



The Bull Sheet

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A word from Tom

Volume 2, Issue 2 May 2010

Hi Everyone,

Newsletter Spotlight

In this issue:

Rob Kelly Interview

The impact of grazing on your pasture composition

Brett Kissel: Working dog and electric fences



Tom Chisholm
B.Agr



John Ransom
Marathon Man

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The plant keeps its energy reserves stored in its roots. These stores are used for re-growth after defoliation and winter survival. If a plant is palatable and attractive to stock it will constantly have its re-growth removed. Frequent grazing does not allow the plant to replenish its root reserves. *If the plant is constantly withdrawing energy from its root bank and not making deposits it will run out of energy and die.*

Plant root depth.

Plants that are over grazed will not be as competitive in accessing water in the soil profile. Plants that are preferentially grazed in the sward with insufficient rest period between grazing will not develop a root system as large or strong as plants that are not grazed. The stronger and more developed a plants root system the greater the plants ability to withstand moisture stress by accessing moisture within the soil profile. If animals are grazing selectively then those plants that are the least desirable will be best equipped to deal with moisture stress. Under stress these plants will thrive while more palatable species will disappear from the sward.

Shading within the sward.

Light is the energy that fuels plant growth. In the same way that tall trees in a forest shade those below, under grazed pastures also create a shading effect. Those species that are left untouched by grazing grow tall shading those species that are more palatable and overgrazed. This effects the ability of the plant to photosynthesize and grow. The desirable species in the sward become less productive as they have less fuel. Sunlight is also critical in the plants ability to tiller and reproduce more leaf area. *When struggling for sunlight plants will be competed out of the sward.*

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High stocking density. Having stock grazing a relatively small area does not give them the option of selectively grazing. This is particularly important if you are trying to positively influence pasture composition.

Frequent shifting. From a pastures point of view the frequency of starting depend on the time of year. If the plant is already shifting to grow from its root reserve and stock eat re-growth then the plants ability to subsequently re-grow will be compromised. The grazing period will vary with the seasons. You need to shift more frequently in spring to avoid this than you would in winter.

Keep covers under control at critical times for tillering. You need to keep covers under control in spring and autumn. These are the key times for letting light into the base of the pasture creating new tillers in the pasture.

If you get your implementation right, not only can you maintain your existing production but, you can get improvements in pasture composition to increase your pasture production.

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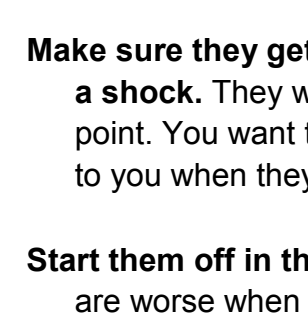
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Fifi, Boots & Prue ready for work on Ardgartan

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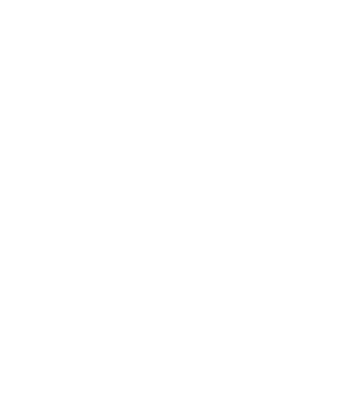
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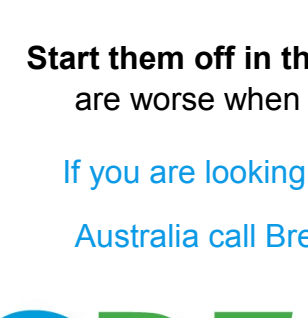
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Carbohydrates stored in the plant roots.

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Plants that are over grazed will not be as competitive in accessing water in the soil profile. Plants that are preferentially grazed in the sward with insufficient rest period between grazing will not develop a root system as large or strong as plants that are not grazed. The stronger and more developed a plants root system the greater the plants ability to withstand moisture stress by accessing moisture within the soil profile. If animals are grazing selectively then those plants that are the least desirable will be best equipped to deal with moisture stress. Under stress these plants will thrive while more palatable species will disappear from the sward.

