



The sheep in this photo have been ear tagged for research purposes in addition to the compulsory National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) ear tag

SheepLinks FEED365

Developing a 365 day livestock forage system

The project is re-designing the livestock forages systems for grazing all-year round in Mediterranean environments.

The FEED365 project is part of the SheepLinks program, developed in partnership between the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and Meat & Livestock Australia. It was designed to assist grazing systems in southern WA that are challenged by climate change with increasingly hotter, drier and more variable seasons. It aims to create resilient sheep production systems, enabling farmers to increase livestock returns by grazing quality (green) forage all year round with minimal supplementary feeding.

FEED365 has commenced at the Katanning Research Station by evaluating traditional and novel forage species under grazing including:

- perennial legumes and grasses
- annual legumes and grasses
- winter forages
- grazing crops
- opportunistic summer crops
- crop stubbles
- shrubs

These species have very different patterns of seasonal growth – the challenge is to put the right combination of species together to fill particular feed gaps, much like a jigsaw puzzle.

Progress at Katanning Research Station

- ✓ 48 plots at 0.5ha each were established and grazed since 2021.
- ✓ Some treatments are:
 - sown every year either in autumn with temperate or Mediterranean species or spring with subtropical and tropical species
 - self-regenerating annuals
 - perennials (herbaceous or shrubs).
- ✓ Data collected all year round every 3 weeks for pasture production, feed quality and sheep performance.



Grower Groups

- Grower participatory phase with the West Midlands Group, ASHEEP & BEEF and Wagin-Woodanilling Landcare Zone Group hosting on-farm demonstration sites for three years commenced in 2022.
- MADFIG, Stirlings to Coast Farmers Inc. and WA Regenerative Livestock Producers commenced in 2023.

For more information on the FEED365 project, visit agric.wa.gov.au/FEED365 or contact Daniel.Real@dpird.wa.gov.au



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