

MLA Producer Demonstration Sites

Pre-project Survey - Observer

PDS Name: Optimising Pastures in Low Rainfall Zones

PDS Project Code: L.PDS.2105

The following questions are used to determine your level of understanding of pasture optimisation. The knowledge and skills audit is used at the start and completion of the program to allow individuals to track their skill development and adoption of new practices. It will also be used:

1. To improve the content of future project meetings; and
2. As part of the evaluation process for the project

The information will be completely confidential, and individuals will not be identified in the analysis of data.

Participant Name: _____

Date: / /

MLA may contact me to further assess the impact of their programs? Yes No

MLA may send me newsletters and inform me of future events? Yes No

I have read, understood and accept the terms of MLA's "PDS Participant Consent & Release" (see appendix 1) Yes No

Participant Signature: _____

Section A – Demographic Information

A1. Your contact details

- a. Property name.....
- b. Business / trading name
- c. Property address
- d. Postal address.....
- e. Email address.....
- f. Phone.....
- g. Mobile.....

A2. What area do you manage? *(please write the number of hectares that you manage)*

Hectares.....

A3. What numbers of livestock do you run? *(please write the number of head against each of the categories of livestock that you run)*

- a. Number of beef breeders.....
- b. Number of cattle turned off per year
- c. Total number of cattle.....
- d. Number of ewes
- e. Number of lambs turned off per year
- f. Total number of sheep.....
- g. Number of goats turned off per year
- h. Other

Section B – Knowledge and Skills *(If you do not know, please select the 'Unsure' option)*

B1. What amount of pasture dry matter will a 50 kg dry ewe require for maintenance?

(Tick one of the options below)

- a. About 3 kg DM/day
- b. About 2 kg DM/day
- c. About 1 kg DM/day
- d. About 0.5 kg DM/day
- e. Unsure.....

B2. What amount of pasture dry matter will a 300 kg steer require for maintenance?

(Tick one of the options below)

- a. About 2 kg DM/day
- b. About 5 kg DM/day
- c. About 10 kg DM/day
- d. Depends on pasture quality
- e. Unsure.....

B3. Condition scoring assesses the cover of fat and tissue on the backbone and ends of the short ribs as well as the fullness of the muscle in between. What is the ideal condition score for merino ewes from joining to lambing and young sheep?

(Tick one of the options)

- a. Score 1
- b. Score 2
- c. Score 3
- d. Score 4
- e. Score 5
- f. Score 6
- g. Unsure

B4. Old Man Saltbush is:

(Tick one of the options)

- a. A highly palatable feed option for sheep
- b. A supplementary feed option with high salt and sulphur levels

- c. A short-term feed option with easy establishment.....
- d. A feed option with low protein and minerals levels
- e. Unsure

B5. What would be the optimum time to sow a serradella in pod form?

(Tick one of the options)

- a. January/February
- b. March/April
- c. May/June.....
- d. Unsure.....

B6. When is a seradella pasture most actively growing?

(Tick one of the options)

- a. Summer.....
- b. Autumn.....
- c. Winter.....
- d. Spring
- e. Unsure.....

B7. When should stock be taken out of a paddock to prevent damage to a sown cereal pasture?

(Tick one of the options)

- a. When the pasture reaches 200kg/ha dry matter
- b. When the pasture reaches 500kg/ha dry matter
- c. When the pasture reaches 1000kg/ha dry matter
- d. Unsure

B8. When is the earliest you can begin grazing pasture without significantly impacting its establishment?

(Tick one of the options)

- a. When pasture plants are anchored and have grown secondary roots.....
- b. When pasture plants reach the five-leaf stage
- c. When the pasture reaches 500kg/ha dry matter
- d. Unsure

Section C – Confidence and Practices

C1. How confident are you in establishing the following systems?

(Please rate out of 10, with 1 being poor and 10 being very good, by circling your choice below)

Sown annual pasture (i.e. serradella)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Perennial pasture (i.e. tagasaste, ryegrass etc)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Pasture shrubs	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

C2. How confident are you in managing the following systems?

(Please rate out of 10, with 1 being poor and 10 being very good, by circling your choice below)

Sown annual pasture (i.e. serradella)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Perennial pasture (i.e. tagasaste, ryegrass etc)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Pasture shrubs	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

C3. In the past five years which of the following practices have you implemented as a % of grazing area?

