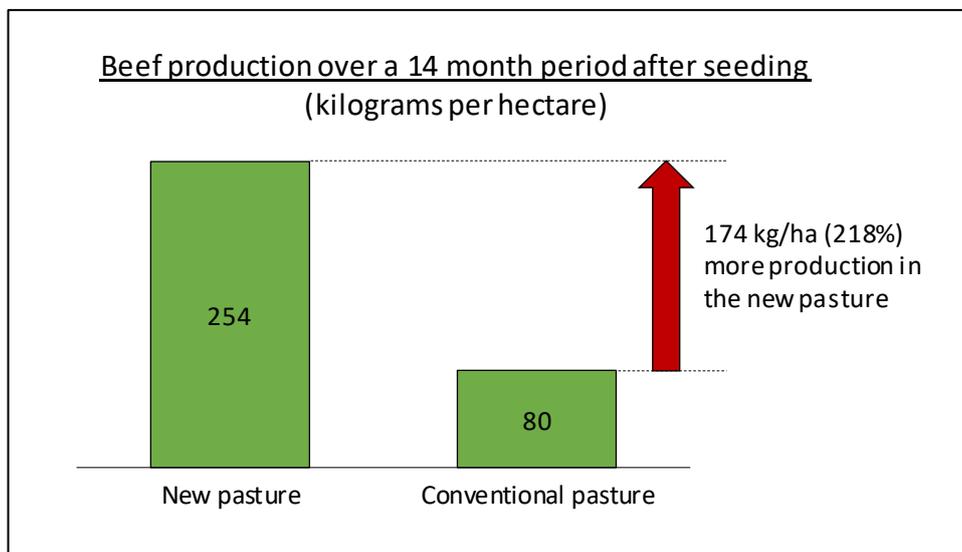


## MCC Pastoral Case Study – large beef productivity gains achieved through establishing new pasture on cropping land

### Executive Summary

- In February 2019 MCC Pastoral engaged SawleyCo to establish 150 hectares of improved pasture on existing cropping land
- SawleyCo used a one-pass Horsch Tiger to plant multiple species of grasses and legume as well as place fertiliser deeper into the soil
- Over a period of 14 months an additional 28 tonnes of beef was produced from this improved pasture versus conventional pasture
- This additional beef production equates to 174 kgs (218%) of extra beef productivity per hectare over this 14 month period
- The cost of the seeding and fertilising to establish this pasture was paid off in 6 months
- This improved pasture will continue producing for an estimated 5 years before it will need a renovation
- MCC Pastoral will achieve a return in excess of 800% on its investment in this new pasture



## Background

MCC Pastoral is owned and operated by Ian and Kate McCamley. The McCamleys are award winning beef producers from the Rolleston area in Central Queensland and have been in the industry for generations.

In February 2019 Ian decided to transform a cropping paddock into improved pasture and engaged SawleyCo to undertake this task.

## Selected species and nutrition

Ian wanted to establish a resilient, long term improved pasture that would deliver strong beef production through differing seasonal conditions. To achieve this required a mix of multiple species of grass and legume along with the right nutrition in the right location.

In consultation with local agronomist Geoff York the following species were selected:

- Reclaimer Rhodes grass
- Bambatsi Panic grass
- Progardes legume
- Caatinga stylo legume

Soil testing determined an application of MAP fertiliser placed 250mm deep in the soil would deliver optimum nutrition for strong pasture growth.

## The application

The key to getting the best result was to ensure that the seeds and fertiliser were placed in the right locations with good soil-on-seed contact and minimum soil disturbance. By far the best way to achieve this is by doing it all in a single pass. This ensures the maximum germination and establishment of the pasture.

SawleyCo achieved this complicated requirement using a Horsch Tiger with tines to place the nutrition 250mm into the soil and distribution plates followed by a roller packer to place the seeds just below the surface and achieve good soil-on-seed contact.

The planting and fertilising took place in mid February 2019.



The one-pass Horsch Tiger complete with multi seeding and fertilising systems at MCC Pastoral



Seed distribution plates which place the seed directly in front of the roller which presses it into the surface of the soil



Tine with boot which places the fertiliser at the required deep in the ground (250mm in this instance)

## The pasture performance

The pasture growth and productivity improvement realised has been very good.



Planting and fertilising February 2019



After germination in April 2019



5 months after planting (July 2019)



Grazed intensively multiple times from July 2019  
(5 months after planting)  
with quite dry conditions



Feb 2020 (12 months after planting and  
multiple grazings – Progardes shown amongst  
the grasses)



Feb 2020 prior to the next grazing rotation



## The beef production results

This 150 hectare are of improved pasture produced a total of 38,055 kgs of beef over a 14 month period. Conventional pasture in this same location produces approximately 12,000 kgs of beef.

Therefore this improved pasture produced an additional 26 tonnes of beef during this 14 month period. This equates to 174 kgs (218%) per hectare more than the conventional pasture.

The cost of the pasture improvement was paid for within 6 months through this increased beef production. Ian estimates he will not have to do anything further to this pasture for 5 years and he expects to see this productivity achieved throughout this period. This will see a financial return achieved of more than 800% on the investment made to establish this new pasture.

In summary the result was very pleasing. As a result Ian has proceeded to implement a further 1,000 hectares of the same pasture improvement.

## About SawleyCo

SawleyCo has a 30-year reputation for productive and friendly service across Queensland, NSW, Victoria and South Australia. We have generations of broad acre farming, contracting and equipment hire experience.

To find out more about improving your pasture productivity please call Sam Sawley on 0437 473 980 or email at [sam.sawley@sawleyco.com.au](mailto:sam.sawley@sawleyco.com.au) .