AN INITIATIVE OF

Making More From Sheep

Turning Pasture into Product

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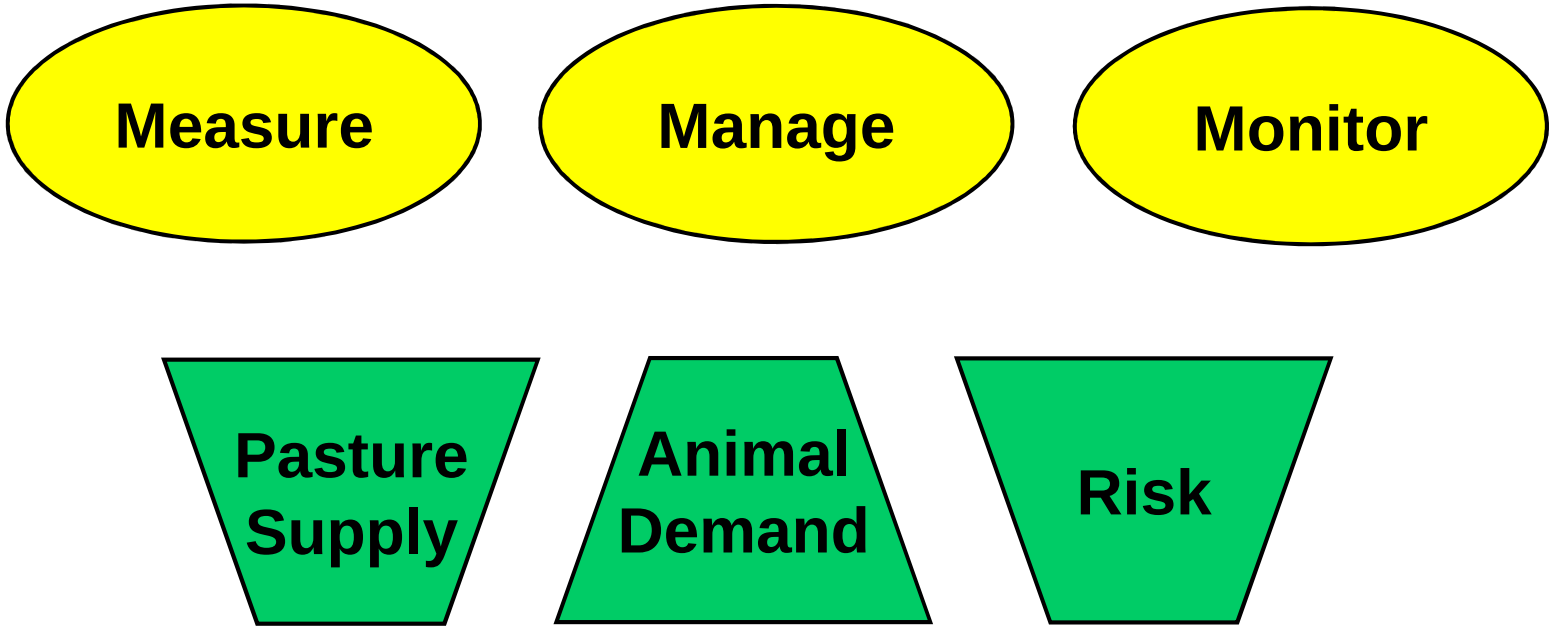
Department of Primary Industries

EVENT PARTNERS:

EVENT SUPPORTERS:

