

MURDOCH BIBBENLUKE – CASE STUDY

John Murdoch and Kate Brow

Annual Rainfall: 640 mm

Soil Type: Basalt (site 1) and Granite (site 2)

Murdoch Bibbenluke is a family owned and operated business managing country around Bibbenluke, Ando and Mila districts encompassing 2400ha. The business generally runs 430 beef breeders and a 12000 sheep flock which includes 5500 merino and crossbred ewes. A total of 4000 fat lambs are turned off annually depending on season.



Site 2 – brassica crop

Table of results

	Year 1	Year 2
Site 1 – hummer fescue, clover pasture	1 grazing	1 grazing
Stocking Rate (lambs/ha)		
Lwt Gain (kg/ha)	184	99
NET Benefit (\$/ha)	1058	363
Total Variable Cost (\$/ha)	230	154
Profit (\$/ha/yr)	828	209
Average Net Profit (\$/ha/yr)	519	
Site 2 – brassica (leafmore) crop	3 grazing's	4 grazing's
Lwt Gain (kg/ha)	294	305
NET Benefit (\$/ha)	671	968
Total Variable Cost (\$/ha)	548	396
Profit (\$/ha/yr)	123	572
Average Net Profit (\$/ha/yr)	347	



Land area devoted to lamb finishing

30-50%

Changes to be made as a result of PDS

- Insert EID tags and use recording software
- Weigh lambs on and off finishing systems
- Increase the amount of land area (ha) devoted to lamb finishing
 - Increase the number of lambs the business aims to finish
- Change the "type" of finishing pasture we traditionally use
- Add supplementation into our systems

Photo - John and his dog

Comments

"We will be increasing the use of brassicas across our finishing and pasture improvement programs. This will have the culminative effect of increased weight gain and carrying capacity in our lamb finishing enterprise and an estimated 5-10% improvement to overall lamb finishing systems gross margins."



Photo - Site 1 – hummer fescue / clover pasture