**For the latest in red meat R&D**

# Managing and monitoring your feedbase:
# Australian Feedbase Monitor

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# The Australian Feedbase Monitor

## Overview

The AFM is a $4.7m co-funded (50:50) investment by Cibo Labs and the MLA Donor Company to deliver industry-wide benefits

Objective, consistent and repeatable feedbase assessments for every farm, every month

Creating a foundation for "spatially-enabling" the industry.

# Using the AFM

## Getting started



**01** Create myMLA Account

A myMLA account will allow you to access all your MLA information

**02** Link your LPA Account

Your LPA is needed to link your property or properties. You can link through the myMLA account

**03** Access the AFM

Click on find out more go to the Cibo page

**04** Complete your details

Enter your profile, location and land parcels

**Live Demonstration**

# Using the Australian Feedbase Monitor

# Downloading data



- From your AFM dashboard

- Select graphs

- Scroll to the bottom and select "Download Chart Data"
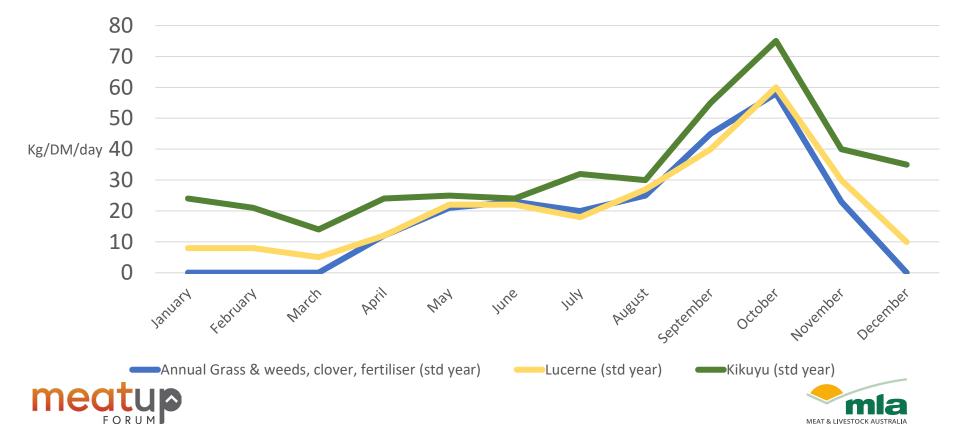
# Using the MLA feed demand Calculator

Input your own values for pasture growth

**Average growth** refers to the weight of of pasture drymatter (kg DM/ha/day) grown per hectare per day. **Average quality** refers to the amount of energy per kilogram of pasture drymatter (MJ ME/kg DM) that the animal is likely to be able to extract.
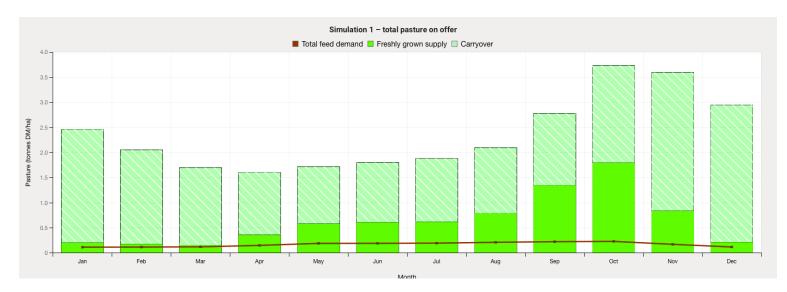
| Month | Average growth (kg DM/ha/day) ⓘ | Average quality (MJ ME/kg DM/day) ⓘ | Supplements | |
|-------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|--|
| | | | Amount (kg/ha/day) ⓘ | Quality (MJ ME/kg) ⓘ |
| Jan | 2 | 9.1 | 0 | 0 |
| Feb | 0 | 8.9 | 0 | 0 |
| Mar | 0 | 8.9 | 0 | 0 |
| Apr | 0 | 8.7 | 0 | 0 |
| May | 0 | 8.8 | 0 | 0 |
| Jun | 3 | 9.3 | 0 | 0 |
| Jul | 5 | 9.9 | 0 | 0 |
| Aug | 11 | 10.1 | 0 | 0 |
| Sep | 15 | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Oct | 0 | 9.7 | 0 | 0 |
| Nov | 0 | 9.4 | 0 | 0 |
| Dec | 11 | 9.3 | 0 | 0 |
| Scale by | 1 | 1 | | |

| Pasture | Summer | | Autumn | | Winter | | Spring | | Total tonnes DM / year / ha | Total tonnes DM / year |
|---------|--------|--|--------|--|--------|--|--------|--|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| | Tonnes DM/year/ha | Tonnes DM/year | Tonnes DM/year/ha | Tonnes DM/year | Tonnes DM/year/ha | Tonnes DM/year | Tonnes DM/year/ha | Tonnes DM/year | | |
| Totals | 0.4 | 479 | 0 | 0 | 0.6 | 697 | 0.5 | 535 | 1.4 | 1711 |