Turn Pasture into Product

Key process for converting pasture to product is



Get the best alignment between animal demand and pasture supply

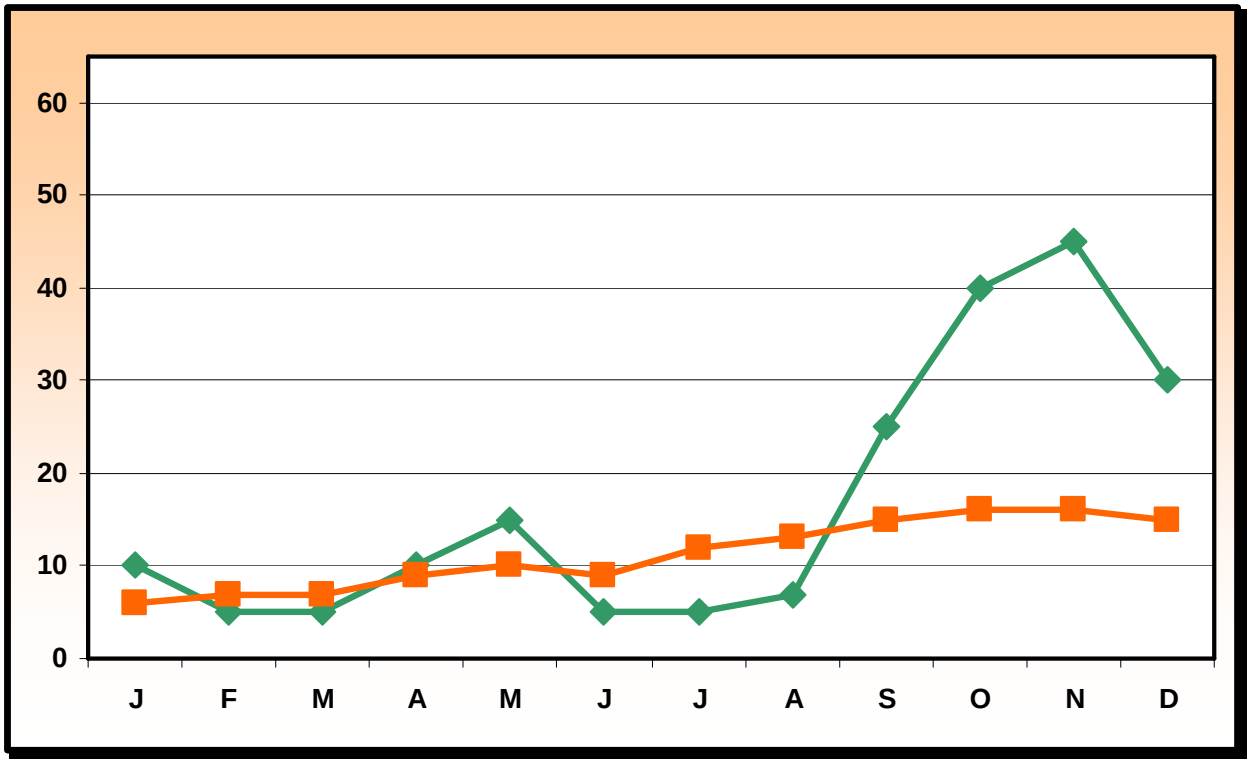
Need to….

Know feed supply curve

Know animal demand

Know how to better match the two

Pasture Supply Curve



What influences the curve?

