

Irwin Hunter & Co.

Western Australia's Leading Seed Distributor

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Roper, the base for a high production system.

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The result today is that 400 hectares has been sown to new pasture based around Roper perennial ryegrass and a mixture of Subterranean and Persian clovers.

With the combination of new pasture varieties, good pasture management, and a focus on correct soil nutrition, John and his team have increased stock numbers three fold, and they are able to make large quantities of high quality silage, haylage and hay.



The success of two paddocks sown to the Roper mix, three and five years ago is shown in the table below. These results are typical of what has been achieved across the farming operation:

<i>Area</i>	<i>Rotationally Grazed From</i>	<i>Cutting Date</i>	<i>Baled Result</i>	<i>Quantity kgs/ha</i>	<i>Days Grown</i>
12 ha's sown autumn 2000	8th April to 24th August with 110 adult cattle = 138 days	21st October	210 bales each 500 Kgs (haylage)	8750 Kgs	59 Days
18 ha's sown autumn 1998	8th April to 8th October with 130 adult cattle = 183 days	28 th October	256 bales each 400 Kgs (hay)	5689 Kgs	20 Days

The following assumptions have been used to calculate the likely pasture production over the period paddocks were under grazing.

If adult cattle intake is estimated at 8 kgs per day over 60% of period rotationally grazed, additional production would be as follows:

Paddock 1:

110 cattle x 8 kgs per day = 880 kgs consumed x 60% of 138 days = 60,720 ÷ 12 ha's = 6,086 kgs DM grown plus haylage produced.

Paddock 2:

130 cattle x 8 kgs per day = 1,040 kgs consumed x 60% of 183 days = 114,400 kgs ÷ 18 ha's = 6,355 kgs DM grown plus haylage produced.

Fertiliser application:

250 kgs ha phosphate / potash autumn 2002
100 kgs ha Urea July, paddock 1
110 kgs ha Urea July, paddock 2
300 kgs ha Hay burst early August, paddock 1
250 kgs ha Hay burst early September, paddock 2

Both paddocks cut for haylage / hay are recovering well and have been shut to allow seed set for regeneration the following year, a practice successfully adopted in this environment with Roper perennial pastures.

From the above results, John is achieving very high production for this area through good pasture management, soil nutrition and selection of the right species, and has established a sustainable pasture system that will continue to provide good long term production.