

Registrations open for 2018 Pasture Principles program

Program Overview

Pasture management is the fundamental skill that determines the financial performance of pasture based grazing systems. Managers that exhibit a high degree of pasture management skill are far more profitable than those with less developed skills.

The aim of Pasture Principles is to provide farmers with a set of guiding principles that will allow them to manage confidently regardless of the season, situation or system. The program was developed by Basil Doonan B. Ag. Ec., Dip. Appl. Sc. (Hons), Principal Consultant at Macquarie Franklin, in conjunction with valuable input from a range of experienced individuals.

Program Content

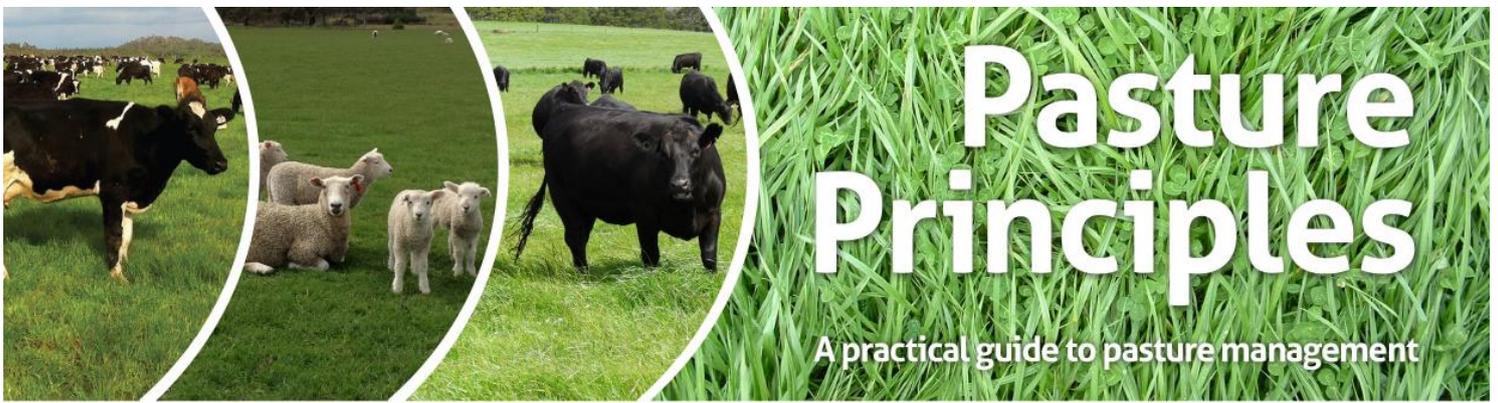
The program is suitable for participants involved in the sheep, dairy and beef industries. The key areas covered in the program are:

1. An understanding of the relationship between plant requirements, leaf emergence rates and pasture growth
2. Plant morphology and the relationship with pasture quality, pasture quantity and plant persistence
3. Measuring and predicting pasture growth
4. Allocation of pasture on a dry matter basis
5. Variations in pasture quality throughout the season
6. The relationship between stocking rate and pasture utilisation
7. Animal requirements for maintenance, growth, pregnancy and lactation
8. Feed budgeting
9. Feed planning
10. Marginal cost and marginal revenue decisions associated with feeding livestock

“Our entire team undertook the Pasture Principles program in 2011. From this we implemented a new grazing management plan, only possible with the new skills we obtained from Pasture Principles. We have lifted stocking rates beyond our initial targets and still have more capability to lift them further. Pasture Principles provided us with one of the most critical turning points in our business productivity and profitability in the last decade.”

Frank Archer, Landfall Angus (2011 participant)





Program Delivery

The program is offered in a group training environment. Delivery consists of **two days of workshops** which cover the theory of grazing, understanding the language and key principles.

Following the workshop, participants engage in a 12-month program consisting of **six on-farm coaching sessions** that puts the theory into practice and develops the key skills associated with pasture management. The coaching sessions are aimed at both skill development and the implementation of grazing strategies and management on participants' farms. They provide an opportunity for participants to discuss issues with each other and the experienced Macquarie Franklin coach, and develop workable solutions.

The program is delivered by Macquarie Franklin's highly experienced pasture management team, Basil Doonan and Jason Lynch.

"I'd encourage any livestock producer looking to increase their production to undertake the Pasture Principles course. We've moved to a rotational grazing system on the back of the program which has enabled better utilisation of our pastures, especially our irrigated clover. The course has resulted in our operation increasing its stocking rate by 18% and at the same time it's lifted our weaning weights and brought forward the average finishing date of our prime lambs. The increased awareness of pasture utilisation has made planning in a tough year easier and we are more prepared for feed gaps."

Scott Colvin, Nosswick (2015 participant)

Pasture Principles in 2018

During 2018, groups will be run across Tasmania - locations will be determined based on interest. Eight business are required per group for the course to go ahead.

\$2500 ex GST per farm business (*maximum of three people, must be an owner, partner or full time employee of the participating farm business*)

\$800 ex GST per additional person from a participating farm business

\$2500 ex GST per person from an agribusiness*

**For more information on agribusiness training packages, please contact Penny Hooper on 0408 948 308.*

Groups for 2017 will be finalised by early December 2017 and the theory workshops will be held in February 2018. The first coaching sessions will be held in March/April, with the remaining five scheduled at key management points during the year.

To register for Pasture Principles 2018 visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PasturePrinciples2018>

For more information on Pasture Principles, please contact Macquarie Franklin:

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