

### Seasonal Update:

The month of February has seen higher than average monthly rainfall, and some variable temperatures. The summer rainfall has been a positive for irrigation farmers and those with summer crops that benefit from the extra water. The downside is there is likely to be some germination of summer weeds, and these should be dealt with now. Especially on paddocks that are due to be renovated this season, to avoid running into issues when trying to seed later on.

### Summer Weeds:

There are many available herbicides for control of weeds, and speaking to your local reseller or rep will give you a good idea of what chemicals are required for your weeds present. Glyphosate, 2,4-D, metsulfuron, atrazine and triclopyr are the most common herbicides used for summer weed control. Remember to always handle chemicals with care and it is vital to have staff trained in the use of chemicals before they are involved in mixing or spraying.

Metsulfuron provides control of wireweed, triclopyr is generally preferred for melon control, glyphosate works well on summer grasses and atrazine is generally required for small crumbweed (also known as mintweed or goosefoot).

2,4-D controls a wide range of broadleaved weeds and is preferred if stock are available for spray grazing. The ester formulations are usually more effective for summer weed control because they are oil soluble and more able to penetrate the waxy surfaces or stubble.

Paddy melon (*Cucumis myriocarpus*) and Afghan melon (*Citrullus lanatus*) are both annual melons germinating in spring and summer. Their growth is favoured by good soil moisture and bare paddocks. Grazing can sometimes be an effective control method after applying low rates of a hormone herbicide to make the melons more palatable. Another example for melon control in summer might be a mixture of triclopyr, 2,4-D and metsulfuron in the early morning when plants are not stressed. Prevention of seed set by mechanical removal is feasible on small areas but can be labour intensive.

### Late summer rations:

Over the summer period crude protein percentages in many forages are low, combined with the variable silage made last season, it's important to check the protein percentages of your rations. While some silages have presented with reasonable metabolisable energy content, they can have quite low protein contents. It's important to get your silage feed tested to see if you need to add any extra protein to your ration. Protein supplements in the form of lupins or canola meal are effective and can be added slowly into rations to bump up protein percentages.

### Upcoming Events:

ACCC Dairy Forum – 16<sup>th</sup> March , 12pm–2pm – Mercure Sanctuary Golf Resort, in Bunbury. Further information for participants is available on the ACCC website: <https://www.accc.gov.au/>

- Dairy Innovation Day 2017 – The Lammie Farm in Busselton – See over for the registration form!



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Your Levy at Work

## WEED CONTROL

ISSUE 2.1

### Dairy Innovation Day Registration Form

Fax/Email to Jessica Andony at Western Dairy

F: 08 9724 2498 or [jessica@westerndairy.com.au](mailto:jessica@westerndairy.com.au)

Or go online to register at [www.westerndairy.com.au](http://www.westerndairy.com.au)

Business Trading Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Name of attendee	May 4 at Lammie's	Dinner at Lighthouse May 4th \$80/person	Recovery breakfast
Sum total Dinner Tickets:		\$	

*\*Please note there is no charge to attend DID Day or the Recovery Breakfast, we just need to know who is coming for catering purposes.*

Payment for the dinner is available 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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