must have a documented Farm Biosecurity Plan that addresses each of the following points:

- (a) Manage and record the introduction and movement of livestock in a way that minimises the risk of introducing and/or spreading infectious diseases
- (b) Where reasonable and practical, control people, equipment and vehicles entering the property, thus minimising the potential for property contamination and, if possible, keep a record of such movements
- (c) Prevent and control animal diseases on-farm by regularly monitoring and managing livestock.



For more information about Farm Biosecurity Plans and to download a free easy-to-follow template visit:

Integrity Systems website

www.integritysystems.com.au

Animal Health Australia's website

www.farmbiosecurity.com.au

Good record keeping underlies LPA and biosecurity practices - tools such as these templates and this calendar may be useful

BIOSECURITY AWARE

Remember if you spot anything unusual on your farm or in your community, call the Plant Pest Hotline 1800 084 881 or the Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline 1800 675 888.

Farm Biosecurity Signs are available at your Local Land Services office.

MOVING AND SELLING LIVESTOCK

Australia is a world leader in disease control and traceability of stock consigned for human consumption. To maintain this status, stock activity needs to be monitored. Some of the key information you need to be aware of include:

Property Identification Codes

In NSW, all properties that run livestock such as cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, bison, buffalo, deer, camels, equines (ie horses and donkeys) and poultry (100 or more) are required to have a property identification code (PIC) when trading or moving livestock.

A PIC is a unique eight-character code assigned by Local Land Services to properties with livestock and placed into a district register.

A PIC allows all movements of cattle, sheep and goats to sale, slaughter or any other property to be monitored and recorded on the NLS database and traced when required. Traces may be required when chemical and antibiotic residues are detected in meat or disease is detected in animals and to issue an emergency response when required.

If you have any questions about PICs or you'd

like to get one contact your Local Land Services office or call 1300 795 299.

National Livestock Identification System (NLIS)

www.nlis.com.au

The National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) is Australia's system for the identification and traceability of cattle, sheep and goats. As animals are bought, sold and moved along the supply chain, they must be tagged with an NLIS-accredited tag or device. Each movement they make to a location with a different PIC is recorded centrally on the NLIS Database by people with NLIS accounts. NLIS accounts are free to open and operate.

Using this information, NLIS is able to provide a life history of an animal's residency, and to discern which other animal's livestock may have come into contact with. NLIS is required to facilitate the traceability of animals in accordance with the National Traceability and Performance Standards.

National Vendor Declaration (NVD)

National Vendor Declarations (NVDs) are required for any movement of stock to be sold to processors, saleyards or for private sales. NVDs may also be used for movements of stock between properties with different PICs in place of a transported stock statement (ie moving stock to agistment). Order your NVDs via the Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) website (integritysystems.com.au) or by phone 1800 683 111.

Transported Stock Statements

Transported Stock Statements (TSS) are required for any movement of stock where an NVD is not required (eg transporting stock for agistment).

TSS books can be purchased from your Local Land Services office.

Animal Health Statements

Animal Health Statements (AHS) for cattle, sheep and goats are not mandatory in NSW. However they may be required for some stock movements, especially interstate or through certain saleyards. As part of showground biosecurity and the management of animal health, agricultural show societies require exhibitors to complete a declaration on the health status of animals participating in shows. Download AHS from www.farmbiosecurity.com.au

Annual Stock Returns

Local Land Services works with land managers and the community to improve primary production and healthy landscapes. Along with stock identification and traceability systems, the information on your Annual Land and Stock Return (ALSR) is invaluable in the event of an emergency disease outbreak or natural disaster. ALSR information is due at the end of August each year and can be done online at www.lls.nsw.gov.au/alsr. For more information contact your Local Land Services Office or call 1300 795 299.

JANUARY

CATTLE MANAGEMENT

Evaporation in summer months can be very high.

Cattle must have adequate good quality clean water – preferably from troughs.

Weigh steer and heifer yearlings every 6 weeks to monitor performance.

Target weight gain is 0.7-0.8 kg/hd/day over summer and autumn.

Water allowances:

- weaners (250-300 kg liveweight): up to 55 litres/day
- calved 2 year old heifers (350-400 kg liveweight): up to 70 litres/day
- calved cows (500 kg liveweight): up to 90 litres/day.

