

Does Goldilocks grazing increase yield?

This year we are putting into action the well-researched advice on best grazing management. The Project 30:30 that was overseen by Dairy Australia, identified ideal grazing management to maximise pasture yield and utilization under rotational grazing. Ideal grazing is between the 2nd and 3rd leaf stages and results in a post grazing residual of 4 to 6 cm. Leaving a post-grazing residual of 4 to 6 cm optimizes pasture productivity, nutritive value and persistency without limiting the intake by milking cows.



“Goldilocks” simulated grazing to 5cm residual

Simulated overgrazing to 3cm residual

To further demonstrate this research, we have planted some additional ryegrass plots immediately adjacent to the WASP trial at Matt Brett’s property, Dardanup. We have nicknamed it the “Goldilocks Effect” because we simulate overgrazing (residual of 3 cm), undergrazing (residual of 8 to 9 cm) or getting it just right (grazing at 2.5 to 3 leaves and a residual of 5 to 6 cm). We also included a treatment called “grazed too early” to simulate what

can happen after a late break in the season, when pasture is immature, but conserved feed is in short supply. In this plot the initial simulated graze was at the 1.5 leaf stage and a residual of 3 cm with subsequent grazings to a residual of 5 to 6 cm.

We will be continuing to monitor the growth rates over the season to see if the trend continues. You can stay up to date with the results via our website and Facebook page.