PERENNIAL TROPICAL GRASS PASTURE

Farm Enterprise Budget Series - Northern NSW Chromosols (red soils)

Summer 2011-2012

1. ESTABLISHMENT - Prepared Seedbed

VARIABLE COSTS:					**Sample Budget $/ha**	**Your Budget $/ha**
Machinery Operations						
Month	Operation	Tractor time (hrs/ha)	Cost ($/unit)			
July	Chisel plough	0.22	55.33	$/hr	$12.17	
September	Scarify	0.17	53.08	$/hr	$9.02	
	Harrow	0.17	53.08	$/hr	$9.02	
October	Herbicide, pre-sowing	0.05	54.60	$/hr	$2.73	
	Glyphosate CT	1.5 L	4.42	/L	$6.63	
	Wetter with glyphosate	0.2 L	6.45	/L	$1.29	
	Sow	0.17	75.30	$/hr	$12.80	
	SF25	150 kg/ha	0.50	/kg	$75.00	
Bare seed (coated seed will require a higher rate per ha)						
Premier Digit grass	2.0 kg/ha	@	$17.99	/kg	$35.98	
Rhodes grass	1.0 kg/ha	@	$10.10	/kg	$10.10	
		B. Total Variable Costs			**$174.75**	

2. MAINTENANCE (every 2 years)

VARIABLE COSTS:					**Sample Budget $/ha**	**Your Budget $/ha**
Machinery Operations						
Month	Operation					
April	Topdress fertiliser	contract spread @ $80/t			$10.00	
Fertiliser						
- Sulphate of Ammonia	125 kg/ha	@	$0.28	/kg	$35.00	
				Cost every 2 years	**$45.00**	
		B. Total Variable Costs		$/ha/year	**$22.50**	

NOTES:

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

Preparation: This budget does not allow for costs prior to pasture establishment, such as forage oats crops.

Fertiliser: Fertiliser requirements should be based on paddock records and soil tests. Nitrogen fertiliser may need to be used if there is no legume in the pasture being sown.

Costs vary widely across the region, depending on the objective of the enterprise, sowing time or location. Different soils have different requirements in terms of fertiliser rates.

Pasture varieties: The varieties in the budget are an example only, check pasture variety recommendations for your rainfall zone and soil type.

For detailed information please refer to other publications on pasture production, including "Pasture Production for Livestock" or the "Pasture Planner" on the NSW DPI website (www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture), which has extensive information on varieties and their suitability to each zone of NSW.

Suggested average planting establishment success rates:

High rainfall zone (east of Moree/Newell Highway) 2 in 3 years

Medium rainfall zone (west of Moree/Newell Highway) 2 in 3 years

Low rainfall zone (Walgett) 1 in 4 years

Machinery - Tractor pto power: 57 KW PTO (76 HP) AND 63 KW ENGINE (86 HP)

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

You may need to add overhead costs as well.

This budget should be used as a GUIDE ONLY and should be changed by the grower to take account of movements in crop and input prices, changes in seasonal conditions and individual farm characteristics. Estimated prices are GST exclusive.