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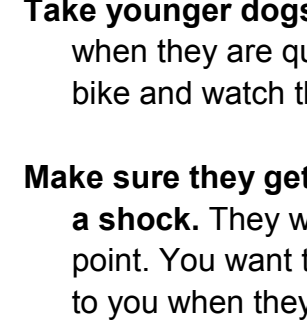
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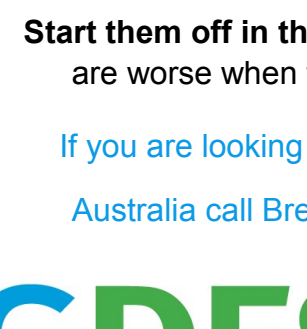
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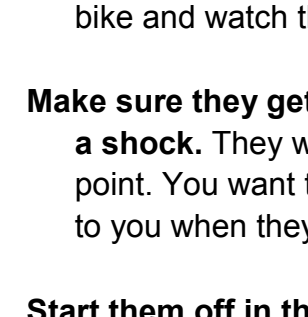
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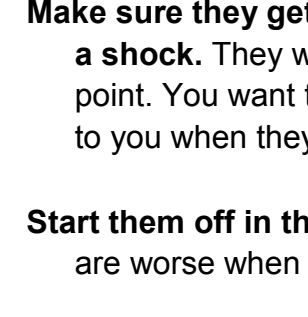
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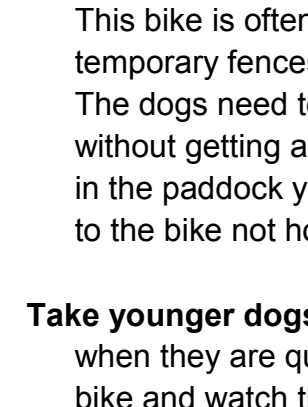
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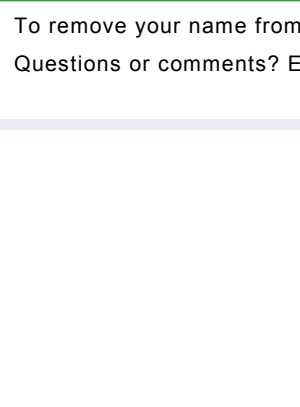
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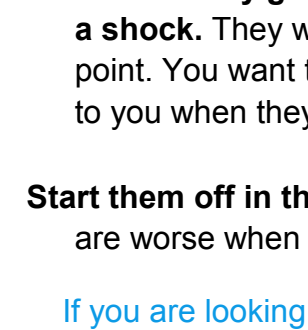
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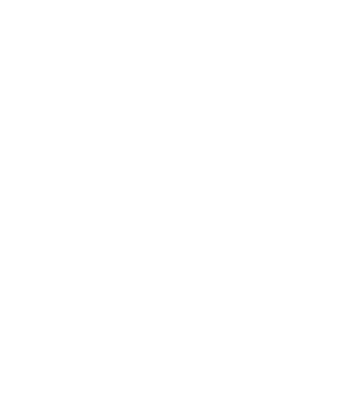
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Plants that are over grazed will not be as competitive in accessing water in the soil profile. Plants that are preferentially grazed in the sward with insufficient rest period between grazing will not develop a root system as large or strong as plants that are not grazed. The stronger and more developed a plants root system the greater the plants ability to withstand moisture stress by accessing moisture within the soil profile. If animals are grazing selectively then those plants that are the least desirable will be best equipped to deal with moisture stress. Under stress these plants will thrive while more palatable species will disappear from the sward.

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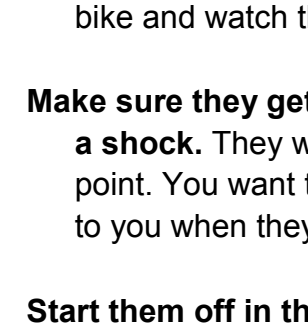
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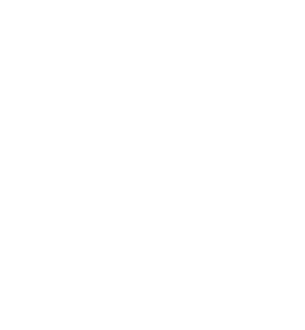
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Prue waiting to go to work on Cashco, north of Melbourne