Weather, soil fertility, grazing management

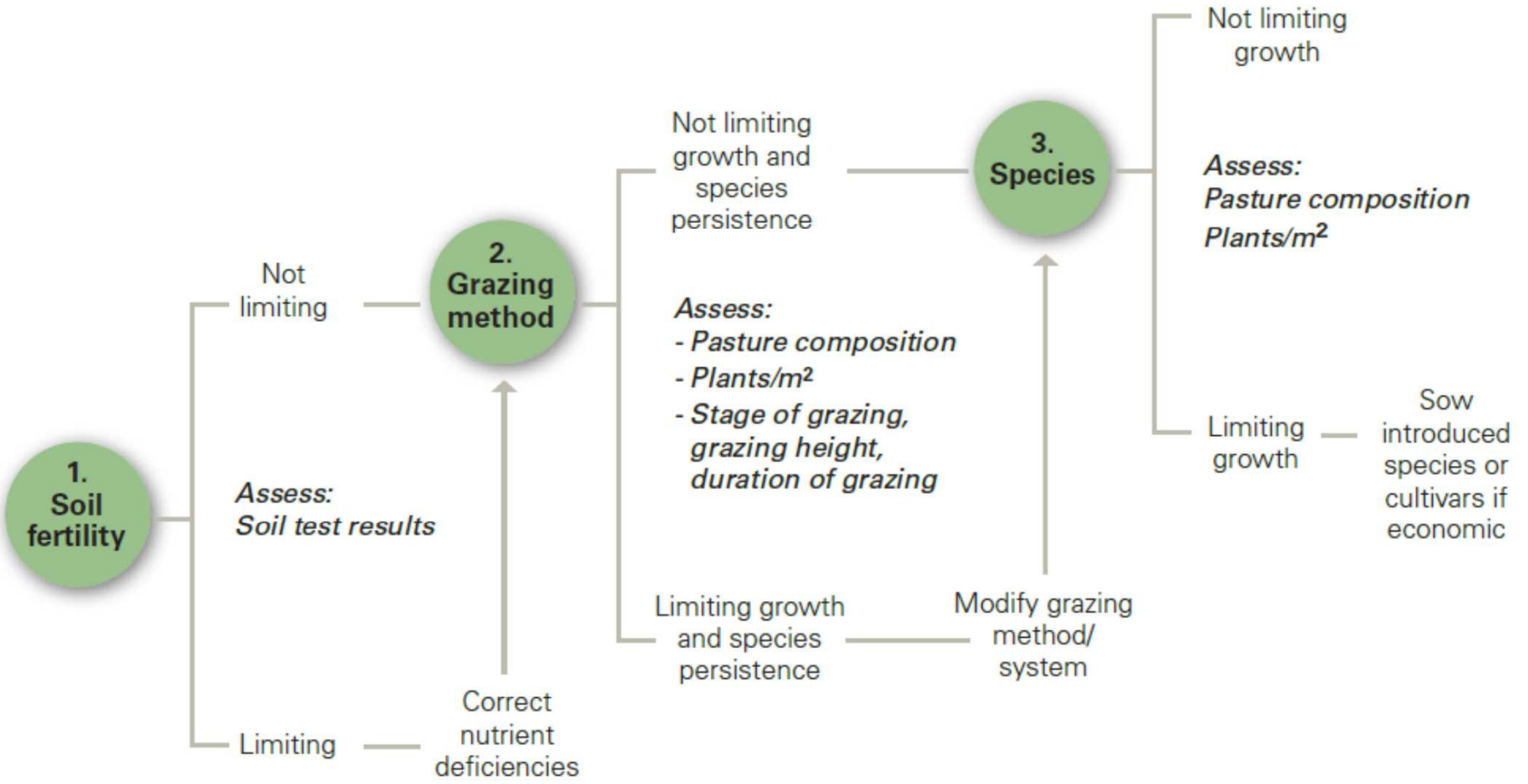
Animal demand

Class sheep — **E requirement** — **Feed quality**

	MJME/hd/day	kgDM pasture 70% Digestible	kgDM pasture 60% Digestible
50 kg Dry Sheep	7	0.7	0.9
50 kg Ewe Lactating	15	1.5	1.9
20-25 kg weaner	5	0.5	0.6