NUTRITION

In dry years assess breeder condition for early weaning requirements. If cow condition is around Fat Score 2.5 and falling, start planning to wean calves. It's important to ensure cows do not fall below Fat Score 2.0.

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HEALTH

Drench (fluke): test for fluke burden levels in consultation with your local vet or animal health advisor. If test results are high an additional drench may be required for any livestock class over 6 months of age.

Monitor for pinkeye. Treat if required.

PASTURE MANAGEMENT

Evaluate if pastures will match livestock requirements over the autumn-winter period. If you need to improve quantity and quality consider a pasture improvement program.

1. Improve temperate species composition, options may include: annual species (e.g. oats, ryegrass, brassicas forage herbs); or perennial species (e.g. ryegrass, lucerne, cocksfoot, phalaris).
2. Based on soil test results (less than 2yrs old), develop a fertiliser application plan and nutrient budget for individual paddocks.
3. Order seed, fertiliser and engage contractor.

Note: Discuss with your agriculture advisor or commercial agronomist the best time for soil testing, sowing and fertiliser applications.

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PROGRAZE™
Profitable, sustainable grazing

Pasture Targets:

Young Stock
- Kikuyu 65% dig.,
1100kgDM/ha

FEBRUARY

CATTLE MANAGEMENT

Sell 18 month feeder steers. Target weight at least 420kg, preferably 450kg. Regularly evaluate market opportunities as feed supply, financial situation or market prices change.

Pregnancy test and sell empty breeders.

Reminder: NLIS compliance is required when livestock are leaving the farm.

NUTRITION

Continue to monitor cow condition. If cow condition is around Fat Score 2.5 and falling, start planning to wean calves. It's important to ensure cows do not fall below Fat Score 2.0.

HEALTH

Monitor for three-day sickness – a viral disease of cattle that is spread by mosquitoes and biting midges.

PASTURE MANAGEMENT

Manage excess feed by making silage usually in February-March. After grazing or mulching, top-dress with nitrogen and allow 3-5 weeks growth then harvest.

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Prepare pastures for winter feed (temperate species).

Reduce the summer active pasture (kikuyu) sward by heavy grazing, forage harvesting or mulching after the previous grazing and allowing the mat to decompose. Herbicides can provide a valuable suppression method by stopping the competition (from kikuyu) to newly growing seedlings (ryegrass).

Monitor for summer active pests and weeds and develop a control plan in conjunction with advice from your local agricultural advisor, commercial agronomist or local Council weeds officer. Control plants when they are young and before flowering.

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MARCH

CATTLE MANAGEMENT

Wean calves at between 7-8 months of age depending on feed availability, condition and age of cow and target market. Methods of weaning include yard weaning, abrupt separation, gradual separation or creep weaning. Provide quality feed to weaners to ensure they continue to grow and put on weight.

Weigh steers and heifers at weaning - this will enable you to monitor their performance. For steers, the post weaning growth rate target will largely depend on live weight at weaning, marketing strategy and feed supply. With heifers, the aim is to reach critical mating weight (CMW) for joining. In British breeds this weight is usually around 330 to 360kg, but can be much higher for larger-framed, later maturing types. For heifers, work on reaching 60-65% of the average mature cow weight for their first joining.

NUTRITION

Assess body condition of breeders at weaning. Plan now to manage the winter feed gap and ensure animals are in the correct body condition for calving (Fat Score 2.5 - 3.5). Remember, it takes around 2.5 months of good feed to put on 1 Fat Score = approximately 65-75kg.

HEALTH

Drench (worms/fluke): calves at weaning.
Vaccinate (clostridial): calves with 5-in-1 at weaning. Two doses are required 4-6 weeks apart.

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Note: If early autumn break beware of bloat and manage appropriately. Don't put hungry stock onto lush, clover dominant pastures.

PASTURE MANAGEMENT

Undertake soil testing of nominated paddocks/areas.

Manage kikuyu by grazing to 2.5 cm in March-April. Keep kikuyu short through autumn to allow light penetration of clover and temperate grass seedlings.