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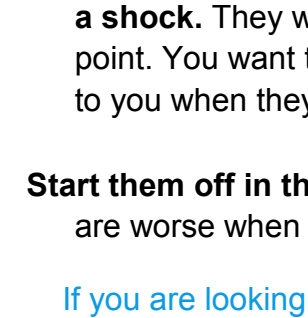
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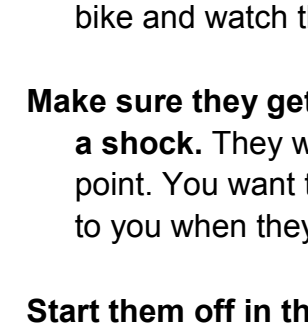
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Plants that are over grazed will not be as competitive in accessing water in the soil profile. Plants that are preferentially grazed in the sward with insufficient rest period between grazing will not develop a root system as large or strong as plants that are not grazed. The stronger and more developed a plants root system the greater the plants ability to withstand moisture stress by accessing moisture within the soil profile. If animals are grazing selectively then those plants that are the least desirable will be best equipped to deal with moisture stress. Under stress these plants will thrive while more palatable species will disappear from the sward.

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Light is the energy that fuels plant growth. In the same way that tall trees in a forest shade those below, under grazed pastures also create a shading effect. Those species that are left untouched by grazing grow tall shading those species that are more palatable and overgrazed. This effects the ability of the plant to photosynthesize and grow. The desirable species in the sward become less productive as they have less fuel. Sunlight is also critical in the plants ability to tiller and reproduce more leaf area. *When struggling for sunlight plants will be competed out of the sward.*

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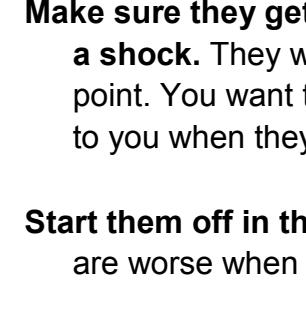
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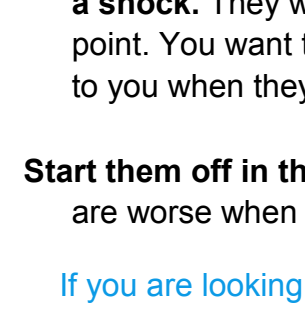
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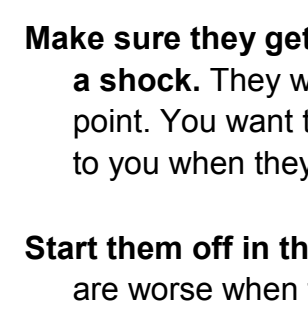
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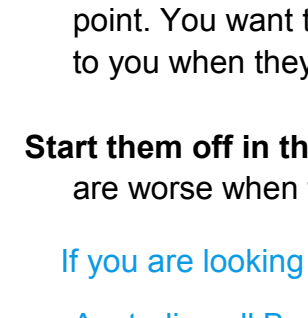
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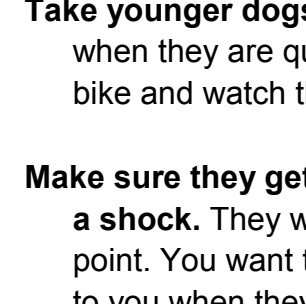
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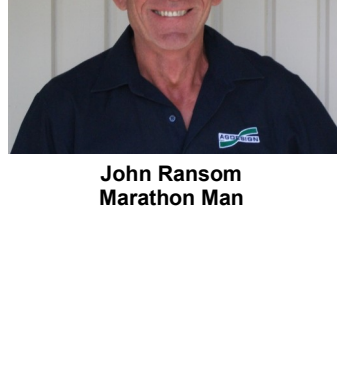
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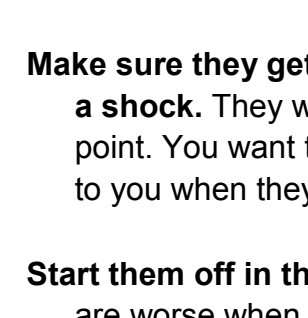
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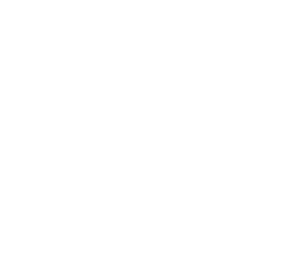
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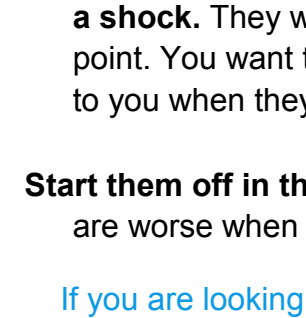
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Plant root depth.

