CONVENTIONAL VERSUS ALTERNATIVE FERTILISERS ON SALTLAND (TALL WHEAT GRASS)
Mt Charles Farm Management Group, Upper South East, SA

Research Objectives
To compare pasture production and feed quality from saltland pastures spread with conventional and alternative fertilisers.
To assess performance of different conventional rates of P and N fertiliser compared to ‘LawrieCo’ alternative organic treatments in tall wheat grass.

The Trial
- A replicated pasture trial was set up in an established tall wheat grass pasture paddock.
- Conventional phosphorous and nitrogen fertiliser (superphosphate and urea, with additional copper and zinc) was compared to LawrieCo Life Force™ products which comprised a range of organic and mineral fertilisers.
- A farmer’s average rate of fertiliser application was applied in addition to an ideal rate of application.
- The treatments were also applied with and without lime.
- Pasture yield (dry matter) and feed quality were measured in addition to microbial activity.

Fast Facts
Location:
3km N of Monkoora Telephone Exchange, Upper South East, SA
Soil Type:
Sand over limestone
Rainfall:
500mm
Pasture Base:
Tall wheat grass with annual medics and grasses.
Landscape:
Sandy interdunal plains
Results

- Conventional fertiliser clearly outperformed the alternative fertilisers in terms of short-term pasture production measurements.
- Benefits of LawrieCo alternative fertilisers are claimed to accrue through reduced inputs over multiple seasons, and increased animal performance measurements. Unfortunately assessment of these aspects of the fertiliser performance was beyond the scope of the trial.

Want to know more?

**Participating Host Farmer:**
Kelvin Whibley

**Mt Charles Farm Management Group Leader:**
Darren Sanders, Tel: (08) 8756 2746

**Technical Support:**
Glenn Bailey, Tel: (08) 8762 9100

---

**Tall wheat grass dry matter**

*Dry matter production from the different fertiliser treatments, measured at each pasture cut.*