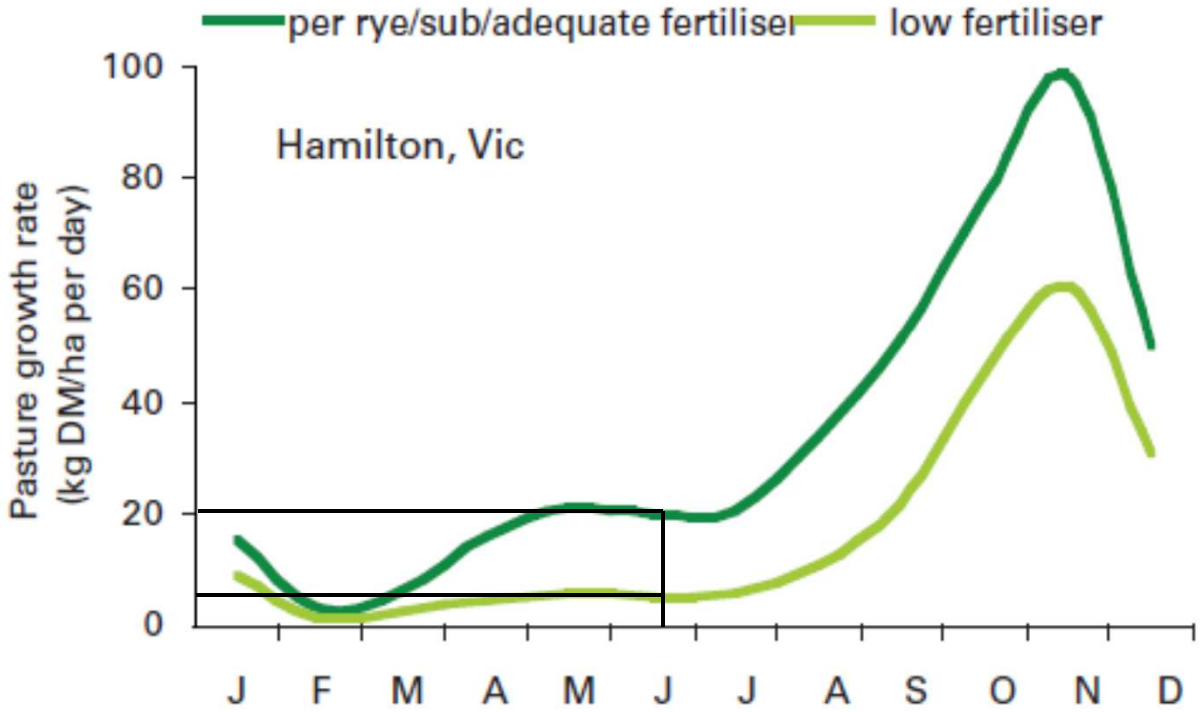
Source – Prograze Manual

Priorities for Growing More Pastures



Source – Making More from Sheep

Soil Fertility



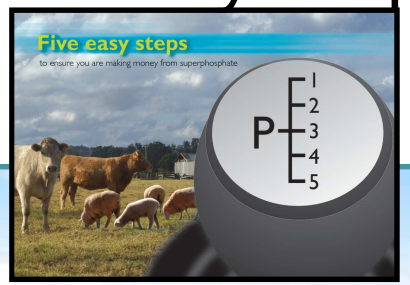
Source – Making More from Sheep

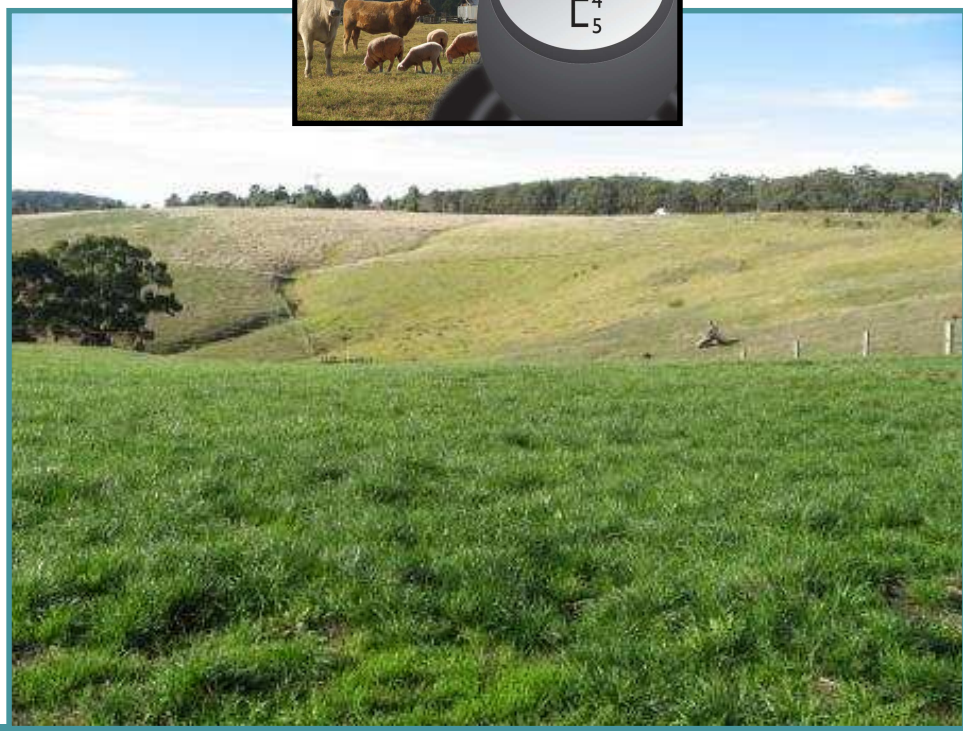
Will my pastures respond ?