Consider sowing temperate species for autumn/winter/spring feed. The optimal time to start sowing ryegrass into kikuyu (other summer active) pastures is when the minimum air temperature has fallen below 15°C. At this time the soil is still warm enough to get good establishment and growth of ryegrass but close enough to the onset of colder weather to restrict competition from kikuyu.

Become familiar with weed seedling such as fireweed and thistles. Control plants when they are young and before flowering for the most effective management.

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PROGRAZE™
Profitable, sustainable grazing

Pasture Targets: Dry
Cow maintenance
- Kikuyu 65% dig.,
900kgDM/ha

APRIL

CATTLE MANAGEMENT

Fat score cows and heifers and assess pasture availability in preparation for last trimester of pregnancy.

Consider introducing a supplementary feed or weight loss strategy, to achieve target Fat Score of 2.5-3.5 at the point of calving.

Weigh steer and heifer weaners every 6 weeks to monitor performance.

Target 0.7-0.8 kg/day over summer and autumn.

HEALTH

Drench (worms): heifer's only, adult stock will acquire immunity.

Drench (fluke): bulls, cows and heifers. Use an effective drench against all life stages of fluke including immatures. If liver fluke are a problem drench when host snails become dormant due to cold weather.

PASTURE MANAGEMENT

Apply lime or gypsum if required as per soil test results.

Manage kikuyu by grazing or mulching

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to 2.5 cm in March-April keep short through autumn-winter to allow light penetration for clover and ryegrass seedlings.

Inspect and monitor germinating pastures regularly for signs of pest damage e.g. red-legged earth mite, blue oat mite, slugs, snails, curl grub (as they feed on the cotyledon) while cockchafers or scarab beetles feed on plant roots.

Control temperate broadleaf weeds i.e. fireweed, thistles.

PEST MANAGEMENT

Consider joining your local Feral Fighter program to control invasive species such as wild dogs and foxes. Contact your Local Land Services office.

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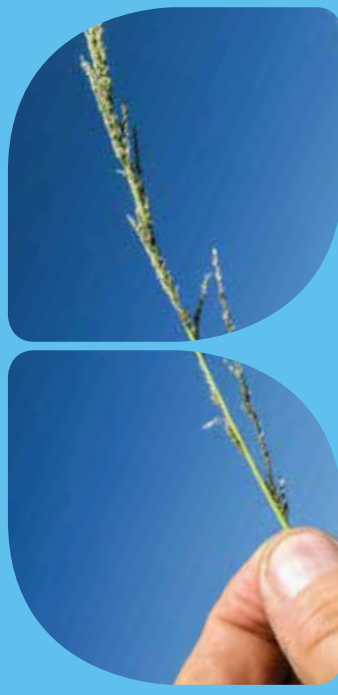
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MAY

CATTLE MANAGEMENT

Fat score breeders, ensure on track to calve in Fat Score 2.5 - 3.5.

Ensure the pasture/feed requirements of late pregnancy are met.

Reminder: NLLS compliance is required when livestock are leaving the farm.

PASTURE MANAGEMENT

Assess and control temperate broadleaf weeds before flowering in winter/spring i.e. fireweed, thistles.

Check pastures are ready for first grazing based on leaf stage, canopy closure and root anchoring.

Check pasture for insect pest damage from aphid, red legged earth mite or blue oat mite.

Ryegrass pastures: graze at the 2.5-3 leaf stage and before pastures have lodged to avoid yellowing and death of lower leaves. Top-dress with nitrogen 30-60 kg N/ha (60-125 kg urea/ha) after every second grazing, if conditions are favourable.

Oat crop: graze when well anchored and reach the tillering stage (depending on variety).

