



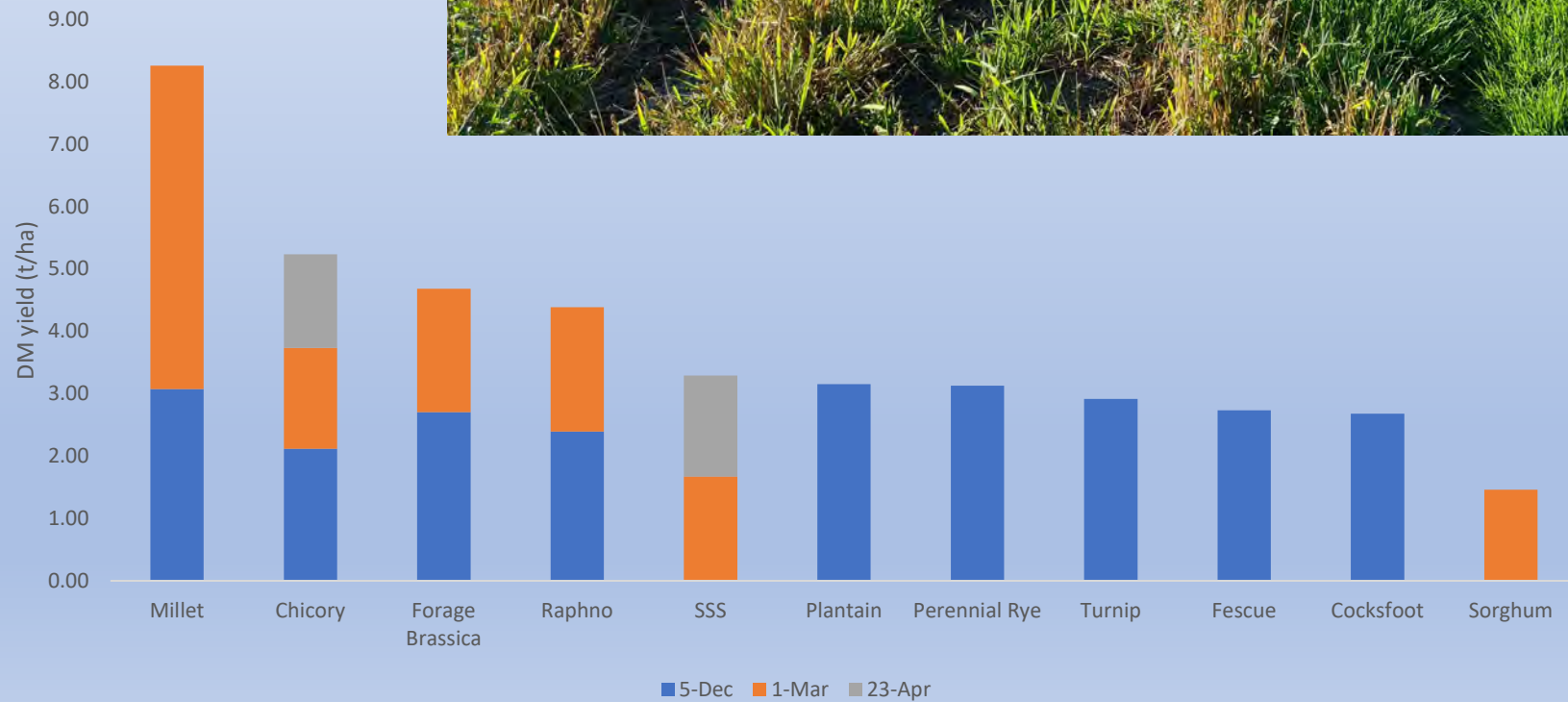
Lower Blackwood Catchment  
Land Conservation District Committee



