Implementing Variable Rate Technology in Pasture Systems

Final results from a three-year MLA-funded Producer Demonstration Site project implementing variable rate spreading in livestock systems will be presented at a field day at Coola Station in German Creek on the 11th of April.

Particular focus will be on the variable rate lime paddocks and how effective this has been at ameliorating soil acidity, growing pasture and making money than conventional lime applications.

“Variable rate applications, or VR, aims to put the right amount of fertiliser or other product in the right place, which can differ substantially across a single paddock,” reveals Precision Agriculture’s Sebastian Ie. “It’s widespread in cropping but has seen less adoption in livestock systems.”

This is partly due to a lack of real-world, practical examples of how it can be implemented and the kinds of results it can deliver.

The Producer Demonstration Site at Coola Station and nearby properties aimed to fill this gap by using paired paddocks to compare the results of VR applications to more conventional blanket-rate approaches.

A variety of readily available technologies were used to implement and monitor the results, including grid-based soil sampling to map the variability in soils within each paddock and Cibo Labs Pasture Key satellite-assisted forage budgeting to determine impact on pasture growth.

The results of this analysis will be delivered by specialists from Precision Agriculture Pty Ltd and experienced livestock consultant Tim Prance from 8:30AM on Thursday the 11th of April at the Coola Station Woolshed, 455 Coola Rd, German Creek SA.

For queries or to register your attendance at the event, please contact Kirsten Barlow on 0437 374 947 / k.barlow@precisionagriculture.com.au.