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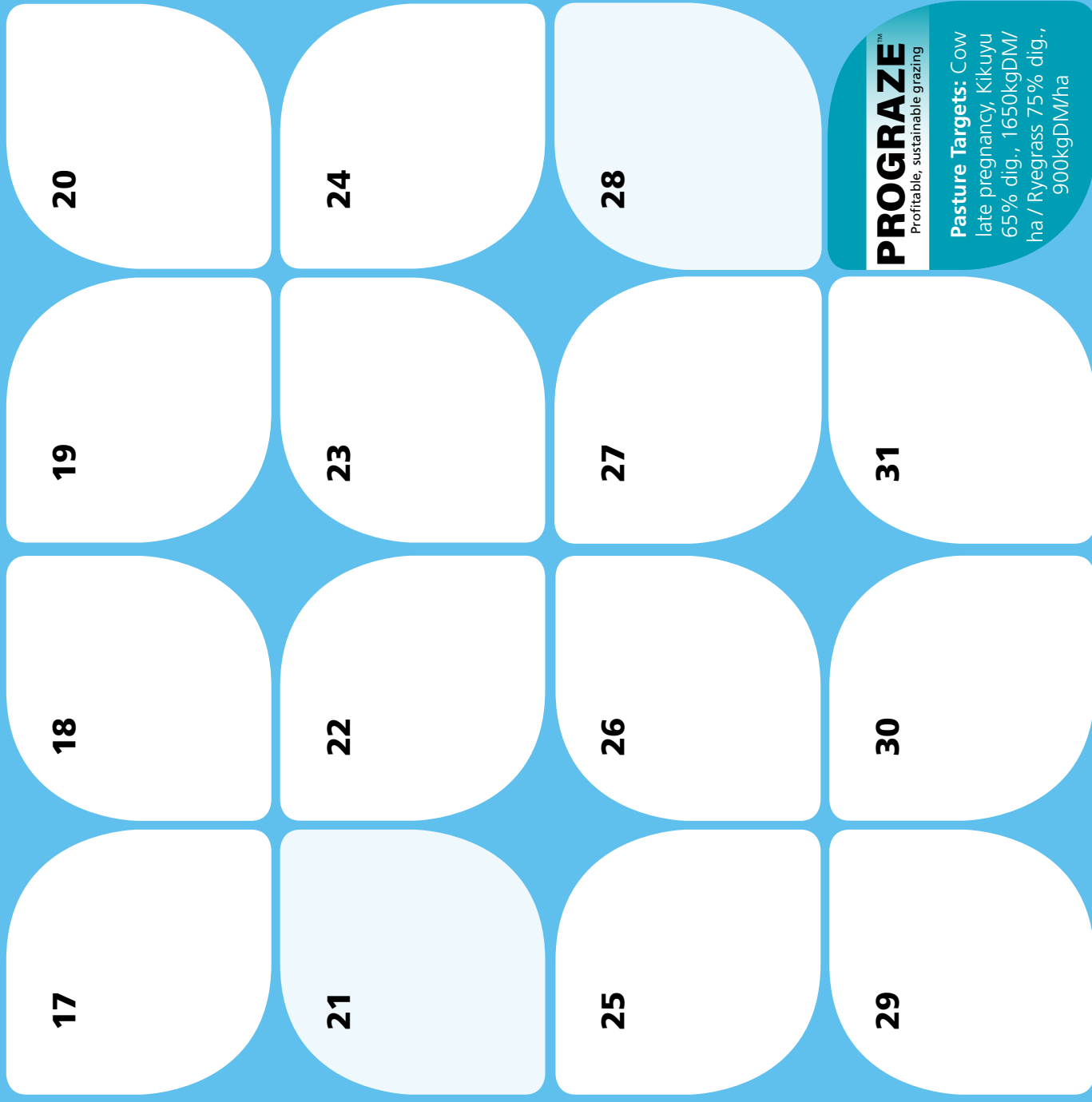
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Brassicas: grazing is essential to maximise plant yield, feed quality and feed utilisation and minimise the potential for animal health disorders. Actual stage of grazing is dependent on variety.

NOTES



JUNE

CATTLE MANAGEMENT

Selection of heifer replacements.

Assess marketing strategy for weaner steers and surplus heifers. Sell any weaners that you don't plan to carry through winter.

Weigh steer and heifer weaners every 6 weeks to monitor performance.

Target weight gain 0.2-0.3 kg/hd/day over winter.

Prepare for bull purchase.

Review your breeding plan including target market and traits of economic importance for your business.

Visit NSW DPI website (www.dpi.nsw.gov.au).

Search Beef Cattle (Breeding) Primefact 620: Developing an effective breeding plan for your beef business.

