



MLA Producer Demonstration Sites: Alternate forage crops for Southern WA

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SCF has recently partnered with MLA to host three Producer Demonstration Sites (PDS) for sheep or cattle grazing alternate forage crops in Southern WA over the next

three years. We are currently looking for producers who would be interested in hosting a site for one or multiple years.

SCF researchers want to demonstrate which crops are the most productive in our region, comparing millet, Pallaton Raphano, winter canola, cowpea, and sorghum. The productive capacity of the summer forage crops will be measured in live weight gain of sheep or cattle.

The aim is to demonstrate the feed value of alternate high biomass forage crops in increasing stocking rates and live weight gain of prime lambs or beef cattle relative to current systems in the HRZ of Western Australia. Current systems to be compared include grazing either stubbles or pasture.

Some of the benefits alternate forage crops can provide include deferred grazing of annual pastures, allowing more time for a critical biomass to be reached. This in turn creates more productive annual pastures with more biomass, potentially allowing increased stocking rates over the autumn period along with increased weight gain of stock and reduced supplementation feed costs.

Important data PDS hosts will need to collect.

Before grazing:

- Stock number
- Stock class
- Stock weights
- Plant samples from summer crop and control pasture or barley stubble

Post grazing:

- Stock weights

Do not despair if you have no method of weighing animals, SCF can organize weigh scales to use and will assist in critical data measurements. If weighing the whole mob is not practical a subsample of sheep or cattle can be tagged so we can determine pre and post grazing average weights.

If this project interests you, or you would like to be involved, please contact Samantha Lubcke on 0417 605 784.

SCF are currently running a survey as part of this project.

If you are a livestock producer and have not done so yet, could you please take a few minutes to complete the following survey.

HEAD TO:
[surveymonkey.com/r/mlapds2012](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/mlapds2012)
or use the QR code below