# Pasture Growth Curves (Mt Barker)



Kg/DM/day

Legend:
- Annual Grass & weeds, clover, fertiliser (std year)
- Lucerne (std year)
- Kikuyu (std year)

# Feed demand & supply based on regional data
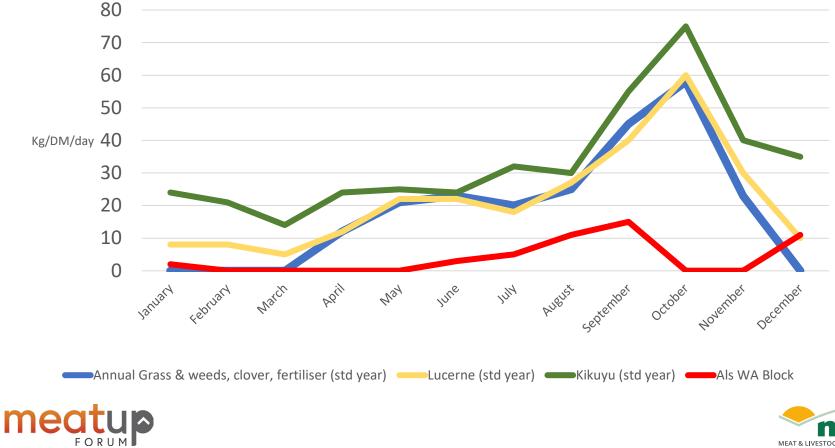


Simulation 1 – total pasture on offer

- According to regional data, feed should exceed demand for a cow calf operation

CharPasture Growth Curves (Mt Barker)
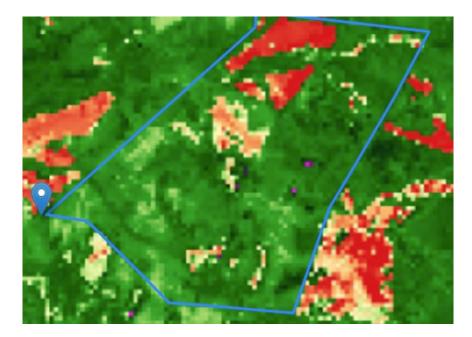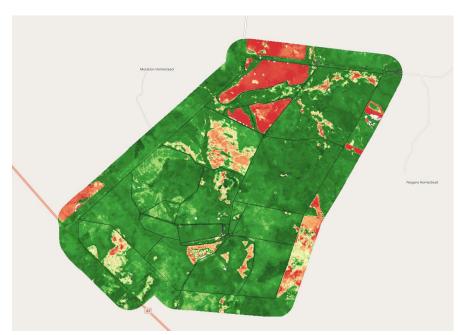
# Feed demand & supply based on personal data



- The reality is significantly different for this location
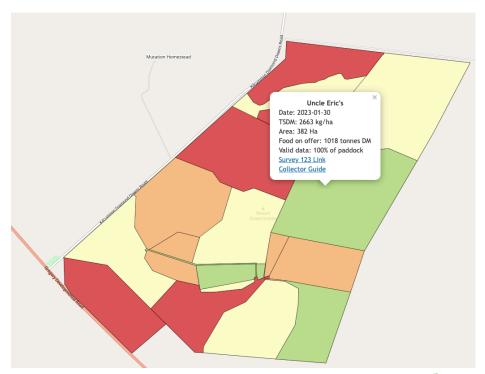
# Upgrades – what changes

# Feed budgets

- Moving from AFM to PastureKey

- Paddock level (10m$^2$) resolution

- 15 day rolling average

- Data sharing across platforms such as AgriWebb



Uncle Eric's
Date: 2023-01-30
TSDM: 2663 kg/ha
Area: 382 Ha
Food on offer: 1018 tonnes DM
Valid data: 100% of paddock
Survey 123 Link
Collector Guide

# Take home messages

- The AFM offers all producers access to accurate, regular and objective assessments

- Access is free to MLA members (make sure your details are correct with MLA membership if you receive a message saying you are not recognised)

- MLA Help Desk on 1800 865 255 or send an email to [membership@mla.com.au](mailto:membership@mla.com.au)

- Use the information to add value & accuracy to your decisions & with other tools such as feed budget & stocking rate calculators

# Tools and resources

- [www.cibolabs.com.au](www.cibolabs.com.au)

- [www.mla.com.au/mymla](www.mla.com.au/mymla)

- [https://www.mla.com.au/extension-training-and-tools/](https://www.mla.com.au/extension-training-and-tools/)