Reminder: NLIS compliance is required when livestock are leaving the farm.

PASTURE MANAGEMENT

Monitor pasture growth.

Assess late sown paddocks for first grazing.

Top-dress with nitrogen 30-60 kg N/ha (60-125 kg urea/ha) after every second grazing, if conditions are favourable.

Plan winter grazings/feeding budgets.

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Beef calendar of operations

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	
		Summer Hot temperatures, stormy weather for coastal areas.			Autumn Temps cool down, reasonably reliable rainfall.		Gen
Bulls				Drench: Fluke ⁴		Prepare purchase a your breed	
Cows	Target 2.5 Fat Score Drench: Fluke ² Monitor for pink eye Dry years: assess breeder condition for early weaning requirements	Monitor for 3-day sickness Pregnancy test breeders Sell empty breeders when necessary	Fat score breeders at weaning. Aim to reach Fat Score 2.5-3.5 at point of calving	Drench: fluke ⁴	Fat score breeders Assess pasture for last trimester pregnancy		
Heifers (yearlings)				Drench: worms/fluke ⁴			
Calves			Wean calves (7-8 months) Depending on season, sell young stock as weaners or grown out to heavier weights				
Heifer weaners/vealers			Vaccinate: 5-in-1 booster Drench ⁵ : (worms/fluke ⁴)			Select repl	
Target growth weights	Ensure heifers reach critical mating weights 60-65% of ma						
	Summer/Autumn: 0.7-0.8 kg/day						
Steer weaners/vealers			Vaccinate: 5-in-1 booster Drench ⁵ : (worms/fluke ⁴)				
	Weigh every 6 weeks to m						
Steer yearlings		Sell as 18 month old target weight 450 kg					
	Target growth rate >0.7 kg/day.						
Bulls							
Cows							
Heifers (yearlings)							
Calves							
Heifer weaners/vealers							
Steer weaners/vealers							
Steer yearling							

* Drench all livestock classes for Fluke. An adult flukicide maybe sufficient; 1. Pestivirus vaccination may be required, consult your local vet; 2. Test for level of fluke burden; 3. Drench of adult cattle is not usually required due to acquired immunity; 4. Use an effective drench against immature fluke; 5. Drench carry over heifers and steers at

FARM BIOSECURITY PLAN

During winter is a great time to review and update your annual Farm Biosecurity Plan ahead of a busy Spring period.

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JUNE



Local Land Services

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JULY

CATTLE MANAGEMENT

Monitor calving daily.

Record calf birthdate, identification, sex, weight and health problems.

NUTRITION

Select quantity and quality of pasture to match the needs of a lactating cow.

Consider supplementary feeding if pasture is inadequate to meet the high nutritional requirement of lactation. Failure to meet this demand in early lactation will result in reduced milk yield/calf growth and excessive weight loss in the cow.

Target Fat Score for joining (breeders) minimum 2.5.

HEALTH

Monitor for milk fever and grass tetany which is most common in lactating cows.

Consider mineral supplementation of calcium, magnesium and sodium for calving cows.

Vaccinate (pestivirus): heifer weaners, primary dose (if required).

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PASTURE MANAGEMENT

Monitor winter grazing/feeding budgets to prevent excessive weight loss.

Consider purchasing feed for supplementary feeding.

Identify if you have a true pasture surplus and choose which paddocks will be locked up for silage/hay production.

Engage contractors with the intent to conserve feed.

Investigate the use of a summer fodder crop i.e. forage sorghum, millet, rape, brassicas (turnip, swede, kale, chicory).

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PROGRAZE™
Profitable, sustainable grazing

Pasture Targets:

Lactating cow - Ryegrass
75% dig., 1100kgDM/ha

AUGUST

CATTLE MANAGEMENT

Monitor calving daily.

Record calf birthdate, identification, sex, weight and health problems.

Purchase new bulls at least 6 weeks before joining.

Check bull soundness (jaw, feet/legs, testicles and prepuce/penis) pre-joining.

Ensure your Annual Land and Stock Return is submitted to Local Land Services before the end of the month.

