



Establishing pastures - Readers' Note

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Establishing Pastures

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Foreword



*John Craven, Program
Manager, Farm
Production, DRDC*

Dairying is one of the most progressive rural industries in NSW. This is evidenced by substantial changes in herd sizes and increases in production by cows and from farms.

An outcome of these increases is that management has become more complex, requiring greater knowledge and technical skills.

As farmers become more competitive through increases in both production and productivity, they will require even better technical information and management skills. Most important, they will need to know how to use the information in improving whole-farm performance and profits. This statement is supported by results of various Dairy Research and Development Corporation workshops and NSW Dairy Farmers' Association surveys, which have clearly indicated that farmers require technical packages that are current and relevant.



*Kevin Sheridan,
Director-General,
NSW Agriculture*

DairyLink is a series of integrated information packages that look at aspects of pasture, herd and feed management, and suggest practical ways of getting the best from your cows and pastures. The DairyLink series is a result of collaboration between NSW Agriculture officers, agribusiness and farmers.

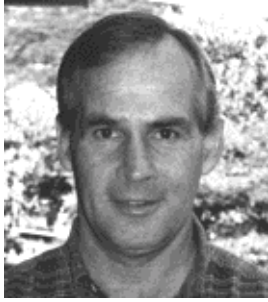
The packages will be the basis of workshops and meetings for NSW dairy farmers.

DairyLink has much to offer the NSW dairy industry in helping improve farm productivity and profitability. We encourage farmers to attend and participate in the DairyLink workshops and meetings.



*Reg Smith, President,
NSW Dairy Farmers'
Association*

Preface



DairyLink is an innovative concept that introduces you to some important technical areas to help improve farm productivity and profits.

The modules in the series are of value to farmers, students, consultants and extension service providers.

DairyLink consists of the following information packages:

Establishing Pastures

Managing Pastures

Growing Heifers

Realistic Rations

Conserving Feed

The modules have been developed as technical manuals and farmer-friendly booklets, and are linked to the Tocal Dairy Home Study course.

I acknowledge and thank the various technical teams for doing an excellent job. I also appreciate the funding and support provided by the Dairy Research and Development Corporation.

Alex Ashwood
DairyLink Series Coordinator

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Introduction



This package has been written to help dairy farmers choose and establish pastures and forage crops for milk production.

Successful pasture establishment requires careful planning, a detailed understanding of the factors that affect establishment, and attention to detail for each operation, including correct timing. Planning requires predicting the feed requirements for the herd, and choosing the pasture or forage crop type and the area to be sown to supply the feed. Establishment and survival depend on what happens before, at and after sowing, including pasture management in the first year.

For further information, speak to your local advisory officer.

Hugh Allan