

final report

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Landleader Report - Industry Overview

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Landleader Report - Industry Overview

Overview

Recently, Australian Wool Innovation and MLA through their joint Landleader project undertook a trial survey of 76 producers in regard to their current environmental and stock management practices.

This data has now been amalgamated and is reported here.

Because of the trial nature of the project, the results listed here do not represent a random and representative overview of the Australian grazing industry's environmental and livestock management practices. However, it does show the sort of information that could become available should the project continue.

In this report, where applicable, the number of producers and corresponding hectares are compared against industry "best practice." However, it must be noted that Best Practice can vary from region to region and enterprise to enterprise, therefore, those comparisons should be considered as indicative only.

Individual producers who have completed this survey during the Landleader trials have been provided with a confidential and customised Report which we hope will provide them with greater impendance to adopt enhanced environmental and stock management practices. Those Reports provide guidance for where to obtain more information as well as training through programs such as the AWI / MLA Making More from Sheep (MMFS) Best Practice Program.

Base for all % is $n=76$.

1. General Survey Data

Item	Number of producers	Hectares	Animal numbers
Database for this Report	<u>76</u>	129,691 Ha	
Total number of adult sheep covered by this survey (2006)			105,112
Total number of adult cattle covered by this survey (2006)			7,461
Number of land managers seeking advice / support from Regional NRM bodies	57	75%	

2. Planning on Broadacre Properties

Item	Number of Producers	Hectares	Percentage of Total Producers Surveyed
Organic producers	4	Ha	5%
Biodynamic producers	0	Ha	0%
Operate a formal Quality Assurance system	9	Ha	12%
Operate a formal Environmental Management System	13	Ha	17%
Have a documented farm plan	54	Ha	71%
Have a physical property plan, aerial photo or map	53	Ha	98%
Record some environmental indicators	73	Ha	96%

3. Cropping Practices

Item	Number of Producers	Hectares	Percentage of Total Producers with Crop
Total number of producers and area cropped	34	11,466 Ha	48%
Tillage - No Tillage	22	7,706 Ha	30%
Tillage - Minimum Tillage	8	1,617 Ha	11%
Tillage - Conventional Tillage	11	3,861 Ha	14%
Tillage - Other	3	472 Ha	4%
Stubble - no treatment – sown into a standing stubble	4	1,675 Ha	5%
Stubble - grazing only	19	3,401 Ha	25%
Stubble - grazing, then stubble removed but not burnt (mown, baled)	5	1,870 Ha	7%
Stubble - stubble removed but not burnt (mown, baled)	4	1,388 Ha	5%
Stubble – grazing then light stubble removal and burnt	6	1,690 Ha	8%
Stubble – grazing then heavy stubble removal (hot burn)	2	138 Ha	3%
Stubble – heavy stubble removal (hot burn)	1	12 Ha	1%

4. Pasture management (Simon to apply Ha calculations)

Item	Number of producers	Hectares	Percentage of Total Producers Surveyed
introduced Perennial pasture species	43	Ha	57%
introduced Annual pasture species	18	Ha	24%
a mixture of introduced Perennial & annual pasture species	36	Ha	47%
Native & naturalised pastures	44	Ha	58%
A mixture of introduced, native and naturalised pastures	35	Ha	46%
Average most recent pasture renovation	26 17	2006 Yr 2007 Yr	34% 22%
Assess pastures for species composition and quality	41		54%
Adjust stocking rates to protect native pasture composition	43		57%
Adjust stocking rates to protect introduced pasture	53		70%
Operate integrated weed management	55		72%
Operate integrated pest management	45		59%
Grazing system – Set stocking	17		22%
Grazing system – Rotational	26		34%
Grazing system – Cell grazing	10		13%
Grazing system – Rotational based on time	7		9%
Grazing system – Rotational based on pasture growth	49		64%

5. Soil Management & Fertiliser Practices

Item	Number of Producers	Hectares	Percentage of Total Producers Surveyed
Manage land according to soil capability	76	87,037 Ha	100%
Conduct soil or plant tissue tests	65		86%
Apply fertiliser (P)	66	Ha	87%
Units of P applied / ha on pasture	25	Mean 13.01 Units/Ha	33%
Use decision support tools to determine fertiliser application rate	5		7%
Conduct pH tests	63		83%
Work towards Implementing solutions for problem soils		Ha	%
Maintain groundcover to protect the soil (Q4.20)	71	Ha	93%
Manage land according to soil capability		Ha	%
Properties affected by salinity	30	Ha	39%
Implementing practices to reduce the impact of salinity			
control stock access	18	2,372 Ha	24%
revegetation	15	390 Ha	20%
planting of trees	17	514 Ha	22%
water use efficiency	6	218 Ha	8%
engineering solutions	9	43K ms	12%

