



For the latest in red meat R&D

# Containment feeding: applications and learnings from north-west NSW

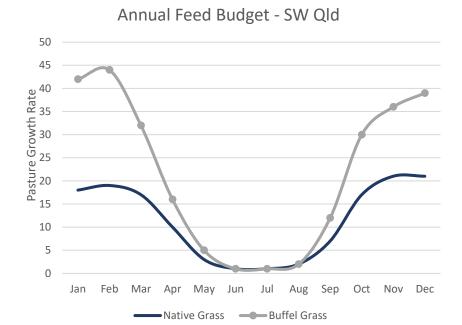
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Animal Health & Nutrition Consulting





# Why containment feed?

- Reduce grazing pressure (SR)
- Conserve topsoil, ground cover
- Reduce feed requirements
- Reduce labour inputs
- Production feed
- Early wean
- Join
- Maintain good welfare and health.







# Feeding systems – self-feeders











# Feeding systems – trail









Feeding systems - automated









# Feeding systems – automated



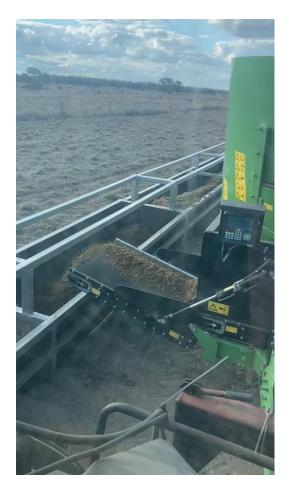




# Feeding systems – bunk











### **Establishment considerations**

- Stocking density
- Mob size
- Feed trough space
- Water trough space, flow rate
- Shade
- Site selection (slope, drainage)
- Access to yards and feed storage
- Wet weather access
- Legislation.

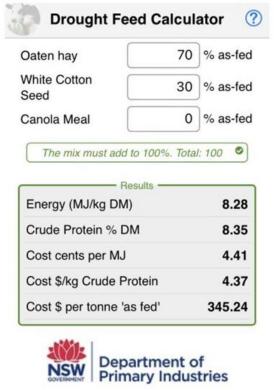


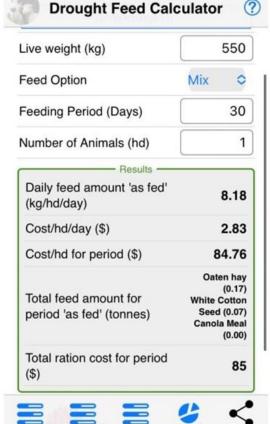






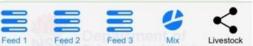
### Do your sums!



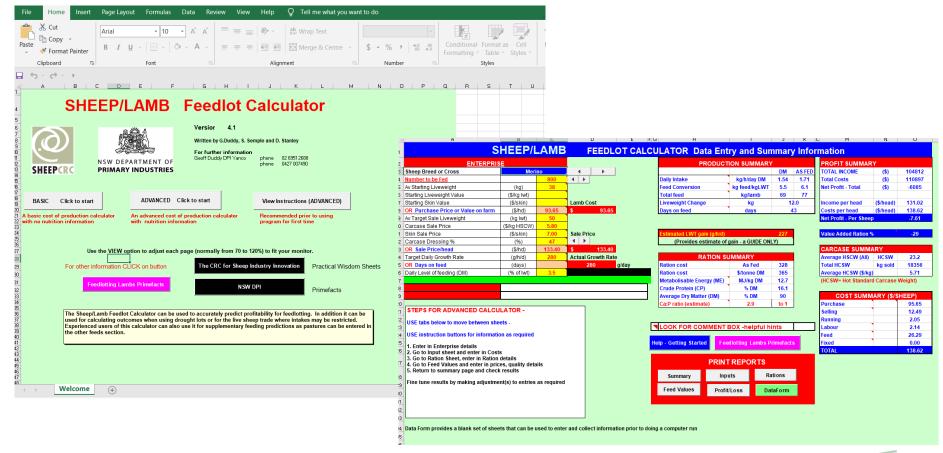














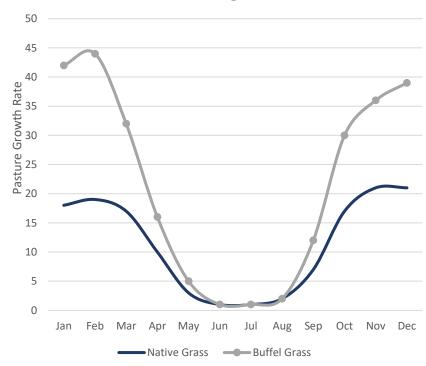


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# meatup

#### Annual Feed Budget - SW Qld





### Challenges

- Cost of establishment and feeding
- Quantity of feed required
- Disease risks
- Environmental impacts
- Labour requirement.







### Livestock management

- Vaccinate before feeding
- Imprint at foot
- Draft on bodyweight
- Remove shy feeders
- Redraft every month
- Take care with induction
- Clean troughs daily
- Check poo and stock health daily.

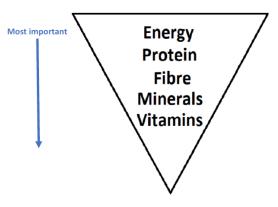






### Livestock nutrition

- Example diet might be cereal grain + pulse + hay + vit/min
- NSW DPI Drought Feeding Calculator is great
- Sheep process to match particle sizes
- Cattle processing grains (cereal/pulse) important for utilisation
- Rumen buffers
- Get some advice to get it right.



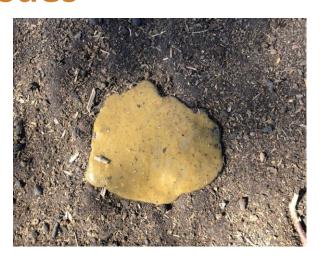




### **Animal health issues**

### "The Big 5"

- Acidosis
- Shy feeders
- Hypocalcaemia
- Water belly
- Vitamin A deficiency









### Take home messages

• Confinement feeding is a temporary, proactive management strategy to maintain livestock production and reduce grazing pressure.

Confinement feeding areas can be low cost and versatile.

• Careful planning, attention to detail with regards to livestock management and nutrition is vital for success.





### **Tools and resources**

Managing and Preparing for Drought Handbook
 dpi.nsw.gov.au/ data/assets/pdf file/0006/582531/Managing-drought.pdf

Dry Times Smoko

Dry times smoko – YouTube

Drought and Supplementary Feeding Calculator

<u>Drought and Supplementary Feed Calculator (nsw.gov.au)</u>

A Guide to Confinement Feeding in NSW

lls.nsw.gov.au/ data/assets/pdf file/0005/1431059/LLS confinement-feeding-booklet-web.pdf



