



# DRYLAND LUCERNE: HAY AND LAMBS

Northern Zone

April 2008

| CALENDAR OF OPERATIONS:    |       | Machinery  |                                |                | Inputs  |            |                | Total Cost<br>\$/ha |
|----------------------------|-------|------------|--------------------------------|----------------|---------|------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Operation                  | Month | hrs/ha     | Cost<br>\$/hour                | Total<br>\$/ha | Rate/ha | Cost<br>\$ | Total<br>\$/ha |                     |
| Spray - paraquat + diquat  | Jul   | 0.10       | 23.32                          | 2.33           | 2.4 L   | 11.50/L    | 27.60          | <b>29.93</b>        |
| Spray - diuron             | Jul   | with above |                                |                | 1.0 L   | 14.50/kg   | 14.50          | <b>14.50</b>        |
| Apply Single Super         | Aug   | 0.42       | 23.28                          | 9.78           | 250kg   | 0.37/kg    | 92.50          | <b>102.28</b>       |
| Mow, rake 3 times and bale | Nov   | contract   |                                |                | 187.70  |            |                | <b>187.70</b>       |
| Cart and stack hay in shed | Nov   | \$1.20     | per bale @ 80 bales/ha per cut |                |         |            |                | <b>96.00</b>        |

## AGRONOMIC NOTES:

**Herbicides:** paraquat + diquat and diuron applied to established stands to clean up weeds.

To reduce the likelihood of herbicide resistance, rotate herbicide groups and weed management techniques.

For more information, refer to the NSW DPI Management Guide "Weed Control in Lucerne and Pastures"

**Establishment:** This budget assumes a stand life of 4 years, so depreciation of establishment cost is the cost of establishment divided by four.

**Fertilisers:** # In areas of long term irrigated hay production, there is a possibility that higher rates of potash may be required to correct chronic potassium deficiency.

**GRAZING MANAGEMENT:** AGNOTE DPI-198 "Grazing management of lucerne": Lucerne needs a period of spelling or recovery alternated with a period of grazing. The spelling period is the key to lucerne management.

Continuous stocking can cause rapid decline in plant numbers. The heavier the stocking rate, the more rapid plant death, as constant removal of new shoots depletes root reserves, especially if growing conditions are unfavourable.

When grazing, aim to preserve basal buds and preferably some leaf. This allows rapid regrowth. As a general rule, remove stock when lucerne is 5 cm high.

For more detailed information see **AGNOTE DPI-198 "Grazing management of lucerne"**

**<http://www.agric.nsw.gov.au/reader/past-management/dpi198.htm> and Agfact P2.2.25 "Lucerne for Pasture and fodder"**

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

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

## LABOUR REQUIREMENTS:

Labour to apply fertiliser or spray or for livestock management is not costed.

## MACHINERY ASSUMPTIONS:

Tractor: pto power: 57 KW (76 HP)

Machinery costs refer to variable costs of: fuel, oil, filters, tyres, batteries and repairs.

Mow, Rake, Bale costs: If you use your own machinery for mowing, raking and baling then substitute this cost in your own budget.