Soil test

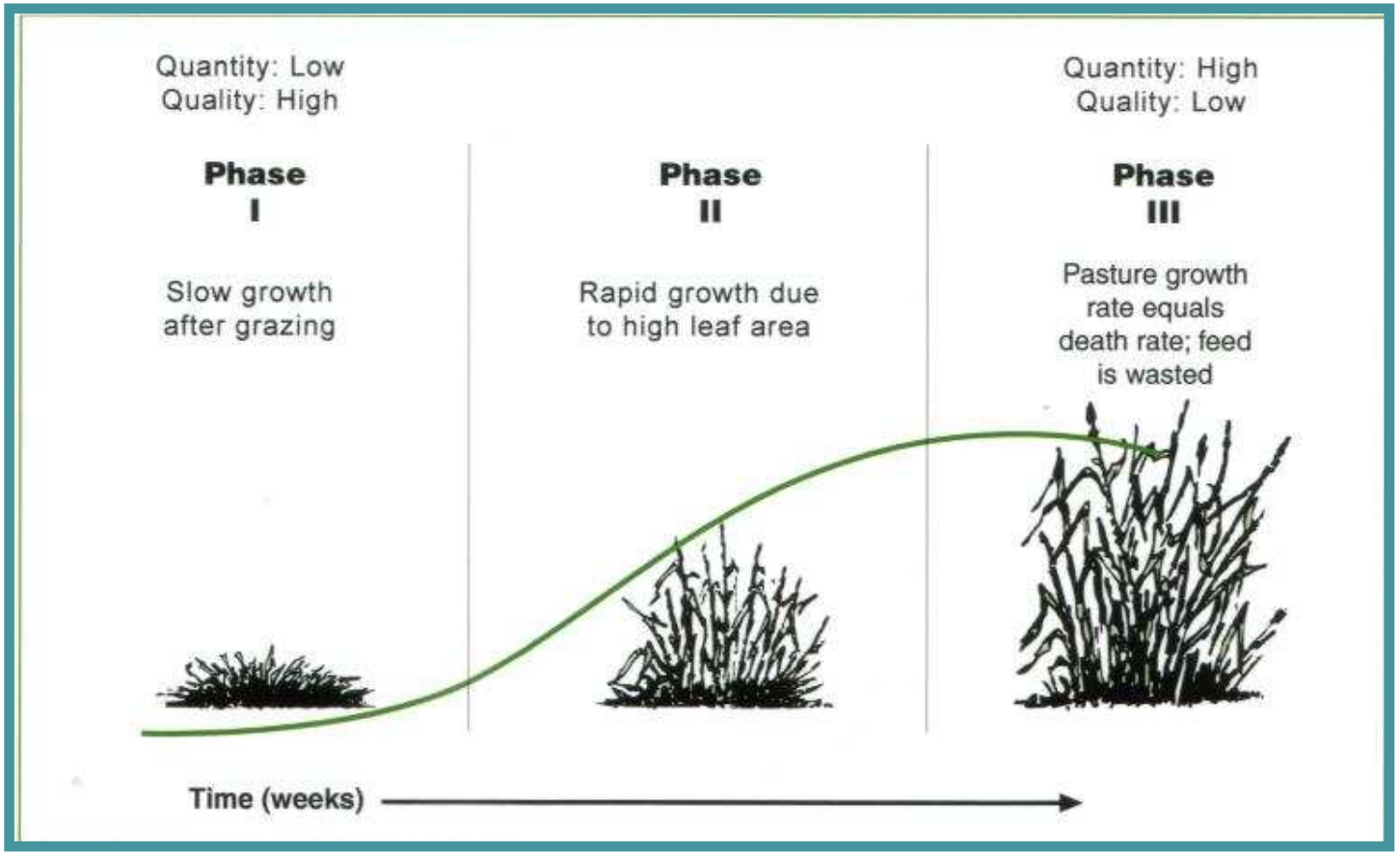
Test strips

"Five Easy Steps"

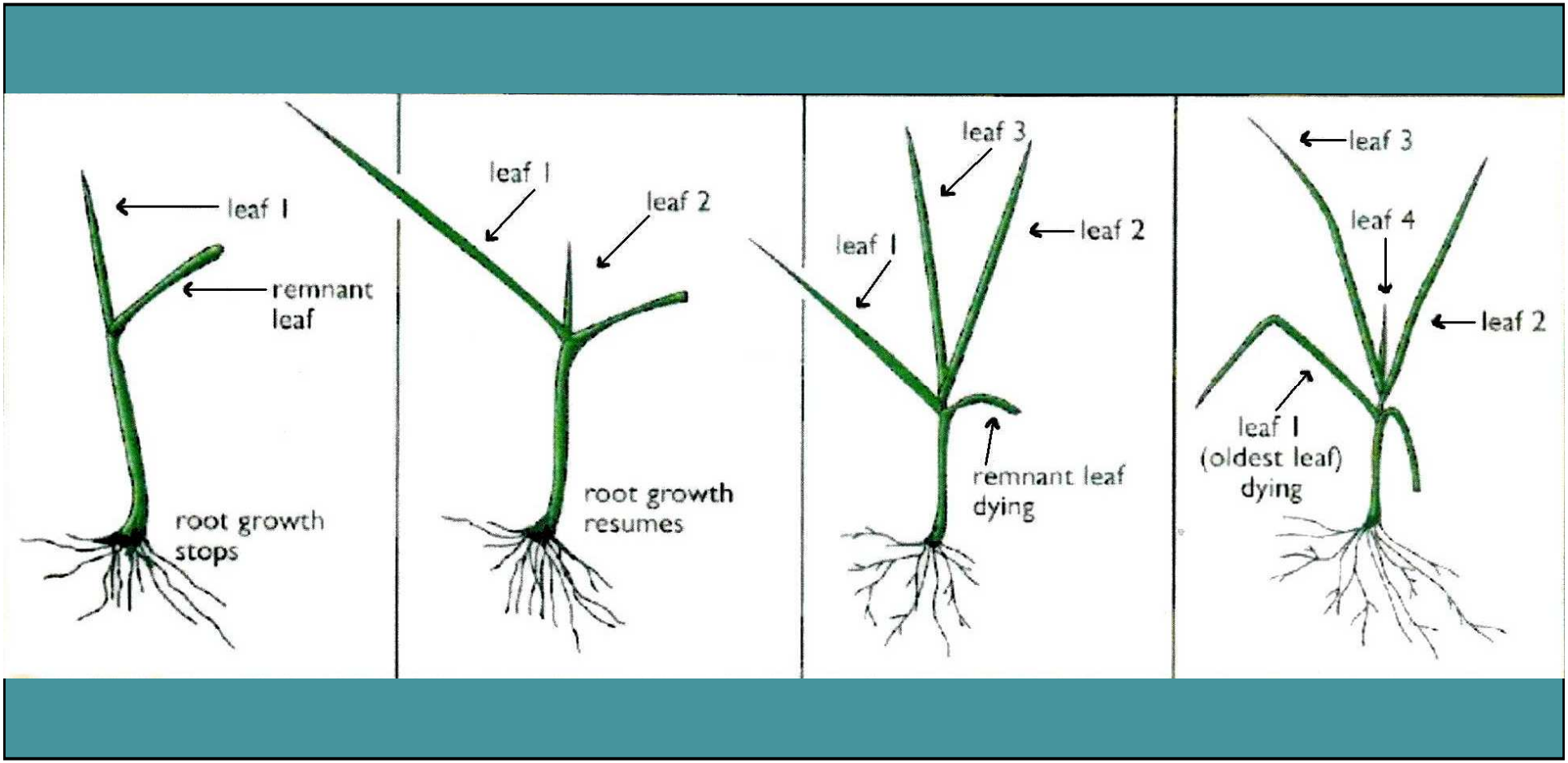




Grazing



Source – Prograze Manual


leaf 1
remnant leaf
root growth stops
leaf 1
leaf 2
root growth resumes
leaf 3
leaf 1
leaf 2
remnant leaf dying
leaf 3
leaf 4
leaf 2
leaf 1 (oldest leaf) dying

