

Gra\$\$ to Dollars

based on the highly successful Prograze® course

Limestone Coast

Commencing **Winter 2022** occurring
monthly until **Autumn 2023**

Location: Mid Limestone
Coast Region

Price: \$1,800 + GST per
business

With the support of MLA's Profitable Grazing Systems program (PGS), the participation cost for red meat producers has been subsidised. The Limestone Coast Landscape Board is also providing financial assistance to make this course possible.

Program overview

Applicable to all permanent pastures in the Limestone Coast (both annual and perennial) the program takes 11-12 months. During this time each participant will be encouraged to take messages from the program and apply to their own farm, review the success (and failures), observe what has worked/not worked and discuss this with other participants to work through possible solutions.

What you will learn

- How much can an animal eat, how to measure this and how to determine if this is adequate?
- How much pasture can you grow and how to improve this?
- How to turn the maximum amount of pasture profitability into meat and/or wool?

This package is delivered over 8 half day on-farm sessions accompanied by half a day of individual coaching.

Each half day session will include a theory session and a paddock inspection to assess pasture feed on offer, feed quality, and animal performance from pasture, grazing management and feed budgeting planning. Each business/participant will receive a comprehensive workbook.

For a detailed course structure see next page

Deliverers

This course will be delivered by:

- **Ashlee Hunt** Tailored Livestock Consulting, Robe
- **Tim Prance** T Prance Rural Consulting

Places will be limited. Register your interest by contacting

Ashlee Hunt 0474 255 137

or Tim Prance 0427 812 655

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Course session outline

SESSION 1



Profit, production and sustainability, and pasture assessment principles

Managing water and making \$\$.
Link between sustainability and profit.
Visual pasture assessment – why and how? An introduction to the terms of pasture quantity (herbage mass) and quality (digestibility and how to measure visually).

SESSION 2



Livestock production from pasture

A detailed look at pasture quality and quantity and how these both interact with sustainability, water use, animal intake and subsequent animal production. Animal intake – how much can they eat? How much should they eat? The relationship of digestibility with energy, fibre and protein.

SESSION 3



Pasture production

Managing pastures for best production and persistence. Managing weeds by grazing. Pasture benchmarks for sustainability and animal production - matching pasture quality and quantity with livestock and soil requirements. The importance of legumes in pasture. Grazing management for specific pasture species – perennial grasses, lucerne, clovers and medics and annual grasses. Management of pastures in winter, spring summer and autumn.

SESSION 4



Grazing management

Different grazing systems. Set stocking, rotational grazing, techno grazing, cell grazing. Grazing to leaf stage, building a winter feed wedge. Paddock subdivision. Grazing of sheep and cattle for worm control, and other animal health issues. Maintenance of ground cover.

SESSION 5



Feed budgeting

Grazing plans incorporating flexibility and sustainability. Setting stocking rate, managing grazing intensity and grazing duration. Preparing and monitoring a feed budget. Matching feed demand to pasture growth.

SESSION 6



Sheep profit drivers

Critical management stages over the breeding year – joining, mid and late pregnancy, lambing and lactation. Condition score targets to maximise productivity and reduce supplementary feed and animal health costs.

SESSION 7



Cattle profit drivers

Critical management stages over the breeding year – joining, mid and late pregnancy, calving and lactation. Condition score targets to maximise productivity and reduce supplementary feed and animal health costs.

SESSION 8



Individual on-farm coaching session

What has worked and what hasn't and why? What can be done?

SESSION 9



Production targeting, tools and course wrap up

Setting production targets for both livestock and pastures. Using a computer program (GrazFeed®) to predict livestock production from pastures, and to calculate supplementary feed requirements. Paddock, grazing and stock recording programs and other tools and calculators.

The session order can be changed to suit the season and region/group. Sessions 6 and 7 can be tailored to either cattle or sheep profit drivers to suit producer needs.