

The second Murrabit Pasture Group meeting was held on Tuesday the 2nd of September with 15 people attending at McDonalds farm “Riversdale”.

The first paddock discussed had a Summer active Fescue mix which is made up of Max P Tall Fescue, Mainstay White Clover, Prestige White Clover and Will White Clover. The paddock was previously a sub paddock which was sprayed out in the summer. The paddock has had three grazing’s so far. Fertiliser applied includes DAP and Urea. The paddock was also sprayed with an Ecopar and MCPA mix, with some Lemat for insects. As they were happy with the results of the Festuca mix two other paddocks have recently been sown. Both paddocks were sprayed out then sown using a John Deere 1590 Box Drill one was cultivated prior to sowing and the other direct drilled. Both have been irrigated and it will be interesting to see the vigour with which the mix grows being spring sown as opposed to Autumn.

The next stop was to look at a paddock with Wedgetail wheat and Cavalier medic. The wheat was sown at 80kg/ha and the medic at 5kg/ha. DAP was applied at sowing and more recently it had been top dressed with Urea. The paddock has had two grazing’s so far. There are also other paddocks with the Wedgetail and Cavalier. One paddock did not get watered but Pete said it seemed to perform better from natural rainfall as there was no waterlogging. Cavalier Medic is a Spineless Burr Medic and was chosen for its ability to set hard seed.

Knight Italian Ryegrass was also looked at and discussed. The Knight provides good growth throughout the winter and reach’s maturity later in the spring. The paddock had been a sub paddock for the last few years. It had two watering’s in Autumn with fertiliser applied before each watering. It was sprayed with the Ecopar and MCPA mix in late winter but Pete felt that it should have been sprayed earlier for better results. Whilst Pete felt it produced a bigger body of feed compared to more common rye grasses, the true results will be seen later in spring.

Wedgetail wheat with Shaftal clover was sown in the Autumn. The paddock could not be grazed throughout the winter as it was too wet. There plans are to cut it for hay, irrigate and then if the Shaftal came back stong enough they would be able to strip it for seed. This approach has been successful in the past.

Rob and Allen from Emmetts gave us a run down on the benefits of a John Deere 1590 Box Drill disc seeder which they had on site. Everybody had a close look at the complex yet simple ideas incorporated into a modern seeder. We thank them for taking their time to explain how the machine operated and giving us a demonstration to show its accurate seed placement.

Thankyou to Pete and Andrew McDonald for their hospitality.

The next Murrabit Pasture Group meeting will be held on the Tuesday the 7th October. More details to come. Check it out on **murrabittrading.com.au/**

**Any Enquires please call MTL PH: 54572235**