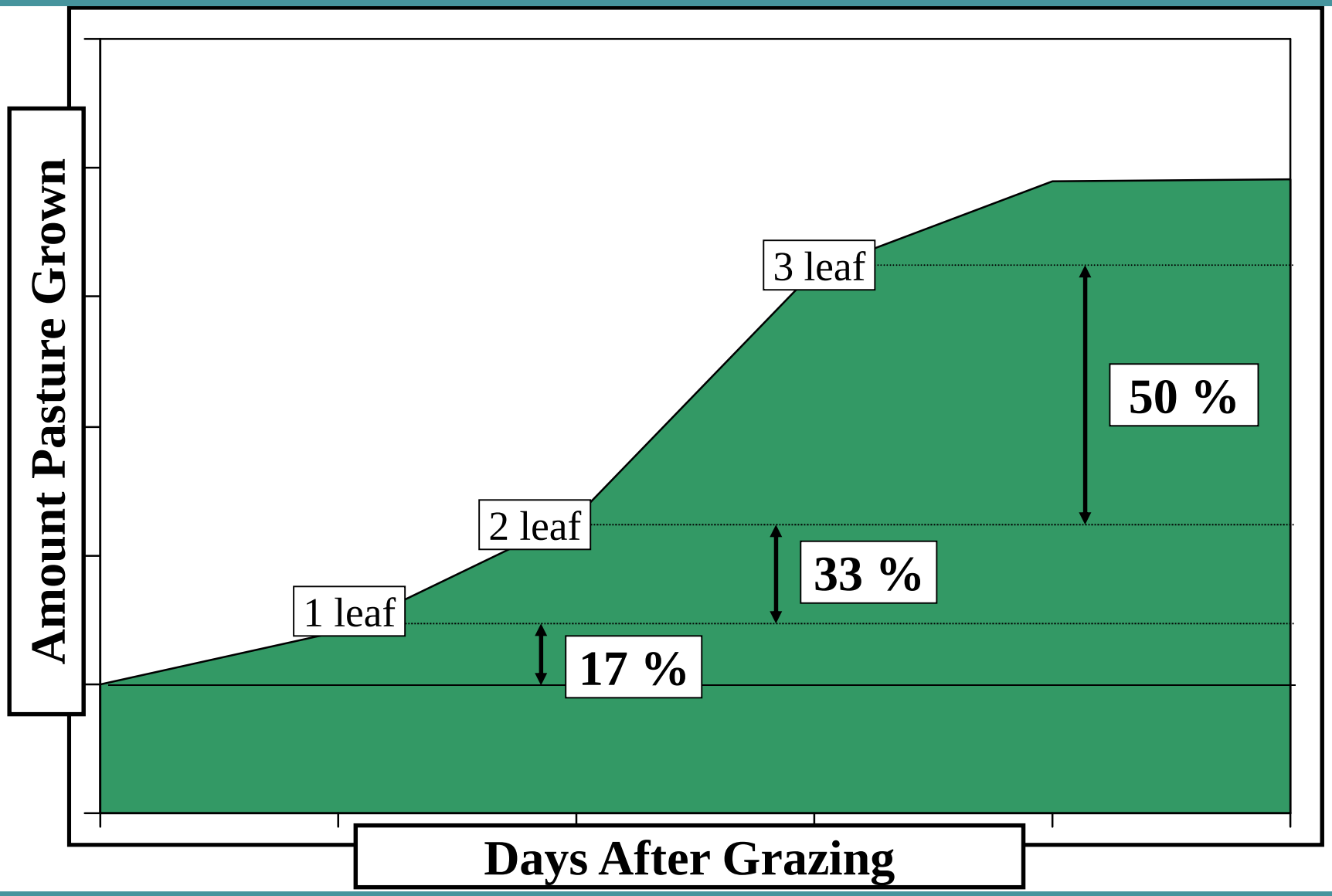
Plants are solar factories

Grazing **too low** will reduce leaf area & photosynthesis

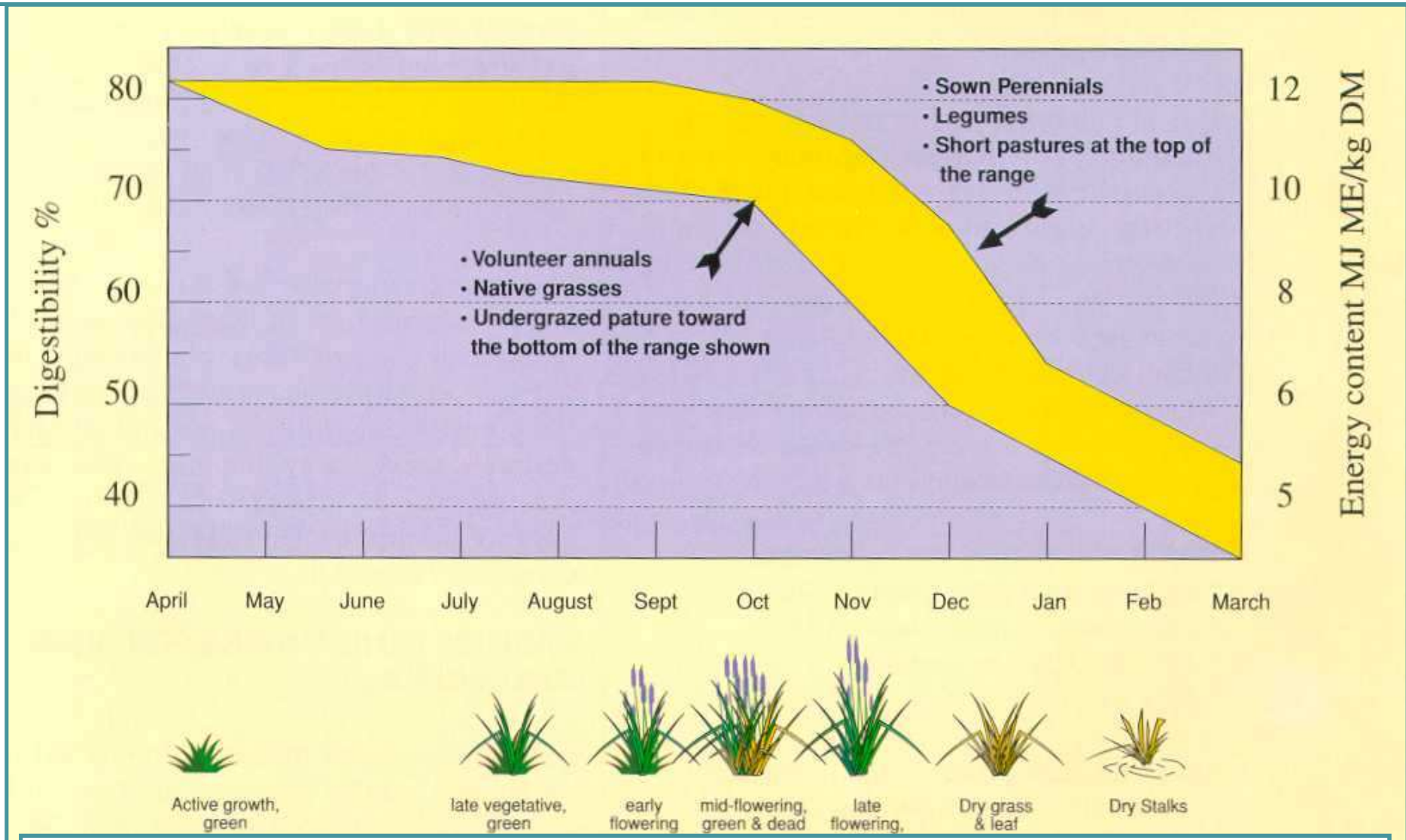
Grazing for **too long** will reduce root reserves

Both will reduce the rate of regrowth after grazing

Root reserves


Amount Pasture Grown
3 leaf
2 leaf
1 leaf
50 %
33 %
17 %
Days After Grazing

Source – Prograze Manual



Feed value declines as pasture matures

Know species

Graze for persistence or removal

✓ Cocksfoot - Avoid continuous grazing of green shoots during summer/autumn

✗ Chicory – Overgraze and trample in winter (when dormant)