# LOWER BLACKWOOD AUTUMN FEED GAP



# 2020/21 strip trials



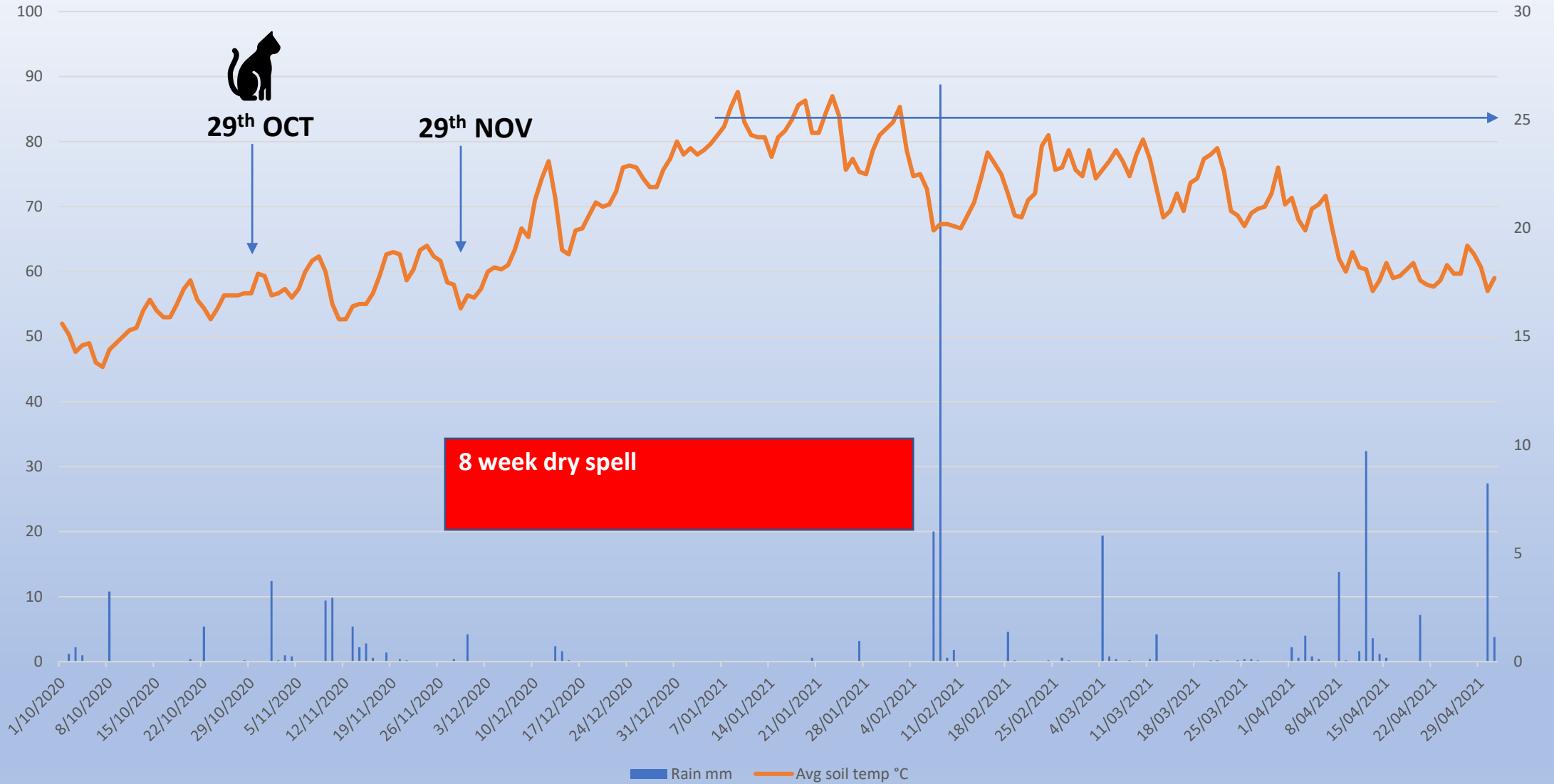
# Cost/Benefit: Cost per tonne of Dry Matter

		Total Input Costs (\$/ha)			
		\$400	\$500	\$600	\$700
DM Yield (t/ha)	2	\$200	\$250	\$300	\$350
	4	\$100	\$125	\$150	\$175
	6	\$67	\$83	\$100	\$117
	8	\$50	\$63	\$75	\$88
	10	\$40	\$50	\$60	\$70

# 1<sup>st</sup> year learnings

- Cost effective feed can be grow off spring soil moisture
- Soil temp v moisture for seeding
- Diamond back moth on brassicas
- Species persistence under grazing pressure and a dry spell

# 2020 Karridale summer rain and average soil temp



# ANDREW MCNAB – 1 MARCH 2021 SCOTT RIVER EAST



# 2021 Karridale summer rain and average soil temperature



# Five commercial grazing demos 2021/22





# BEN SIEBER – 4ha MARGARET RIVER

<b>Seed type and rate</b>	<b>5kg/ha Millet + 1.6kg/ha Raphno + 1.1kg/ha forage rape + 5kg/ha ryecorn</b>
Sowing date	18 November
Cut yield (14 <sup>th</sup> FEB)	3.35t/ha
Feed Test ENERGY	9MJ/kg DM
Feed test PROTEIN	10.6%
Feed Test NDF	55%
Cattle growth rates	46 yearlings and dry heifers. 0.2kg/hd/day over 28 days in March