Plants that are over grazed will not be as competitive in accessing water in the soil profile. Plants that are preferentially grazed in the sward with insufficient rest period between grazing will not develop a root system as large or strong as plants that are not grazed. The stronger and more developed a plants root system the greater the plants ability to withstand moisture stress by accessing moisture within the soil profile. If animals are grazing selectively then those plants that are the least desirable will be best equipped to deal with moisture stress. Under stress these plants will thrive while more palatable species will disappear from the sward.

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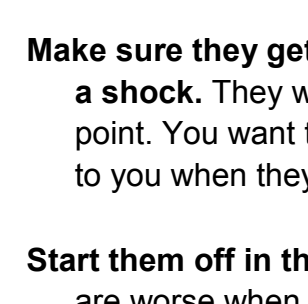
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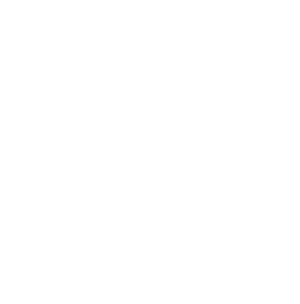
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Fifi, Boots & Prue ready for work on Ardgartan



Prue waiting to go to work on Cashco, north of Melbourne



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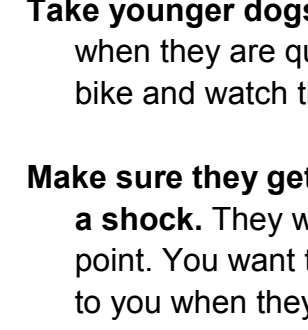
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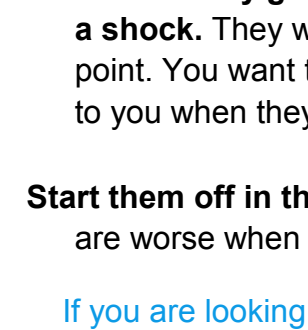
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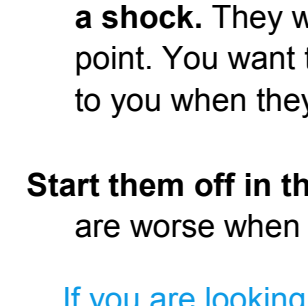
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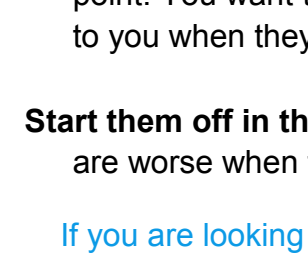
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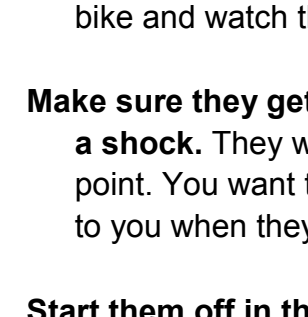
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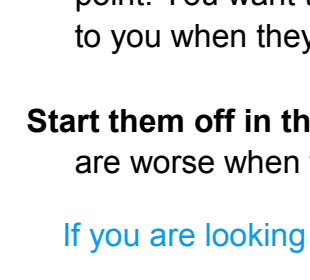
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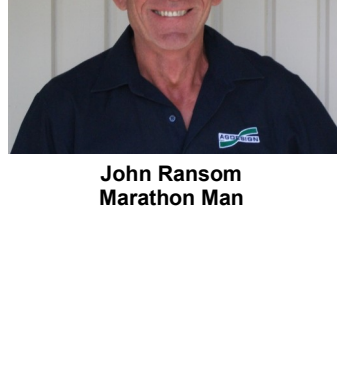
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Carbohydrates stored in the plant roots.

The plant keeps its energy reserves stored in its roots. These stores are used for re-growth after defoliation and winter survival. If a plant is palatable and attractive to stock it will constantly have its re-growth removed. Frequent grazing does not allow the plant to replenish its root reserves. *If the plant is constantly withdrawing energy from its root bank and not making deposits it will run out of energy and die.*

Plant root depth.

Plants that are over grazed will not be as competitive in accessing water in the soil profile. Plants that are preferentially grazed in the sward with insufficient rest period between grazing will not develop a root system as large or strong as plants that are not grazed. The stronger and more developed a plants root system the greater the plants ability to withstand moisture stress by accessing moisture within the soil profile. If animals are grazing selectively then those plants that are the least desirable will be best equipped to deal with moisture stress. Under stress these plants will thrive while more palatable species will disappear from the sward.

