

DRYLAND PASTURE LEGUMES

Heavyland Field Day Wrap Up



Boosting profit and reducing risk in mixed farming regions of Southern Australia



Elders agronomist Nick Eyres and MIG grower Phil Soullier discuss different pasture species at the Dryland Pasture Legume Systems trial at the McTaggart's property

Livestock producers require biomass/quantity at the break of the season, however in late Spring, the nutritive value or “quality” is paramount.

Previous research has created options of elite pasture legumes on the acid coarse textured soils (e.g. Serradella). However, there are limited options on the alkaline fine textured soils. Specific species have been identified in the DLPS project that have the traits of agronomic success in the mixed farming system.

These traits are presented in the table below:

Traits

Novel species (e.g. Trigonella & bladder clover)

Background Medics

Ability to regenerate after a cropping phase



Aerial seed production (harvestability)



Fix nitrogen efficiently



Sometimes

Compatible hard seed breakdown for summer sowing



High nutritive value throughout its life cycle



Deep rooting habit



Small seeds to avoid ruminant digestion



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture
and Water Resources



GRDC
GRAINS RESEARCH
& DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION



MEAT & LIVESTOCK AUSTRALIA



Australian Wool
Innovation Limited



Murdoch
UNIVERSITY



SARDI
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN
RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT
INSTITUTE



Department of
Primary Industries and
Regional Development



Charles Sturt
University