

- Inventiveness
- Market Presence
- Industry Competitiveness
- Wool Sheep as Good Business
- Understanding and Adoption

## GrassGro™

GrassGro™ is a software package developed by CSIRO Plant Industry, with support from Australian Wool Innovation and Meat and Livestock Australia. The package focuses on identifying the key profit drivers of a grazing enterprise and can be used to assess the risks involved in management decisions before producers commit their dollars and resources.

### How GrassGro™ works

GrassGro™ uses mathematical models to simulate daily pasture growth and animal production for a particular farm using site-specific weather and soil information. Management strategies such as time of lambing, stocking rates and supplementary feeding policies can be tested over the long and short term.

GrassGro™ can calculate the impact of management decisions on gross margins and calculate production risks for an individual enterprise with results specifically tailored to that enterprise. Results can be calculated in both financial and production terms.

### Benefits of GrassGro™

Adopting new management strategies in a grazing enterprise can be costly and time consuming. GrassGro™ allows producers to assess the impact of their management decisions on productivity and bottom line before investing time and money in the new strategy.

GrassGro™ has the capacity to evaluate the risks associated with a number of issues and management strategies including:

- The effect of pasture supply on animal production;
- Year to year variability in pasture supply;
- Pasture species in different environments;



- Patterns of fleece growth and fibre diameter; and
- Financial outcomes of management options such as, comparisons of stocking rate; joining and weaning dates; pasture management and drought strategies.

Through simulating the effect of management strategies over the long and short term, producers can make management decisions with greater confidence in their outcomes.

GrassGro™ is a user friendly package, however it does require a certain level of understanding and users are encouraged to participate in workshops conducted as part of the purchase price.

GrassGro™ is available from Horizon Technology. The package includes a CD-ROM containing the GrassGro™ program and the associated weather records. Users also have access to installation and technical support from Horizon Technology and CSIRO.

### For more information

Call AWI tollfree on 1800 070 099, visit [www.wool.com.au](http://www.wool.com.au), or get in touch with Lu Hogan.

#### Lu Hogan

Australian Wool Innovation Limited  
 Project Manager Sustainable  
 Production Systems

t 61 2 9299 5155

f 61 2 9299 9880

e [luhogan@woolinnovation.com.au](mailto:luhogan@woolinnovation.com.au)

#### Australian Wool Innovation Limited

ABN 12 095 165 558  
 Level 5, 16-20 Barrack Street  
 Sydney NSW 2000  
 GPO Box 4177 Sydney NSW 2001

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