Shading within the sward.

Light is the energy that fuels plant growth. In the same way that tall trees in a forest shade those below, under grazed pastures also create a shading effect. Those species that are left untouched by grazing grow tall shading those species that are more palatable and overgrazed. This effects the ability of the plant to photosynthesize and grow. The desirable species in the sward become less productive as they have less fuel. Sunlight is also critical in the plants ability to tiller and reproduce more leaf area. *When struggling for sunlight plants will be competed out of the sward.*

What does this mean for pasture management?

When grazing pastures and designing grazing systems we need to take account of the effects grazing is having on the plant. These are some of the key areas that should feature in your grazing management from a plant perspective:

Rest period to suit pasture recovery. The time between grazing events should allow the plant to fully recharge its root reserve before it next grazed.

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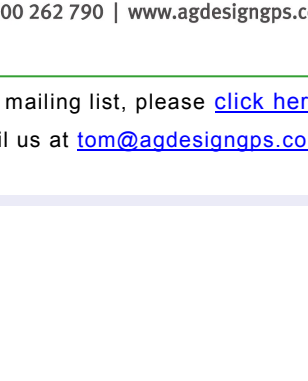
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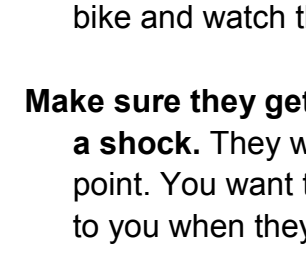
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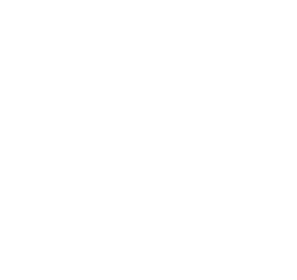
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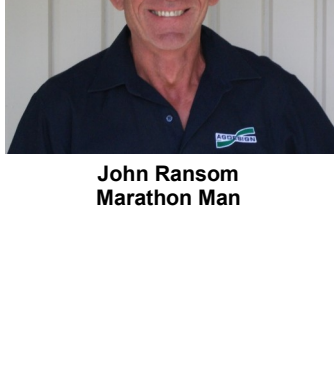
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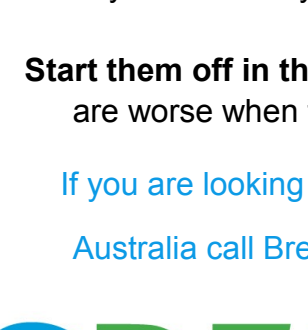
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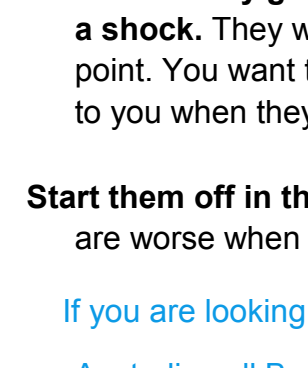
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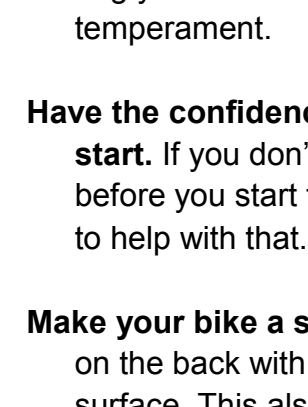
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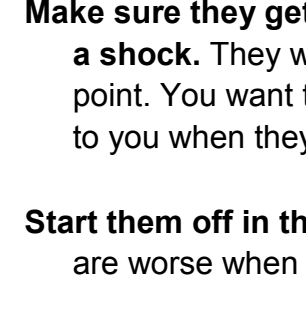
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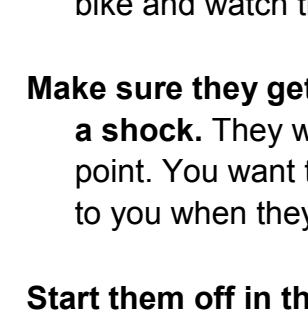
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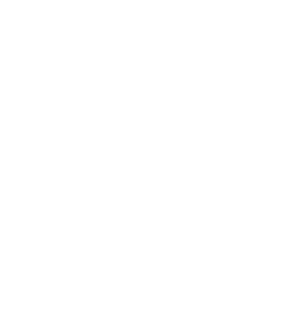
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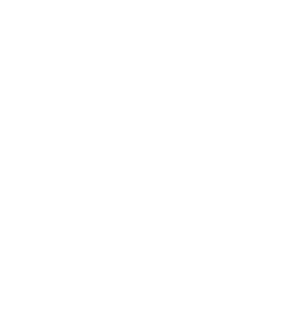
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Fifi, Boots & Prue ready for work on Ardgartan