NUTRITION

Select quantity and quality of pasture to match the needs of a lactating cow needing to gain weight for joining.

The minimum joining weight for heifers is 60-65% of the mature cow weight. For British breeds this normally equates to around 330 - 360kg, but can be much higher for larger European breeds.

HEALTH

Monitor for milk fever and grass tetany which is most common in lactating cows.

Consider mineral supplementation of calcium, magnesium and sodium for calving cows.

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PASTURE MANAGEMENT

Continue to plan winter grazing/feeding budgets.

Early maturing ryegrass varieties may start flowering (weather dependent particularly if August is dry and hot).

Prepare paddocks for fodder conservation.

After grazing, slash/mulch and top dress with either nitrogen or a blended (NPK) fertiliser.

Become familiar with weed seedlings such as fireweed, thistles and giant parramatta grass. Control plants when they are young and before flowering for the most effective management.

PEST MANAGEMENT

Consider joining your local Feral Fighter program to control invasive species such as wild dogs and foxes. Contact your Local Land Services office.

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SEPTEMBER

CATTLE MANAGEMENT

Monitor calving daily.

Record calf birthdate, identification, sex, weight and health problems.

Weigh steer and heifer weaners every 6 weeks to monitor performance.

Target weight gain 1.0-1.5 kg/hd/day over spring.

Sell cull heifers.

Mark calves: castrate, ear-tag, dehorn (if required - preferably breed polled animals) and vaccinate (5-in-1 or 7-in-1).

NUTRITION

Select quantity and quality of pasture to match the needs of a lactating cow needing to gain weight for joining.

HEALTH

Vaccinate (clostridial/leptospirosis): bulls 7-in-1 including vibrio and pestivirus (if required).

Vaccinate (clostridial/leptospirosis): cows and heifers with 7-in-1 booster.

Vaccinate (pestivirus): bulls, cows, heifer yearlings booster and heifer weaners second and if required dose 2-4 weeks before joining. Vaccinate livestock based on your Pestivirus Farm

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Management Plan in consultation with your local Veterinarian.

PASTURE MANAGEMENT

Graze ryegrass pastures based on leaf stage or canopy closure.

Early maturing ryegrass varieties may start flowering (weather dependent).

Depending on the season, fodder conservation may start early. Aim to harvest ryegrass when seed heads first start to appear. Dry matter yields will be highest when seeds are fully developed.

Consider supplementary feeding if pastures are inadequate for livestock needs.

Identify paddocks for soil testing. Do not test paddocks which have had a fertiliser treatment in the 3-4 months before testing.

FIELD DAY

Berry Small Farms Field Day occurs annually in early September.

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PROGRAZE™
Profitable, sustainable grazing

Pasture Targets:
Lactating cow - Ryegrass
75% dig., 1100kgDM/ha

OCTOBER

CATTLE MANAGEMENT

Joining bull with heifers and cows:

- 6-9 weeks for cows and 6 weeks only for heifers.
- Joining weight target for British breed heifers is minimum 280 kg and for European breed heifers is a minimum 320 kg liveweight.
- Mating rate for a 2 year old bull is 20-30 cows, mature is 35-60 cows.
- Bulls need to be Fat Score 3 and cows minimum 2.5 at the start of joining.

NUTRITION

Select quantity and quality of pasture to match the needs of a lactating cow. Optimise nutrition for livestock requirements which may include supplementary feeding.

HEALTH

Vaccinate (clostridial): calves 5-in-1 or 7-in-1 first dose at 3 months old.

PASTURE MANAGEMENT

Silage production – assess chosen paddocks for readiness.

Manage newly sown pastures.

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Annuals: mid-season maturing ryegrass varieties may start flowering (weather dependent), monitor for signs of rust and fungal disease particularly in humid seasons and graze crop before palatability is reduced.

Perennials: lock-up and allowed to set seed, increasing persistence.

Grass weeds: monitor germination of weed seedlings such as giant parramatta grass, Coolatai grass and African lovegrass. Become familiar with juvenile plants to prevent growth and spread.

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NOVEMBER

CATTLE MANAGEMENT

Mark, dehorn, NLLIS and management tag calves.

Joining continues.

Weigh weaner steers every 6 weeks to monitor performance.

