

ADVERTISING FEATURE

summer forage & feed

New sorghum boosts summer feed stocks

At a glance

- ◆ Greg and Sue Cook, Brimboal
- ◆ 40ha Ultra Feed planted in Nov 2010
- ◆ Beneficial to condition of stock and for weed management



CONTINUALLY improving pasture quality and paddock productivity are primary goals for Greg and Sue Cook on their Ayhaven property at Brimboal, north of Casterton.

"We decided to introduce Ultra Feed – a new summer forage sorghum from Nuseed – into our sheep management program for two key, interrelated reasons," Mr Cook said.

"We wanted to grow quality summer forage that produces more dry matter than millet, turnips or rape, and therefore maintain or improve the condition of our stock.

"And we wanted to improve the productivity of our paddocks. One way to do this is to control weeds and then sow lucerne or a permanent pasture into clean paddocks the following year."

Mr Cook sowed 40 hectares of Ultra Feed in November and achieved both.

This year, he plans to double the area to Ultra Feed as part of his management program.

"Ultra Feed produces abundant quality green feed in summer – much more than turnips, rape or millet on our soils," Mr Cook said.

"And it happens just when we are flushing ewes."



■ Greg Cook, Brimboal, and agronomist Sam Price observe the abundant growth and fine tillers of Ultra Feed – a new forage sorghum from Nuseed.

Mr Cook observed that his flock rapidly gained condition while grazing Ultra Feed and that there was a noticeable increase in the number of ewes coming into heat.

"Ultra Feed was like Viagra for ewes," he said.

Mr Cook controls weeds in spring by spray-topping and follows up with timely applications of residual herbicides to clean the paddock of problem grasses and other weeds and allow Ultra Feed to flourish.

The strategy prepares the

regular attention and pesticide applications like turnips or rape," he said.

"It's easy, you just open the gate and have sheep graze on quality feed."

Greg said Ultra Feed could also be cut for hay or silage, which added another level of insurance against a poor growing season.

He was unable to bale lucerne hay this year because it rained continually after it was cut, and left him with a possible feed shortage over summer.

"Ultra Feed provided a very welcome 'green wedge' when we would normally be struggling to provide quality green feed over summer," he said.

"It's been a good insurance policy against another poor growing season because we could cut it for hay or silage if we needed to."

“Ultra Feed was like Viagra for ewes.”

– GREG COOK, Brimboal

"And unlike grazing rape or turnips, they did not scour or have problems with flies."

In addition to providing abundant quality summer feed, Ultra Feed also offers a simple, effective management tool to control problem weeds.

paddock to sow pasture or lucerne the following year.

He said Ultra Feed was also a low maintenance, low cost summer forage.

"It does not attract pests such as aphids and cabbage moth, and therefore does not need



Filling the forage gap

FARMERS wanting to fill the summer feed gap with a top-performing, digestible sorghum should consider new forage product Ultra Feed by Nuseed, according to Echuca ag consultant Glenn Murrells (pictured above).

Mr Murrells said his company, Murrells Ag Consultants, trialed the product last year on four dairy farms in northern Victoria and southern Riverina and found it performed really well, even under very wet conditions.

"The cows were grazing the forage sorghum uniformly, not leaving large clumps like you can get with other sorghum varieties," he said. "Even when it was heavily grazed.

"Ultra Feed has a nice fine stem, which is also good for digestibility and sward management."

Mr Murrells said they also recorded increased milk production, which he attributed to the plant's nutrient density and protein availability.

"When grazed correctly, the sorghum had quite high protein, up to 18 per cent," he said.

Mr Murrells said Ultra Feed was sufficient to fill the summer feed gap, which was generally from December to May.

"We had the last grazing off it in May and that was after a pretty challenging year with all the rain," he said. "It performed really well."

The trial paddocks were sown at 25 kilograms a hectare, but could be cut down to 20kg/ha, Mr Murrells said.

The paddocks were also heavily grazed, up to a 14-day rotation, running between 400 and 600 cows.

Mr Murrells said the paddocks produced up to 16 tonnes of dry matter/ha.

– ALISHA FOGDEN

Ultra Feed

The new summer feed option for the Wimmera and Mallee

"nothing has produced as much quality feed so easily and without needing any pesticide sprays"



FOR MORE INFO:
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PACK SIZE: 20KG
STANDARD ON ALL ULTRA FEED. A COMBINATION OF SENATOR 600 & THIRAM GIVES ULTRA FEED A HEAD START IN ALL SOWING CONDITIONS.

SENATOR 600
Homeland Security for your crop

Senator 600
Maximise your Forage Sorghum potential with Senator 600. Containing imidacloprid, Senator 600 is highly effective against wireworm, black field earwig and other soil pests. **Withholding Period:** Do not graze or cut for stock food within 4 weeks of sowing.

THIRAM600

Thiram 600
A seed treatment for the control of the seedling decay complex of fungal diseases in Sorghum. **Withholding Period:** Not required when used as directed.



Toolondo grower Greg McDonald grazed 850 sheep on 16 hectares of UltraFeed.

"We have sown other summer crops before, but nothing has produced as much quality feed so easily and without needing any pesticide sprays."

"There is presently good money in sheep, so we plan to take advantage of that by producing quality feed through the summer to fatten as many lambs as possible."

nuseed
high performance hybrids

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