Prue waiting to go to work on Cashco, north of Melbourne



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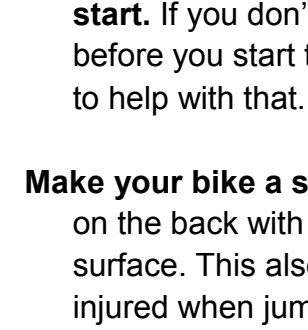
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Plants that are over grazed will not be as competitive in accessing water in the soil profile. Plants that are preferentially grazed in the sward with insufficient rest period between grazing will not develop a root system as large or strong as plants that are not grazed. The stronger and more developed a plants root system the greater the plants ability to withstand moisture stress by accessing moisture within the soil profile. If animals are grazing selectively then those plants that are the least desirable will be best equipped to deal with moisture stress. Under stress these plants will thrive while more palatable species will disappear from the sward.

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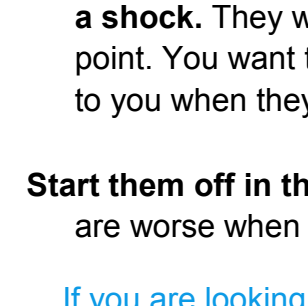
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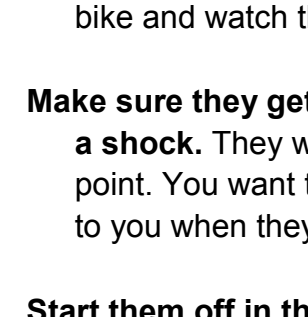
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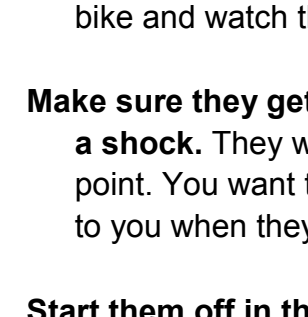
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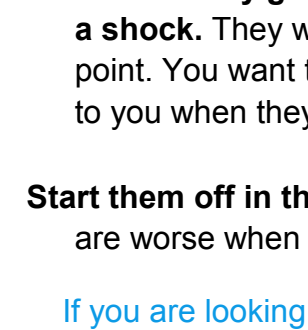
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Carbohydrates stored in the plant roots.

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Plants that are over grazed will not be as competitive in accessing water in the soil profile. Plants that are preferentially grazed in the sward with insufficient rest period between grazing will not develop a root system as large or strong as plants that are not grazed. The stronger and more developed a plants root system the greater the plants ability to withstand moisture stress by accessing moisture within the soil profile. If animals are grazing selectively then those plants that are the least desirable will be best equipped to deal with moisture stress. Under stress these plants will thrive while more palatable species will disappear from the sward.

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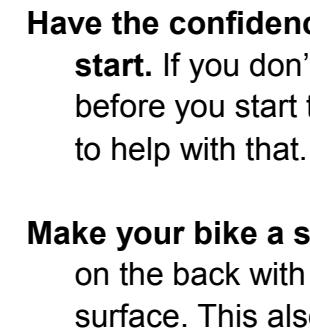
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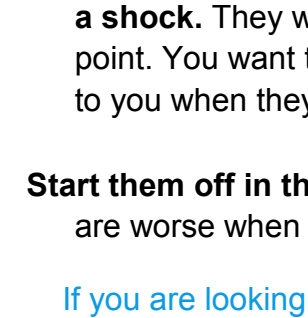
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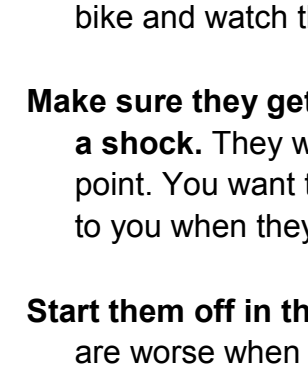
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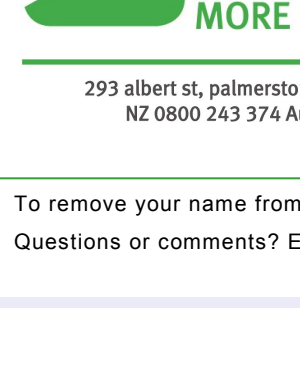
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Fifi, Boots & Prue ready for work on Ardgartan



Prue waiting to go to work on Cashco, north of Melbourne



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Plant root depth.

