A quick guide to the

Case Study and Testimonial farms

Land, Water & Wool
Northern Tablelands
Project Fact Sheet
11
A woolgrower guide

Introduction

The Land, Water & Wool Northern Tablelands Project (NSW) aims to raise awareness of the importance and value of biodiversity to the wool industry, demonstrate the many ways in which biodiversity drives profitable production on New England wool properties, and show how wool properties can protect valuable biodiversity.

To do this, a wide range of southern New England wool properties have been profiled as Case Studies and Testimonials.

The Case Studies and Testimonials deliberately target a wide range of farm sizes, soil types, enterprise mixes, grazing systems, levels of input and family histories for two reasons:

1. to identify as complete a set of management practices that enhance biodiversity and wool profits, as possible
2. to demonstrate that biodiversity is essential to wool production in every circumstance.

The result was three detailed Case Studies on 'The Hill', 'Lana' and 'Nant Lodge'. These three Case Studies were diverse in themselves, targeting different soil types (metasediments or 'trap', granite, basalt), scale of operation, levels of input, grazing system and family history.

The seven Testimonials ('Blaxland', 'Woodville East', 'Wilson's Creek', 'Willow Park', 'Ponds Creek', 'Pint Pot' and 'Swallowfield') were shorter and designed to add value to the Case Studies, while further illustrating the wide range of properties where woolgrowers have consciously developed biodiverse production systems.

The project identified 41 ways in which New England woolgrowers enhance biodiversity on their farms. These are listed on this page (see Fact Sheet 10 for greater detail).

This Fact Sheet provides a quick cross-reference (overleaf) to enable most of these 41 practices to be followed up in the various Case Studies and Testimonials.

Management practices key

Fact Sheet 10 provides full details.

Livestock and grazing management

1. Sell or begin feeding stock early going into a dry spell
2. Consider the benefits of high-intensity, short-duration grazing with long rest periods
3. Graze rotationally
4. Stock conservatively

Soils and groundcover

5. Fence off gully erosion
6. Build and fence off dams in gullies to mend erosion
7. Plough less
8. Maintain high groundcover
9. Lay down litter to make soil, and improve soil organic matter and infiltration

Pastures and herbaceous species

10. Manage for diverse pastures
11. Vary grazing management of native pastures
12. Increase the cool-season and year-long green pasture and feed component
13. Topdress native pastures with fertiliser and pasture seed
14. Exclude grazing from small areas of native pasture
15. Spell pastures to establish trees in a paddock for several years
16. Establish or retain nectar-producing forbs and shrubs in ungrazed areas
17. Avoid fertilising or reduce fertiliser inputs in some areas
18. Fence off boggy areas
19. Fence off alkali (salt) scalds and pulse graze

Woody vegetation

20. Establish planted windbreaks of trees and shrubs
21. Establish planted blocks or whole-paddock contour plantings of trees
22. Plant native trees and shrubs to restore tree cover in open country
23. Plant introduced trees to restore tree cover in open country
24. Establish nectar-producing trees and shrubs (especially Myrtaceae) and acacias in plantings
25. Grow fodder trees and shrubs
26. Retain native timber
27. Exclude grazing from some native timber
28. Manage natural regeneration of timber for shade and shelter for livestock, pastures, and habitat
29. Retain blackthorn (*Bursaria spinosa*) shrub understorey
30. Direct seed trees and shrubs to restore woody cover to paddocks
31. Retain dead timber on ground
32. Fence off boggy areas and plant to trees and shrubs
33. Fence off rocky areas to encourage tree and shrub establishment

Farm dams and waterways

34. Fence waterways and wetlands and manage grazing conservatively in the riparian zone
35. Fence waterways and wetlands to manage grazing conservatively, but leave an access point for livestock
36. Establish trees in the riparian zone
37. Establish trees upwind of water bodies
38. Fence farm dams to exclude livestock and reticulate clean water to troughs
39. Provide multiple watering points per paddock
40. Excavate and fence seepages to create artificial wetlands

Vertebrate Pests

41. Reduce fox numbers

Something for everyone

Although there is something for everyone in the above list of 41 practices, it is unlikely that you could apply all on one farm. Indeed, some are mutually exclusive.

Choose the practices that might fit your circumstances, and see how they fit your farm management system using whole-farm planning.

Note that many of the practices rely on everything working just right. Successful woolgrowers are keen observers—watching to see when actions are having the desired effect, and adjusting their management when things go wrong.

Quick guide to management practices on the Case Study & Testimonial farms

Management Practices (see key overleaf)	Livestock & Grazing Management				Soils & Groundcover					Pastures & Herbaceous Species										Woody Vegetation														Farm Dams & Waterways							Pests
Case Studies & Testimonials	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17 *	18 *	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32 *	33	34	35 *	36	37	38	39	40	41
'Lana'		✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓														✓		✓										✓		✓
'Nant Lodge'			✓			✓		✓		✓		✓	✓							✓	✓	✓				✓			✓					✓		✓		✓		✓
'The Hill'			✓	✓			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓					✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
'Blaxland'			✓			✓				✓			✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓		✓		✓		
'Pint Pot'			✓					✓	✓	✓										✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓		✓			✓
'Ponds Creek'			✓		✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓			✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓							✓			
'Swallowfield'			✓							✓	✓	✓	✓							✓		✓	✓			✓				✓			✓				✓	✓	✓
'Willow Park'	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓			✓							✓		✓	✓			✓			✓				✓				✓		
'Wilson's Creek'			✓							✓		✓	✓							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓			✓						
'Woodville East'	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓						✓				✓		✓				✓	✓	✓					✓				✓		
Totals	2	3	7	3	1	3	5	5	4	10	3	6	7	1	1	2	0	0	1	9	6	9	6	3	1	10	4	5	3	2	3	0	4	7	0	3	1	8	1	1	4

*These management practices were sourced from interviews with other woolgrowers in southern New England or from the literature.

Land, Water & Wool (LWW) is the most comprehensive natural resource management research and development program ever undertaken for the Australian wool industry. LWW is a partnership between Australian Wool Innovation Limited and Land & Water Australia, and has seven core sub-programs. The Native Vegetation and Biodiversity sub-program is working with woolgrowers and demonstrating that biodiversity has a range of values, can add wealth to the farm business and can be managed as part of a productive and profitable commercial wool enterprise.

The Land, Water & Wool Northern Tablelands Project is led by Associate Professor Nick Reid, University of New England, in collaboration with Southern New England Landcare Ltd, and the Centre for Agricultural and Regional Economics.

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