



FEED365 project snapshot

FEED365 project has designed livestock forages systems for grazing all-year round in Mediterranean environments, to increase the carrying capacity of sheep livestock farming.

Project findings

Full year grazing without supplementary feeding can be achieved by a combination of grazing crops to be grazed in early winter and dry in summer and autumn, perennial pastures to be grazed at both shoulders of the season and annual pastures to be grazed in spring.

Forage options

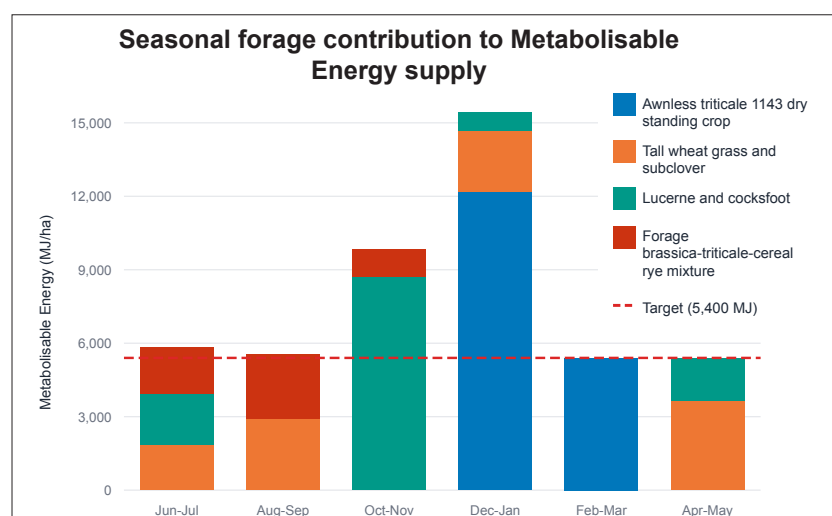
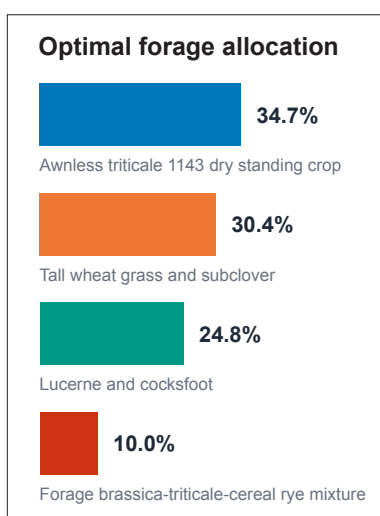
- A total of 49 options were evaluated throughout the project.
- April, May and June were the months with the least number of options grazed (only 5), confirming the difficulty in filling the critical feed gap in late autumn and early winter.
- August and September were the months when more forage options were grazed.

Optimising forage production for 365 days

- The energy supplied to achieve the animal production measured, was optimised to the most productive forage options to cover all year-round production feeding.
- Four selected forages exhibited complementary production patterns across the seasonal cycle in the Katanning environment.
- In other soil types and locations, the same principles are expected to apply but the species may be different.

What that means for carrying capacity

The optimised pasture system could carry 10 DSE/ha all year round, in comparison, the traditional annual pastures system could carry 9 DSE/ha from June to November, only 45% of the optimised system.



Learn more about the FEED365 project and SheepLinks program