



## Pasture Principles – *Register Today!*

### Program Overview

Pasture management is the fundamental skill that determines the financial performance of pasture based grazing systems. Managers that exhibit a high degree of pasture management skill are far more profitable than those with less developed skills.

The aim of Pasture Principles is to provide producers with a set of guiding principles that will allow them to manage confidently regardless of the season, situation or system. The program was developed by Basil Doonan, Principal Consultant at Macquarie Franklin, Tasmania, in conjunction with valuable input from a range of experienced individuals.

### Program Content

The program is suitable for livestock producers involved in the sheep, dairy and beef industries. The key areas covered in the program are:

1. An understanding of the relationship between plant requirements, leaf emergence rates and pasture growth
2. Plant morphology and the relationship with pasture quality, pasture quantity and plant persistence
3. Measuring and predicting pasture growth
4. Allocation of pasture on a dry matter basis
5. Variations in pasture quality throughout the season
6. The relationship between stocking rate and pasture utilisation
7. Animal requirements for maintenance, growth, pregnancy and lactation
8. Feed budgeting
9. Feed planning
10. Marginal cost and marginal revenue decisions associated with feeding pasture

“Our entire team undertook the Pasture Principles program in 2011. From this we implemented a new grazing management plan, only possible with the new skills we obtained from Pasture Principles. We have lifted stocking rates beyond our initial targets and still have more capability to lift them further. Pasture Principles provided us with one of the most critical turning points in our business productivity and profitability in the last decade.”



# Pasture Principles

A practical guide to pasture management

## Program Delivery

The program is offered in a group training environment. Delivery consists of a two day workshop which covers the theory of grazing, understanding the language and key principles.

Following the workshop, participants engage in a 12 month program consisting of six coaching sessions that puts the theory into practice and develops the key skills associated with pasture management. The coaching sessions are aimed at both skill development and the implementation of grazing strategies and management on participants' farms. They provide an opportunity for participants to discuss issues with each other and Rural Directions Pty Ltd coach (Simon Vogt), to develop workable solutions.

"I'd encourage any livestock producer looking to increase their production to undertake the Pasture Principles course. We've moved to a rotational grazing system on the back of the program which has enabled better utilisation of our pastures, especially our irrigated clover. The course has resulted in our operation increasing its stocking rate by 18% and at the same time it's lifted our weaning weights and brought forward the average finishing date of our prime lambs. The increased awareness of pasture utilisation has made planning in a tough year easier and we are more prepared for feed gaps."

*Scott Colvin, Nosswick (2015 participant)*

## Program Details

**When:** **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2016, Naracoorte**

Start time: Please arrive at 8.45am

Finish time: 4.00pm

**Where:** Naracoorte Hotel Motel Function Room; 73 Ormerod Street, Naracoorte SA

**Cost:** The commercial cost of this program is \$2,275 (GST exc) per business, for up to 2 participants per business.  
More Beef from Pastures and Making More from Sheep will co-invest reducing the cost of the program to \$1,850 (GST exc) per business.

Light lunch will be provided.

**Please register by 27<sup>th</sup> September 2016.**

For more information about Pasture Principles, please contact Rural Directions Pty Ltd on 08 8841 4500 or email [admin@ruraldirections.com](mailto:admin@ruraldirections.com)

*This program is co-funded by More Beef from Pastures and Making More from Sheep.*