

meatup FORUM

For the latest in red meat R&D

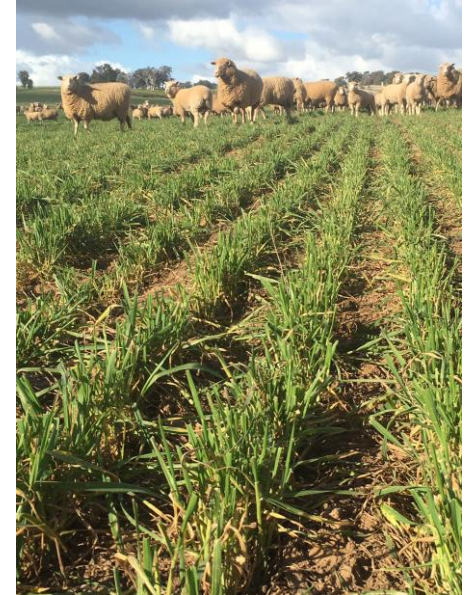
Managing crop stubbles in a mixed farm system

David Holder

Mannamite Pastoral

How it works

- 'Mannamite' is a mixed enterprise 1350 ha property north of Cootamundra.
- The farming system consists of 450 ha of crops including wheat, canola and barley.
- 4000 meat plus composite ewes.
- Forage crops which are normally a mix of vetch, radish, turnip, wheat and cereal rye.
- Pastures – Lucerne/clover mixes or phalaris/clover.



The present 'sheep system'

- Three lambings;
 - April/May
 - June/July
 - July/August
- All ewes are scanned.
- Replacements are kept from the twin bearing April/May lambing ewes.
- Match ewe/lamb requirements to grazing crops and perennial pastures on offer.



How stubble fits into the system

- Drenching ewes onto clean stubbles.
- Taking pressure off perennial pastures.
- Grazing stubbles coordinated with drought lot use enables us to run high stocking rates and have control over negative soil impacts.
- Bailing barley straw.

Take home messages

- Wheat and Barley stubbles can be very important to a mixed farming system and provide advantages that farmers in purely grazing operations do not have access to.
- The two different cereal types play different roles in our sheep production system to get the most value from the stubbles on offer.
- The availability of stubble as a feed source both in the paddock after harvest and then in conjunction with the feed lot allows higher stocking rates and greater flexibility so that ground cover targets are not compromised, and soil health is maintained.

Farming is more satisfying when you have a work life balance



Tools and resources

- [Grazing modern stubbles – MLA guide](#)
- [Stubble Grazing Calculator](#)
- [Dual-purpose cropping – MLA Feedbase Symposium presentation](#)
- [Assessing components of a stubble and impacts of grazing](#)