Reminder: NLLIS compliance is required when livestock are leaving the farm.

NUTRITION

Select quantity and quality of pasture to match the needs of a lactating cow.

HEALTH

Vaccinate (clostridial): calves 5-in-1 or 7-in-1 booster when removing bulls from joining (4-6 weeks after first dose).

Vaccinate (pink eye): 3-6 weeks before beginning of pink eye season. Pink eye is a bacterial infection of the eye that causes inflammation and, in severe cases, temporary or permanent blindness.

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PASTURE MANAGEMENT

Begin silage/early hay production.

Manage newly sown pastures with light grazing and possible topdressing applications of an NPK fertiliser.

Manage existing pastures.

Ryegrass: rotationally graze with back fence.

Annuals: mid-season maturing ryegrass varieties may start flowering (weather dependent).

Perennials: lock-up to allow seed to set (not necessary every year - rotate different paddocks each year).

Kikuyu: maintain legumes and pasture quality by grazing when 18-20 cm high or when runners have 4.5 leaves.

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PROGRAZE™

Profitable, sustainable grazing

Pasture Targets: Young
Stock - Ryegrass 68%
dig., 1600kgDM/ha

DECEMBER

CATTLE MANAGEMENT

Remove bulls from cows and heifers, ensure bulls are removed no later than 9 weeks.

Weigh yearling steers and check feedlot weight requirements. Target weight gain 0.7-0.8 kg/hd/day over summer and autumn.

Reminder: NLIS compliance is required when livestock are leaving the farm.

Reminder: Organise pregnancy testing. Rectal palpation and ultrasonography are the two common pregnancy testing methods that are used. Accurate diagnosis can be done as early as 5-6 weeks after the bulls are removed. It is important to contact a practitioner well in advance to discuss timing and book this in.

HEALTH

Test for worm burden following early summer rainfall.

If required drench (for worms) steer weaners/ vealers and heifer yearlings. Adult cattle are not usually drenched due to acquired immunity.

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Vaccinate (pink eye): 3-6 weeks before beginning of pink eye season. Pink eye is a bacterial infection of the eye that causes inflammation and, in severe cases, temporary or permanent blindness.

PASTURE MANAGEMENT

Silage and hay production continues with identified paddocks that have been locked up.

Annuals: mid-late season maturing ryegrass varieties may start flowering (weather dependent).

Kikuyu: maintain legumes and pastures quality by grazing when 18-20 cm high or when runners have 4.5 leaves, rotationally graze with back fence, mulch after grazing to remove old rank growth.

Prepare a management plan for the control of Giant Parramatta Grass. Reduce the spread by not mulching small infested areas within clean paddocks. Wash down your tractor and follow good farm biosecurity practices.

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EVERY BIT COUNTS - ENGAGING SMALL LANDHOLDERS

Small farms and lifestyle properties play an important role in managing the patchwork of natural and agricultural environments across the south east landscape. As many large properties are divided into smaller farms and lifestyle holdings they remain a key piece in the puzzle to ensure large scale healthy environmental systems are maintained.

The Every Bit Counts program (funded by the NSW Environmental Trust) has been developed to provide access to the best available knowledge, advice and peer-to-peer support networks in a manner that recognises the wide range of priorities and land uses that exist on small farms and lifestyle properties.

CONNECTING WITH YOUR LOCAL FARMER NETWORK

Across the southeast region there are a number of farmer networks established to help provide support through workshops, field days and newsletters; connecting you with like-minded landholders and keeping you up to date with the latest news, events and funding available. Combined, these Farmer Networks have over 1,700 landholders engaged and connected with Local Land Services staff, NSW DPI and Industry research programs and projects. Why not join your local group today and get connected!



SOUTH COAST/SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

The Small Farms Network is a free support service for people who live on or manage rural and peri-urban properties. The Network provides support to all landholders ranging from half a hectare to several hundred hectares. Established in 2004, the Network has over 910 members and sends out a regular newsletter promoting a wide variety of farming and sustainable living events.



BEGA AND EUROBODALLA NETWORKS

The Bega and Eurobodalla Farmer Networks aims to find efficient and creative ways for landholders to learn and implement sustainable farming practices. Becoming a member of the Farmers' Network will enable you to receive our newsletter and invitations to upcoming events.

