

RESEEDING SEASON

Welcome back to the much loved Western Dairy on the Road for 2016. We have a new member to the team in Kirk Reynolds who is managing the new Western Dairy hub, as well as providing extension support in the key areas of business management and feedbase. Jess Andony continues with her youthful enthusiasm as the research and extension officer and Ruairi McDonnell continues with his quest to uncover the research gaps that will help you to improve in your farming systems. Ruairi recently had his first research paper published and congratulations must be given to a feat many of us would not even attempt. We look forward to catching up with you at workshops or on-farm but please feel free to contact us if anything pops into your head.

Season to Date: With the very wet January and some follow-up showers through February there has been a germination of summer weeds. These weeds should have already been tended to, particularly on paddocks that are going to be renovated this autumn. Summer weeds, particularly melons, can use up valuable moisture and nutrients and can then lead to seeding issues if the vine density is too significant. Act now if you haven't already.

Early Germination: Those with access to irrigation will be looking to start up paddocks for early germination. Now is a good time to get onto organising your seed and fertiliser requirements. Seed availability is already being discussed as tight, particularly on the legumes front. Paddock preparation is critical, and the quicker we can get your girls onto cheap pasture, the less concentrate you need and the more margin remains in your pocket. The addition of a cereal and forage brassica to the seed mix will provide very fast feed and will help to protect the ryegrass stand as it thickens through the season.

Fire affected areas: Our continued thoughts go to those who were affected but the fires around Waroona and Yarloop. Also an appreciation to all that have jumped in and helped out through fighting the fire, to volunteering time and donations of fodder, fencing or finances. The Western Dairy Hub have been busy in assistance to those affected. Jess Andony has done an amazing job co-ordinating those affected and helping wherever the Hub can. We have started providing some feed budgeting, feed testing and help with the relief fund paperwork and will continue to assist in the coming weeks.

Farmers should assess paddocks with a simple "watering up patch" prior to the autumn break. Some of the ryegrass seed could have been burnt depending on the intensity of the burn. The hotter the burn (ie more fuel load) the increased chance of seed being destroyed. Due to sub clovers burying their seed and having a harder seedcoat they are more likely to survive. Density is likely to be an issue so again bulking up with a low rate of cereals is a very sound strategy.

Upcoming Events: Heifer Workshop March 31st 2016 – Victor Rodwells Farm Boyanup, free to attend– RSVP's to jessica@westerndairy.com.au

**Dairy Innovation Day – 28th April 2016 at Darren and Sharon Merritt's new dairy in Boyanup
see over for registration**



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Dairy Innovation Day Registration Form

Fax to Jessica Andony at Western Dairy

Fax 08 9724 2498 or

jessica@westerndairy.com.au

Or go on line to www.westerndairy.com.au and click DID DAY

Business Trading Name: _____

Address: _____

Mobile: _____

Email: _____

Please list the people from your business attending and tick the event attending:

Name of attendees	April 28 at Merritts	Dinner at Lighthouse April 28 \$80/person	Morning tour to Scotts April 29
Sum total Dinner Tickets:		\$	

**There is no charge for DID Day or the Tour, we just need to know who is coming for catering.*

Note: Payment for the dinner is by credit card only.

Card Type (please circle): Visa | Master Card | American Express

Name on Card: _____ Total payment: \$ _____

Card No.: | | |

Expiry: | CCV:



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