



## Lucerne as a phase pasture at Badgebup

**Producer:**  
Tim Clegg

**Location:**  
Badgebup, WA

**Tim Clegg is no stranger to Lucerne in his pasture and cropping phase however in 2013 he decided to experiment with two methods of establishment in a barley crop – Skip Row and Under-sown. In 2014, the Badgebup group followed this establishment into the pasture phase along with a traditional regenerated sub clover paddock out of barley right next door.**

Tim has been establishing Lucerne in wetter parts of the landscape for 3-5 years of pasture and back into a short crop rotation (2-3 years depending on seasons and weed control).

His skip row establishment has been far more successful with nearly double the retention of Lucerne plants into the second year. This entails a double pass operation at seeding i.e. seed barley in first pass then use RTK guidance to shallow sow Lucerne between the barley rows. There is an additional seeding cost in year of establishment but worth it in the pasture phase.

Tim prefers to spray the Lucerne totally out in the year prior to cropping rather than 'Pasture Crop' mainly because he believes in doing one enterprise better rather than have a bit of both.

In conjunction with chaff cart dumps, Lucerne provides a 'complete' ration of energy, fibre and protein for growing stock in particular. Tim aims to use it mainly for lambs or young ewes. Early feed is a significant benefit as this can assist increasing energy requirements of ewes once stubbles are exhausted.

Measurements during the season showed the Lucerne paddock to have significantly more dry matter on both occasions (520kgs/ha more in June and 1,100kgs/ha more in September).

Tim's system is so flexible that if a weed blow out does occur in a crop phase he can then pull the paddock into a pasture phase with an establishment technique that provides longevity of Lucerne.



Lucerne established as a skip row with barley in 2013 and regenerated in 2014 with 38 plants/m<sup>2</sup> and measuring 3.9t/ha Dry matter.

# Pastures in Rotation case study



Regenerated sub clover established after barley in the adjacent paddock measuring 2.8t/ha dry matter



Skip row sowing of Lucerne sowing barley stubble between Lucerne rows



Use of chaff carts dumps to provide a "full" ration in the paddock

## More information

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