

Testing Tropical Pastures in the Southern NSW slopes

Holbrook Landcare Network is currently undertaking an MLA funded Producer Demonstration Site (PDS) known as 'Testing Tropicals in the NSW southern slopes'. The project was established in response to increasing summer rainfall in the region and aims to demonstrate the role of tropical pastures species in southern NSW grazing systems.

The southern slopes are dominated by winter perennials or annual pastures and there are few perennial species that are currently capable of best utilizing summer rainfall. Further challenges in summer feed production include seasonal rainfall downgrading the quality of dry-standing winter pastures resulting in reduced weaner growth rates and increased dependency on supplementary feeding. By improving higher quality feed in late spring, summer and autumn, producers could reduce feeding costs, improve/maintain livestock growth rates over the summer period, and increase the feed base in late autumn moving into winter, better positioning livestock enterprises.

Holbrook Landcare currently has 2 Producer Demonstration Sites on farms at Henty and Yerong Creek. Our Yerong Creek site demonstrates a Digit grass and Kikuyu pasture mix and our Henty site will exhibit the performance of a 2021 sown Digit grass stand. HLN looks forward to monitoring the impact of these pastures on different breeds and classes of sheep and cattle over the next 6 years.



Digit grass plant



HLN 2022 Tropical Pastures Field Day



Producer Steven Scott in one of his Digit grass paddocks