(Please tick your choice below)

	0-10%	11-40%	41-70%	71-100%	N/A
Volunteer pasture					
Sown pastures of any kind					
Improved pastures (added fertiliser, herbicides, etc.)					
Sown cereal pastures					
Sown seradella pastures					
Sown perennial pastures					
Mixed grazing (shrub with grasses & legumes)					

C4. In the next five years do you intend to implement any of the following practices as a % of grazing area?

(Please tick your choice below)

	0-10%	11-40%	41-70%	71-100%	N/A
Volunteer pasture					
Sown pastures of any kind					
Improved pastures (added fertiliser, herbicides, etc.)					
Sown cereal pastures					
Sown seradella pastures					
Sown perennial pastures					
Mixed grazing (shrub with grasses & legumes)					

C5. Do you currently use the following practices?

	Standard Practice	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	N/A
Condition Scoring your stock before changing pasture or supplementary feeding					
Estimating FOO (kg DM/ha) in your paddock before stock are introduced					

C6. For the key metrics you are seeking to demonstrate in this PDS, please advise what is your current performance or if unknown/not currently measured.

Metric	Current performance
What is your average annual production of dry matter in kg/ha?	
What is your average profit from your livestock enterprise in \$/ha?	
What is your current average stocking rate in DSE/ha?	
How many grazing days do you usually get on average in days/DSE/ha?	

C7. What are the reasons you have not implemented optimised pasture systems on your property?

(Tick any of the options that apply to you)

- a. Not a significant issues on my property
- b. Lack of confidence.....
- c. Lack of skills.....
- d. Limited funds
- e. Limited time.....
- f. Other (Please specify)

PRODUCER DEMONSTRATION SITE (PDS)
PARTICIPANT CONSET & RELEASE



As a host of a demonstration site for MLA's Producer Demonstration Sites (PDS) program, from time to time certain information about you may be included in reports, case studies, factsheets, images, videos, articles and other material developed during the course of the PDS program. This information may include your name, property name and location (as the identifier each of demonstration site), photographs of you engaged in demonstration activities and quotes provided by the project facilitator (**Materials**). Please note that full property addresses and contact numbers of site hosts will not be published.

As you would be aware, many producers learn by hearing from or observing their peers. Therefore, components of PDS program outputs which include the Materials may be made publicly available (e.g. shared via social media, rural press, print media, and website views) to demonstrate to a broad audience the value, implementation and benefits of particular management practices, technologies or tools.

MLA requires each demonstration site host to consent to MLA publishing the Materials in various platforms, including:

- on the MLA website
- shared via media channels
- newspaper advertisements
- promotional material for the MLA PDS program

The terms of the consent required by MLA to enable your participation in the PDS program are as follows:

1. As a producer demonstration site host, you consent to MLA:
 - (a) using the Materials at events associated with the above mentioned PDS Program;
 - (b) using, reproducing, publishing and otherwise communicating, exhibiting or distributing the Materials (in full or in part) in all formats and all media now known or later devised throughout the world; and
 - (c) adapting and editing the Materials at its sole discretion.
2. You also understand and agree that:
 - (a) you are not entitled to any remuneration for the exploitation of the rights described in item 1 above;
 - (b) you will not have any interest in the Materials or in the copyright or any other rights in the Materials; and
 - (c) MLA may use your likeness and the Materials to promote its activities and programs.
3. You release MLA from any claim by you or anyone on your behalf arising out of use of the Materials and/or your appearance in promotional campaigns in which the Materials are used.
4. You understand and agree that any information, including personal information, provided by you when participating in a PDS project will be collected by your PDS project facilitator and provided to MLA. You consent to MLA collecting, using and handling your information for the purpose of the PDS program, any purposes set out above and as otherwise specified in MLA's privacy policy located at <https://www.mla.com.au/general/privacy/>. You can request access to, correction and deletion of your personal information by contacting MLA using the contact details on its website.

Please indicate your acceptance of the above by completing the relevant sections and returning a copy to your PDS project facilitator.

If you have any queries, regarding this consent, please contact your PDS project facilitator. Alternatively, you can contact MLA's project manager of the PDS Program Alana McEwan by calling 0417 541 000 or emailing at amcewan@mla.com.au.