



NSW DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

Winter Annual Pasture: Sub clover - Maintenance (Flood Irrigated - Border Check)

Murrumbidgee Valley & Murray Valley Costs only

Irrigated Winter - 2009

CALENDAR OF OPERATIONS:		Machinery			Inputs			Total Cost \$/ha
Operation	Month	hrs /ha	Cost \$/hour	Total \$/ha	Rate/ha	Cost \$	Total \$/ha	
Topdress phosphorus fertiliser (<i>eg. single super</i>)	Feb/Mar	0.05	\$41.38	\$2.23	300kg/ha	\$0.89/kg	\$267.00	\$269.23
Insect & mite spray (<i>eg. dimethoate</i>)	May/June	contract		\$10.00	0.09 L/ha	\$8.35/L	\$0.75	\$10.75
Broadleaf weedspray (<i>eg. bromoxynil</i>)	May/June	contract		\$10.00	2.00 L/ha	\$16.69/L	\$33.38	\$43.38
Irrigation*					5ML/ha	37ML/ha	\$183.88	\$183.88

AGRONOMIC NOTES:

Use of a particular brand name does NOT imply a recommendation of that brand by NSW DPI.

Always read chemical labels and follow directions carefully, as it is your legal responsibility to do so.

Fertiliser	- Fertiliser requirement depends on irrigation intensity, amount of forage removed and the value of production. Dairy pastures require at least 300 kg/ha single super every year to replace phosphorus.
Stocking rate	- Intensively irrigated and fertilised annual pastures can maintain 18-24 DSE/ha per year (autumn till late spring) if well managed, but the more usual rate is 10-12 DSE/ha. Earlier irrigation and higher inputs of fertiliser and water allows more stock to be carried. - Avoid overgrazing in winter as pasture recovery time increases. - Set stocking helps to maintain clover dominant pasture.
Irrigation	- Subclover is irrigated 2-3 times in autumn commencing in late Feb/early March to established stands and twice in spring to ensure seed set. Water use can be up to 5-6 ML/ha in dry years - Germination is reduced with earlier commencement of irrigation and if the autumn is dry, up to 5 irrigations may be required - Annual pasture should be fully irrigated in the spring to ensure good seed set. Autumn production is directly related to plant population resulting from seed set in the previous spring. - *The budget uses MIA total water costs based on 25% allocation. - Irrigation cost includes the variable cost and fixed water costs of \$19.18/ML. - Water costs used in the MIA budgets are based on 2008-09 prices. - For prices in other areas and districts, refer to the water prices section.
Machinery	- Machinery costs include variable costs only for the tractor and implements. - Contract harvesting does not include the cost of fuel.
Labour	- The labour required for machinery operations is 0.07 hr/ha. - Using a labour cost of \$14/hr, an additional \$1/ha can be deducted from the budget.
Economic note	- These gross margins are only a guide. They do not include overhead costs or GST. - Input and crop prices are correct at the time of writing (Mar 2008). Market uncertainty makes estimation of future pricing impractical. - Use your own figures and price assumptions to determine your own gross margin.