

DELEGATE STATION – CASE STUDY

John and Jen Jeffreys

Annual Rainfall: 750 mm (Delegate River, Site 1 and 2)

Soil Type: granite

“Delegate Station” is situated near the NSW township of Delegate, approximately 20km north of the Victorian Border and 35kms South of Bombala. The business consists of several properties totalling 4300 ha of which approx. 2250 ha is cropped, and the balance is pasture. Main enterprises include canola and cereal crop rotations integrated with a cross-bred / prime lamb enterprise. The business turns off approx. 8000 crossbred lambs per year.



Photo – Site 1

Table of results

	Year 1	Year 2
Site 1 – Pasture - White Clover, Lucerne, Chickory	1 grazing	3 grazing's
Stocking Rate (lambs/ha)	54	54
Lwt Gain (kg/ha)	621	1242
NET Benefit (\$/ha)	1426	2930
Total Variable Cost (\$/ha)	579.15	790.56
Profit (\$/ha/yr)	845	2139
Average Net Profit (\$/ha/yr)	1492	
Site 2 – Crop - Brassica	1 grazing	1 grazing
Lwt Gain (kg/ha)	477	871
NET Benefit (\$/ha)	1062	1977
Total Variable Cost (\$/ha)	701	925
Profit (\$/ha/yr)	361	1052
Average Net Profit (\$/ha/yr)	706	

Land area devoted to lamb finishing – 20-30%

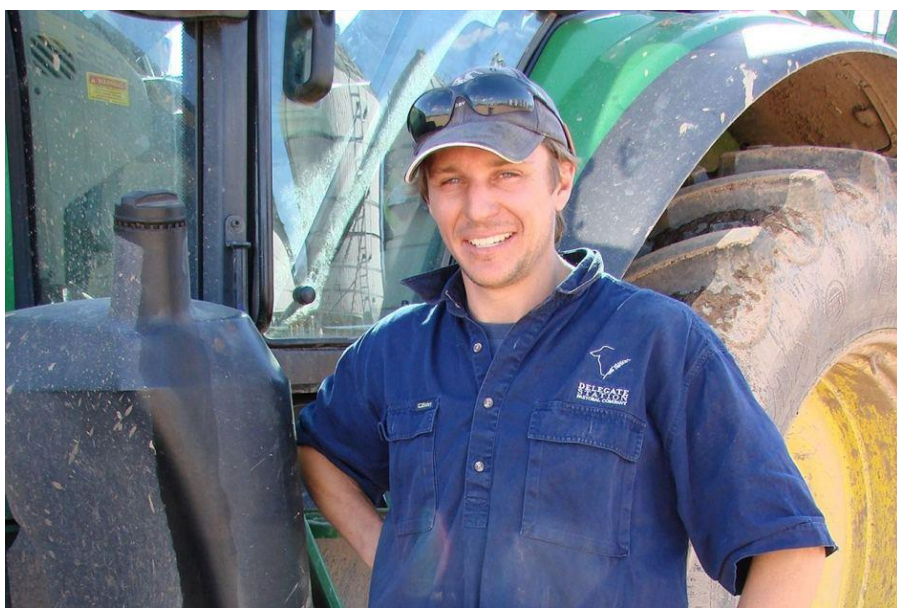
Changes to be made as a result of PDS

- Implement an internal EID recording system for representative number of lambs

Comments

“We look at things on a per ha basis and when we start looking at that, the finishing side of it certainly stacks up. For us it revolves around growing high quality dry matter and a fair bit of it. That paddock may only be grazed for 4-6 weeks of the year but if we’re growing 7,8,9 tonn/DM per ha and we can turn that into a meat product under current meat prices that’s a pretty good outcome.

Although the perennial system produces more lambs per ha, our annual system is a tool we use to prepare country for the perennial pastures. The annual system may only be grazed for a month period but that feed we build up through moisture fallow out of the winter into spring and the feed is used right in the middle of summer (Dec, Jan, Feb) when we really need high quality feed which none of our other resources can provide at that time.”



Photos – John Jeffreys (above) and a pen of lambs at Delegate River yarded for weighing