MMFS Module 7, Tool 7.5 – Grazing Guidelines

Utilise fodder crops

Annual pastures

Lucerne

Chicory

Brassicas

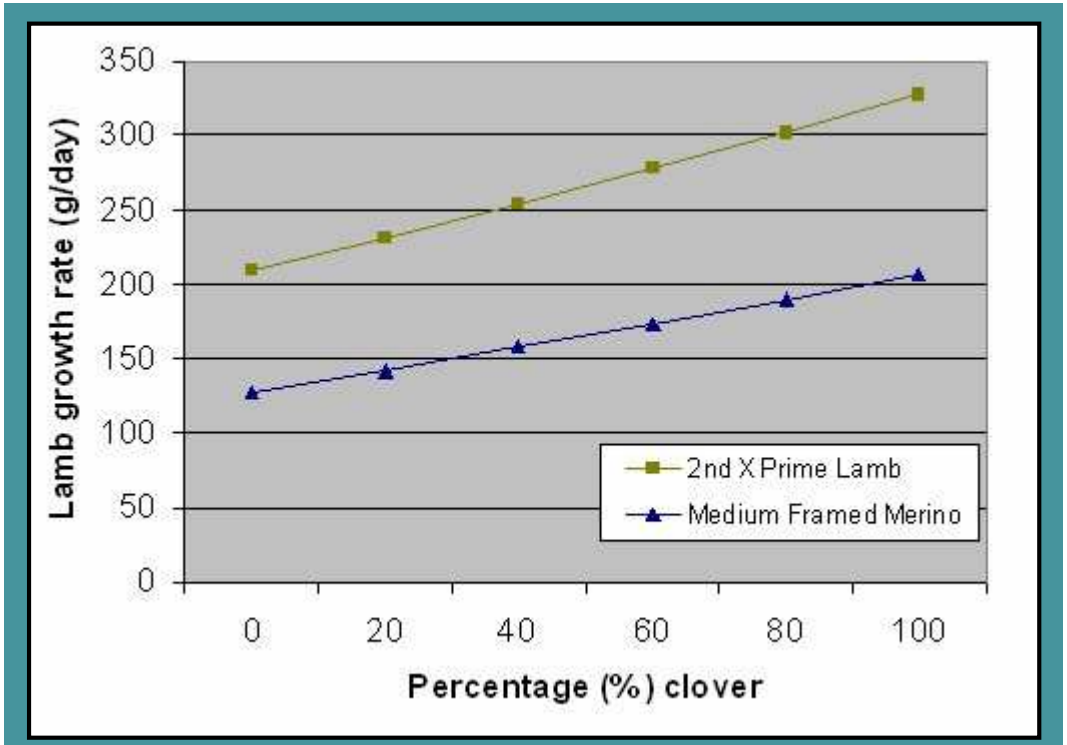
Consider resowing

Introduce better quality species – pasturepicker.com.au

< 10 cocksfoot plants/m^2

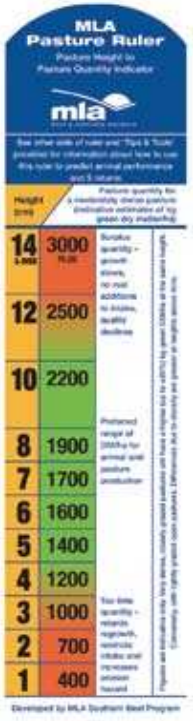
< 15 perennial ryegrass plants/m^2

Source – Lifetime Wool



Have critical levels.....monitor

Minimum pasture supply benchmarks



Sheep Class		Pasture targets (kg green DM/ha) to meet animal demand at three levels of pasture digestibility (%)		
		75%	68%	60%
Dry sheep		400	600	1200
Pregnant ewes	Mid	500	700	1700
	Last month	700	1200	Not suitable
Lactating ewes	Single	1000	1700	Not suitable
	Twins	1500	Not suitable	Not suitable
Growing stock (% of potential growth)	30% (75g/day) *	400	700	1700
	50% (125g/day)*	600	1000	Not suitable
	70% (175g/day)*	800	1700	Not suitable
	90% (225g/day)*	1600	Not suitable	Not suitable

Source – Making More from Sheep

Feed On Offer

900 kgDM/ha

Pregnant Ewes

1700 kgDM/ha

Growing weaners

1100 kgDM/ha

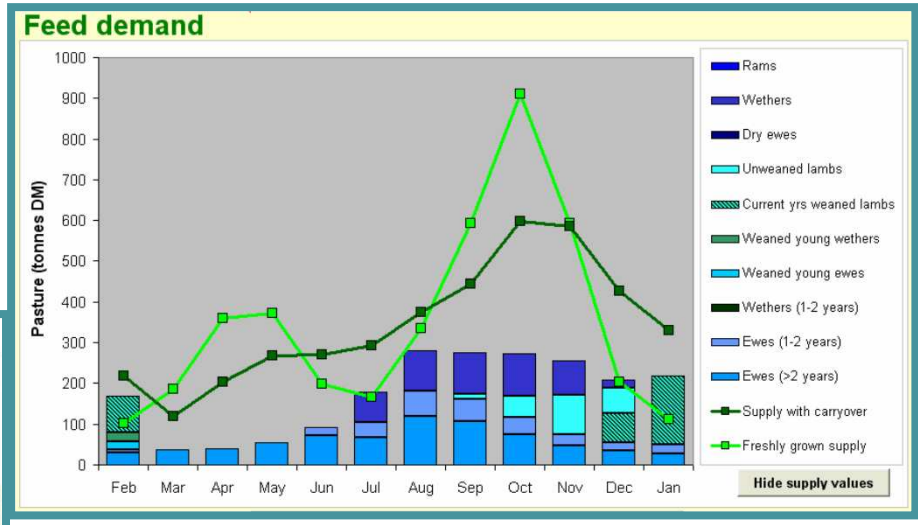
Source – Lifetime Wool

Feed Budgets

Table 7.10 – Budget sheet to calculate the number of days feed will last

Date	Paddock	A Available DM (kg DM/ha) *1	B Pasture eaten/head/ day *2	C Pasture eaten/ha/day *3	D Pasture growth rate (kg DM/ha/ day) *4	E Change in pasture availibility (kg DM/ha/ day) *5	F Days feed will last *6

Source – Prograze Manual



Source – Feed Demand Calculator
www.mla.com.au

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