# BEN SIEBER - MARGARET RIVER 10<sup>th</sup> March



# JEFF JOHN – 8ha KARRIDALE

6.25kg/ha Millet + 1.9kg/ha SSS + 2kg/ha red clover +  
2kg/ha chickory + 2kg/ha buster radish  
Too dry to seed – postponed to 2022/23



# SIMON CREAGH – 5ha NILLUP

<b>Seed type and rate</b>	<b>12kg/ha Millet (50% germ) + 2kg/ha SSS + 2kg/ha forage rape + 2kg/ha red clover</b>
Sowing date	2 <sup>nd</sup> December
Cut yield (19 <sup>th</sup> JAN)	0.48t/ha (ave) – 1.2t/ha (good)
Feed Test ENERGY	9.5MJ/kg DM
Feed test PROTEIN	16.6%
Feed Test NDF	57%
Cattle growth rates	17 yearlings. 0.8kg/hd/day over 30 days mid Feb to mid March

Planned paddock too dry to sow, moved to wet area of different paddock

# SIMON CREAGH – NILLUP 19<sup>th</sup> JAN



# ANDREW MCNAB – 10ha SCOTT RIVER EAST

<b>Seed type and rate</b>	<b>4kg/ha millet + 4kg/ha SSS or 4kg/ha sorghum</b>
Sowing date	13 <sup>th</sup> November
Cut yield (19 <sup>th</sup> JAN)	0.3t/ha
Feed Test ENERGY	9.3MJ/kg DM
Feed test PROTEIN	16.6%
Feed Test NDF	57%
Cattle growth rates	63 mixed weaners. 0.9kg/ha/day on Silage in Jan. Went backwards on millet would not eat silage provided. Removed after 2 weeks and back on silage only.

# ANDREW MCNAB – SCOTT RIVER EAST

19<sup>th</sup> Jan 2022 v 1 March 2021



# DARYL AVERY – 55ha SCOTT RIVER EAST

<b>Seed type and rate</b>	<b>3kg/ha millet + 3kg/ha forage sorghum</b>
Sowing date	Mid November to Mid December
Cut yield (19 <sup>th</sup> JAN)	2.3t/ha
Feed Test ENERGY	9.2MJ/kg DM
Feed test PROTEIN	17.5%
Feed Test NDF	59%
Cattle growth rates	10 weaners tagged in mob. 1.26kg/ha/day over 70 days in 3 grazings 27/1 – 7/4. Fed hay also.



# DARYL AVERY – SCOTT RIVER EAST 19<sup>th</sup> JAN



# COST OF PRODUCTION AND PROFITABILITY

Operation	Ben	Jeff	Simon	Daryl	Andrew
Spray	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25	
Mouldboard				\$100	
Cultivate	\$20			\$40	\$40
Level				\$10	\$10
Drill	\$15		\$15	\$15	\$15
Seed cost	\$97		\$124	\$45	\$66
Fertiliser				\$225	
<b>TOTAL (\$/ha)</b>	<b>\$157</b>	<b>\$25</b>	<b>\$164</b>	<b>\$460</b>	<b>\$91</b>

Cattle production	Ben	Jeff	Simon	Daryl	Andrew
Kg/hd/day	0.2	0	0.8	1.26	0
\$/ha @\$6/kg lwt	\$332	0	\$596	???	0
<b>Profit/loss \$/ha</b>	<b>\$175</b>	<b>-\$25</b>	<b>\$432</b>	<b>???</b>	<b>-\$91</b>

# Cost/Benefit: Cost per tonne of Dry Matter

		Total Input Costs (\$/ha)			
		\$150	\$300	\$450	\$600
DM Yield (t/ha)	2	\$75	\$150	\$225	\$300
	4	\$38	\$75	\$113	\$150
	6	\$25	\$50	\$75	\$100*
	8	\$19	\$38	\$56	\$75
	10	\$15	\$30	\$45	\$60

\* Silage costs ~\$100/t DM to conserve

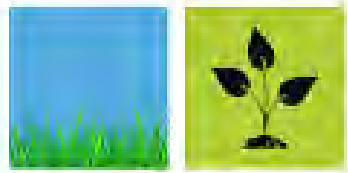
## 2<sup>nd</sup> year learnings

- In a very dry warm summer profitability was variable.
- Summer fodder species can be opportunistic or grown for the benefit of the following winter pasture production.
- Timing important to get the crop up and able access spring moisture as profile dries. Follow-up rains are needed to get big crops.
- Silage can grow animals at similar growth rates
- Work on seeding rates to reduce risk





**Lower Blackwood Catchment**  
Land Conservation District Committee



GROWERS GROUP

THANK YOU

