

# LOWANNA PROPERTIES – CASE STUDY

**Mick and Alice Shannon**

**Soil Type: basalt**

**Annual Rainfall: 807 mm**

Mick, in partnership with his mother Lyn and wife Alice, runs a 1600-hectare beef and lamb enterprise, Lowanna Properties, in the Cathcart district approx. 14km East of Bombala. Mick has invested into an ambitious re-development program since his return to the business in 2007. Recently the business has made significant changes to their overall production system by moving to a full terminal cattle operation and removing the prime lamb breeding enterprises. They hope to opportunistically trade lambs in the future when the seasons allow.

For this reason, Lowanna hosted two (2) sites in this PDS for Year 1 only.



## Site 1

Doug Alcock taking pasture cuts for dry matter analysis

## Table of results – Year 1

	Year 1
<b>Site 1 – Ryegrass, white clover pasture</b>	1 grazing
Lwt Gain (kg/ha)	144
NET Benefit (\$/ha)	519
Total Variable Cost (\$/ha)	213
<b>Profit (\$/ha/yr)</b>	<b>305</b>
<b>Site 2 – brassica (winfred) crop</b>	3 grazings
Lwt Gain (kg/ha)	379
NET Benefit (\$/ha)	893
Total Variable Cost (\$/ha)	569
<b>Profit (\$/ha/yr)</b>	<b>324</b>



## Land area devoted to lamb finishing – 10-30%

### Changes to be made as a result of PDS (when opportunistically trading lambs)

- Insert EID tags and use recording software
- Take pasture biomass assessments pre and post grazing
- Increase the number of lambs finished
- Add supplementation into our system

### Comments

“Interestingly, we have made significant changes to our overall production system. Our operation is in a unique climate to the typical Monaro area with a much higher rainfall. Although the results of the system were favourable for the most part, behind the scenes we were facing significant losses in productivity due to worm burdens.

Coupling this with long ESI’s and the labour challenges we made the decision to switch to a cattle operation which would help our bottom line through trading when opportunities arise and manage drench resistance which is becoming more prevalent.”



Site 2 – brassica crop



Photos - Mick Shannon checking pastures