Contact the Bega Local Land Service Office
02 6491 7800.



BUNGENDORE / SOUTHERN TABLELANDS

The Small Farms Network Capital Region is a grassroots information service run by small farmers for small farmers. Our network runs field days, workshops and other events packed with high quality information relevant to managing small rural properties in the NSW Southern Tablelands. For more information visit:

www.smallfarmscapital.org

NSW DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

The Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) works to increase the value of primary industries and drive economic growth across NSW. NSW DPI manages a broad range of initiatives from resource to industry, including natural resource management, research and development, pest and disease management, food safety, industry engagement and market access and competition. A variety of resources are available on the NSW DPI website for all livestock producers in NSW - www.dpi.nsw.gov.au

TOTAL SKILLS TRAINING & BOOKSHOP

Total Skills Training (previously known as PROFARM), is the training program developed by NSW DPI to meet the needs of farmers, primary industries, agribusiness and the community and includes the popular SMARTtrain@ chemical accreditation program. www.tocal.nsw.gov.au

Total College has published close to 100 books on all aspects of agriculture and land management. These books are high quality, accurate and reliable references on topics such as livestock, pastures, irrigation, weed management, natural resource management, beekeeping, machinery, farming skills and farm management.

www.tocal.nsw.edu.au/publications

PRIMEFACTS

Primefacts are available on the NSW DPI website for beef livestock producers including:

- Health, disease and welfare
- Feeding and nutrition
- Soil health and pasture management
- Breeding
- Business management, farm budgets and marketing

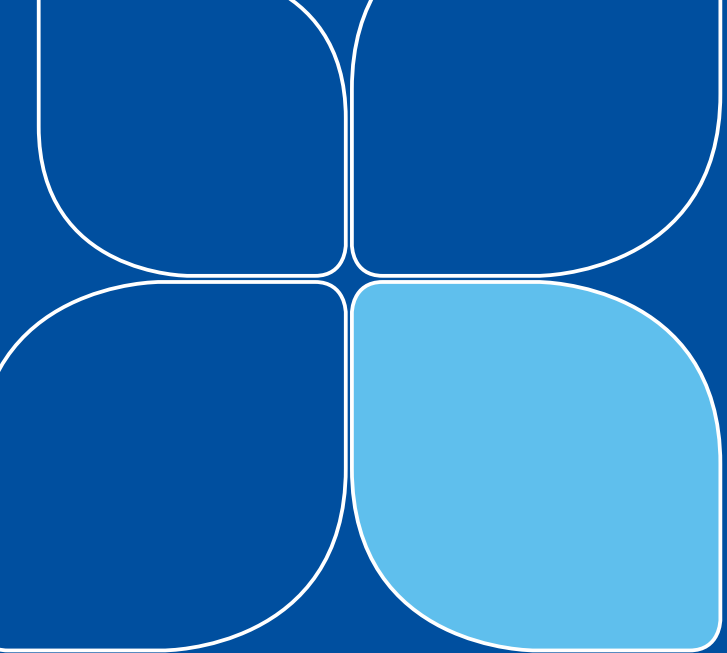
NSW DPI APPS

A range of useful apps are available on Google Play or iTunes for landholders to help manage their farming enterprise.



NSW Weed Wise: The NSW WeedWise app provides key information to help users reduce the impact of weeds in New South Wales (NSW). The app profiles over 300 weeds, describing biosecurity duties under the NSW Biosecurity Act 2015, control information and registered herbicide options.

NSW Drought Feed Calculator: The Drought Feed Calculator is an essential tool for sheep and cattle producers dealing with drought and dry seasons. It enables busy farmers to make informed decisions and save money. Farmers in any location can easily and quickly determine the minimum feed requirement for a range of animals with different nutritional needs.



BRAIDWOOD
02 4842 2594

BERRY
02 4464 6000

BEGA
02 6491 7800

GOULBURN
02 4824 1900

YASS
02 6118 7700

COOMBA
02 6455 7200



**Local Land
Services**

www.southeast.lis.nsw.gov.au