6. Native Vegetation and Biodiversity

Item	Number of producers	Total Hectares	Percentage of Total Producers with Native Vegetation
Properties with native vegetation (bush)	74	78,858 Ha	97%
Properties where stock access is controlled (eg fencing) in native vegetation (e.g. bush)	46	48,937 Ha	60%
Properties where native vegetation is never grazed	37	8,165 Ha	49%
Have a plan for the retention, restoration and revegetation of native vegetation	66	Ha	87%
Actively control weeds in native vegetation areas	50	Ha	66%
Have revegetated or planted wind breaks / wildlife corridors	34	Ha	45%
Assess the condition of the native vegetation	67	Ha	88%
Properties where revegetation undertaken in 2005/06	32	7,271 Ha	42%
Properties where revegetation undertaken since 1990	46	2,543 Ha	61%
Average survival rate of revegetation			73%

7 Rivers & Riparian Management

Item	Number of producers	Kilometres	Percentage of Total Producers with Watercourses
Properties with rivers, creeks and water ways	54	551 Kms	71%
Stock access is controlled for rivers & riparian areas	27	101 Kms	36%
The condition of the rivers, creeks and watercourses are regularly assessed	50	Kms	66%
Revegetating riparian areas – Natural Revegetation	24	83 Kms	32%
Tube stock/seedlings	24	44 Kms	32%
Direct Seeding	13	14 Kms	17%
Properties with eroding gullies	57	443 Kms	72%
Properties managing gully erosion	31	53 Kms	41%
Properties with wetlands	21	1,513 Ha	28%
Properties where stock access is controlled for wetlands		Kms	%
Properties with plans for improvement to riparian areas and wetlands	29		38%

8. Producer's Future Intentions

Item	Number of producers	Percentage of Total producers
Producers intending to develop future activities in relation to enhanced environmental practices		%
Producers intending to develop future activities in relation to enhanced livestock management		%

9.Livestock management

Item	Number of producers	Percentage of Total producers
Understand and adopt the Code of Practice for animal welfare (Aware Q8.1)	66	87%
Stock are closely monitored and maintained in appropriate body condition to achieve production and welfare targets		%
Annual nutritional requirements of stock are matched with available feed supply		%
Stock have adequate supply of good quality water	72	96%
Stock are provided with protection from the elements - especially at critical times such as lambing / calving and shearing	66	87%
Stock handling facilities are well-designed and maintained (Good Q8.15)	54	71%
A preventative health management program is implemented (Q8.11)		%
Flock is monitored for disease and health problems and corrective action taken where needed		%
Number of sheep producers who vaccinate lambs	51	67%
Number of sheep producers who vaccinate adult sheep	42	55%
Number of sheep producers who mules	35	46%
Number of sheep producers who treat for blowfly control	56	73%
Number of sheep producers who drench for worms	61	80%
Number of sheep producers who treat for lice	50	65%
Number of cattle producers who vaccinate calves	36	47%
Number of cattle producers who vaccinate adult breeding cattle	25	32%
Number of cattle producers who drench for worms	46	61%
Number of cattle producers who treat for lice	35	46%

10. Chemical use on farm

a) Producer approach to chemicals

Item	Number of producers	Percentage of Total producers
Producer approach to chemicals - Never use chemicals	6	8%
Producer approach to chemicals - Use chemicals as little as possible, because I prefer to minimise their use	37	49%
Producer approach to chemicals - Use chemicals infrequently, because my management doesn't generally require them	15	20%
Producer approach to chemicals - Use chemicals as part of an integrated pest management plan. (ie time shearing etc to minimise chemical requirements)	22	29%
Producer approach to chemicals - Use chemicals quite often and I comply with label recommendations	18	24%

b) Producers who use chemicals on farm

Item	Number of producers	Percentage of Total Producers who use Chemicals
Securely store chemicals (if applicable)	36	47%
Document the purchase and use of all chemicals and animal health products	50	66%
Wear protective clothing when using chemicals	74	97%
Use – (Livestock Q9.8) appropriate and calibrated equipment recognize withholding periods	55 49	72% 64%
Safely dispose of unwanted chemicals and containers		%
Undergone chemical training and certification (if applicable)	65	86%
Property complies with the requirements for the European Union Eco Label (if applicable)	12	16%