

Irwin Hunter & Co.

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Reliance on Pastures Increases Profit.

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Since the industry was deregulated the Tudanup farmers have been taking advantage of the bonus payment that their processor, Peters and Brownes, pays for milk that has above average fat and protein content.

Last season they introduced a pasture mix of annual ryegrasses called Super Mix, blended with a Balansa clover to deliver the energy and fibre they need to boost their milk quality.

The trial paid off. The Tuckers found that the Irwin Hunter & Co Super Mix did exceptionally well on both their low-lying ground and their better-draining soils.



The bulky and consistent pasture was turned into silage and has been the basis of the Tuckers' high quality milk and bonus payments throughout summer.

“Balansa clover fills a gap in the lower ground and the annual ryegrass mix produces a dense pasture that is high in energy and consistent over the area it is sown in”, Cyril said.

Since the trial last year, the Tuckers have decided to increase their productivity by installing irrigation on their 263ha property, 13 kms south of Capel and 25km east of Busselton.

In the last month they have begun irrigating 190 acres and already their pasture is growing well.

“Irrigation opens up a whole new world. We hope to graze all year round.” The Tuckers expect the savings they make on grain to pay for the system. Any increase in production would be profit, according to Mr Tucker's calculations.

With irrigation boosting production the Tuckers plan to ultimately add another labour unit to their dairy and increase their herd of milking cows to 400.

“Super Mix and Balansa clover came up so well last season, we will be making it part of our new operation,” Cyril said.

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