

case studies

Ross & Gail Yeo

Glenshea, near Mendooran, NSW

Ross and Gail Yeo live with Ross's parents on 'Glenshea', 10 kilometres east of Mendooran in Central NSW.

The 1458 hectare, mixed farming property has been in the Yeo family since 1957. Ross purchased 'Glenshea' in 2007 and grows 486 hectares of crop as well as prime lambs and cattle.

The soils are predominantly sandy clay loams and red brown earths with increasing clay at depth.

Average rainfall is 610mm with no clear summer or winter dominance and heavy rainfall events at times.

Motivating factors

Following a family restructure in 2007 Ross had to purchase machinery and wanted to improve techniques used on the farm.

He had attended field days and conservation farming workshops to learn more after noticing a decline in soil structure and an increase in water and wind erosion on the property. These were a concern and he wanted to change but still have a system that fitted 'Glenshea'.

Benefits

The cost savings from not having to buy cultivating machinery became apparent immediately. Ross only had to buy a seeder and air cart.

Although it's early days, Ross fully expects to see improvement in his soil structure and reduced erosion due to keeping ground cover in place.

Another benefit has been the time saving. Using a boom spray and a seeder only, Ross has been freed up to do other operations around the farm rather than ploughing ground.

Acknowledgements

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Unforeseen problems

Fitting livestock and cropping together in a dry climate has become a balancing act for the Yeos at this early stage. The business has to make a profit to survive and Ross does not have the answers. He is actively seeking advice from others.

Plans for the future

The Yeos plan to try pasture cropping in the future to see if it has any advantages for their system on 'Glenshea'.