Plants that are over grazed will not be as competitive in accessing water in the soil profile. Plants that are preferentially grazed in the sward with insufficient rest period between grazing will not develop a root system as large or strong as plants that are not grazed. The stronger and more developed a plants root system the greater the plants ability to withstand moisture stress by accessing moisture within the soil profile. If animals are grazing selectively then those plants that are the least desirable will be best equipped to deal with moisture stress. Under stress these plants will thrive while more palatable species will disappear from the sward.

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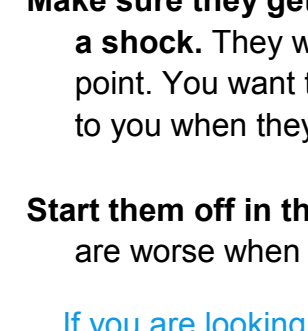
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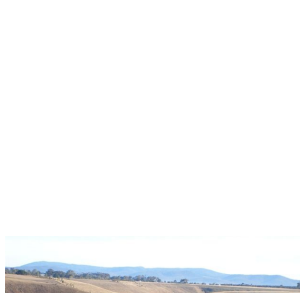
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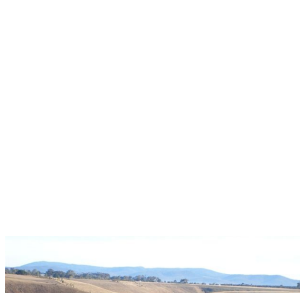
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Fifi, Boots & Prue ready for work on Ardgartan



Prue waiting to go to work on Cashco, north of Melbourne



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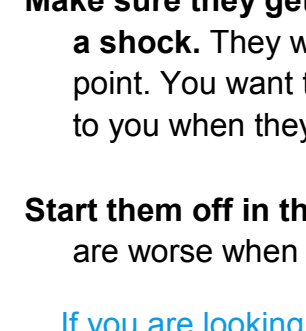
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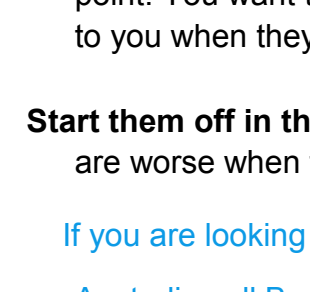
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Grazing management can be a powerful tool in influencing the quality and quantity of pasture you produce. Because of selective grazing, livestock are often regarded as the enemy in fragile environments and improved pastures can quickly disappear on developed land. In this article I will take a look at some of the key areas you influence with your grazing management.

Carbohydrates stored in the plant roots.

The plant keeps its energy reserves stored in its roots. These stores are used for re-growth after defoliation and winter survival. If a plant is palatable and attractive to stock it will constantly have its re-growth removed. Frequent grazing does not allow the plant to replenish its root reserves. *If the plant is constantly withdrawing energy from its root bank and not making deposits it will run out of energy and die.*

Plant root depth.

Plants that are over grazed will not be as competitive in accessing water in the soil profile. Plants that are preferentially grazed in the sward with insufficient rest period between grazing will not develop a root system as large or strong as plants that are not grazed. The stronger and more developed a plants root system the greater the plants ability to withstand moisture stress by accessing moisture within the soil profile. If animals are grazing selectively then those plants that are the least desirable will be best equipped to deal with moisture stress. Under stress these plants will thrive while more palatable species will disappear from the sward.

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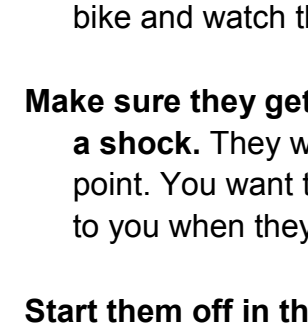
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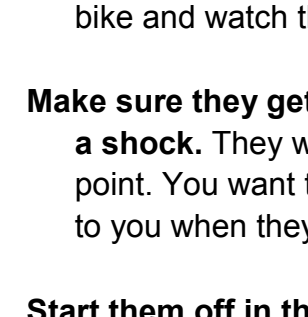
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