

## Production goals and risks

Examples and prompts of production goals and risks to assist you with the completion of your Farm Business Resilience Plan.

### Section 3 – Our goals – Production goals

#### 3.1 – Production goals

- Match or improve livestock production (kg produced per AE or ha) to increase profitability according to the land's sustainable production potential.
- Improve pregnancy rate by \_\_\_\_ % in \_\_\_\_ years.
- Improve weaning rate by \_\_\_\_ % in \_\_\_\_ years.
- On average, achieve an annual liveweight gain of \_\_\_\_ kg in backgrounding cattle.
- Turn off our sale animals at \_\_\_\_ kg by \_\_\_\_ months of age.
- Achieve mortality rates below \_\_\_\_% annually.
- Maintain a minimum of \_\_\_\_ kg DM/ha of pasture to ensure the land is rain ready at the end of the dry season.

#### How our production goals will be achieved

##### Reproduction and genetics

- Pregnancy test/foetal age each year and make management decisions accordingly.
- Implement a cull for age program in cows/ewes/nannies at \_\_\_\_ years of age.
- Undertake early weaning when necessary.
- Have a clearly defined breeding objective.
- Buy bulls/rams with EBVs/ASBVs to meet our breeding objective.
- Conduct a BULLCHECK/ram health and fertility check on all bulls/rams each year before joining.
- Use controlled mating/joining to ensure calving/lambing when best possible feed is likely available.
- Ensure cow body condition score is 3 or better (5-point scale) at calving; 3.5 for ewes at lambing; 3-4 for does at kidding.

##### Nutrition

- Use NIRS testing to determine when to commence dry season nitrogen supplementation.
- Determine nutrient deficiencies for land types and apply targeted supplementation at appropriate times of the year to help meet animal requirements.
- Complete body condition scoring for pregnant livestock and segregate stock that may need to be fed to increase body condition score before calving/lambing/kidding.

##### Grazing land management

- Conduct an annual forage budget at the end of the growing season and adjust stock numbers accordingly.
- Develop a hierarchy of destocking for livestock classes i.e. a sell down strategy.
- Measure key feedbase parameters such as yield (end of wet) and ground cover (end of dry) each year. Land condition every 3-5 years.
- Use decision dates to make proactive stocking decisions.
- Adjust stocking rate to carrying capacity dependant on seasonal conditions.
- Conduct wet season spelling e.g. spell one paddock every year.



- Utilise rotational grazing to allow for spelling and pasture recovery.
- Fence and install watering points to split paddocks into smaller sizes to allow better management.
- Fence to land types.
- Have a drought preparation and management plan and review it yearly.

### Husbandry and welfare

- Utilise NLIS tags and management tags to capture individual animal performance.
- Use pain relief when conducting animal husbandry procedures.
- Vaccinate for relevant diseases.

### People and business

- Improve our knowledge and skills through training and sharing our knowledge with others.
- Keeping an accurate annual livestock schedule with animal numbers by sex and age, including sale numbers and weights plus purchases to calculate annual performance or reproduction, growth and mortality rates.
- Assess and implement ag tech within \_\_\_\_ years to record and monitor individual animal performance (e.g. weigh scale indicator, NLIS reader, herd recording software).

### How we measure success

- Every cow has a calf every year; every ewe has a lamb every year and every doe has a kid every year.
- Measure and monitor pregnancy and weaning rates on an annual basis. Pregnancy rates are maintained above 75% for cows, 85% for ewes and nannies. Weaning rates are maintained above 85% for cattle and 90% for sheep and goats.
- Our cow body condition score is 3 or better (5 point scale) at calving; our ewes are 3.5 body condition score at lambing and our does are 3-4 body condition score at kidding.
- Cow mortality rate is calculated and kept to less than 2%; ewe mortality rate is calculated and kept to less than 4%.
- Monitor liveweight gain to determine that targets are being met.
- We forage budget annually and use this information for stocking decisions to reduce the need for supplementary feeding.
- Residual pasture is kept above 1000kg DM/ha at the end of each dry season.
- Our land condition is improving or does not fall below a B condition.
- We have a documented and implemented drought preparation and management plan that is reviewed \_\_\_\_\_(quarterly/yearly etc).
- We attend training and monitor reliable information sources to ensure current best practice management practices, including ag tech are being implemented.
- Implemented budget and livestock schedule to measure projected income and monitor livestock numbers
- We use a weigh scale indicator and set of scales to monitor weight gain periodically, annual liveweight gain and turn off weights to inform decisions.



## Section 4 – Managing our risks – Production risks

4.1 – Production risks	
Climate and weather risks	Strategies for mitigating risks
<b>Drought</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement our drought plan early</li> <li>• Use key decision dates e.g. green date for pasture management planning and calving/lambing window</li> <li>• Suitable water infrastructure (and maintenance) to provide a constant supply of fresh water to livestock</li> <li>• Reduce grazing pressure (have a sell down strategy in place)</li> <li>• Identify and retain the most productive breeders (e.g. cow that has a calf each year)</li> <li>• Constantly monitor breeder body condition</li> <li>• Undertake an early weaning program if required</li> <li>• Implement controlled mating</li> <li>• Purchase feed/fodder early and have a supply on hand</li> <li>• Develop a property map which identifies paddocks, current fencing and water infrastructure</li> <li>• Fence to landtype and additional water points to better utilise pasture</li> </ul>
<b>Flood</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify higher risk paddocks (where floods first) and move stock accordingly</li> <li>• Construct flood refuge mounds</li> <li>• Have access to feed for livestock</li> <li>• Inspect and maintain flood fencing</li> <li>• Have neighbours' contact details</li> <li>• Have supplies on hand – human, vet and fuel</li> </ul>
<b>Fires</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fire breaks in place and maintained</li> <li>• Discuss plan with family members and staff</li> <li>• Have contact details for local support personnel and neighbours</li> <li>• Fire fighting equipment is regularly serviced and ready for use</li> <li>• Undertake cool burns to reduce risk</li> </ul>
<b>Temperatures</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide tree clumps/lines for shade and relief from cold weather events</li> <li>• Work livestock at appropriate times</li> <li>• Distance to water is &lt; 5 km on all properties.</li> </ul>
<b>Climate Variability</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of long (and short) term forecasting</li> <li>• Determine long-term carrying capacity – make use of the LongPaddock website, FORAGE reports, etc.</li> <li>• Be prepared to adjust stock numbers according to feed supply</li> <li>• Build cash reserves in good times</li> </ul>

Biosecurity risks	Strategies for mitigating risks
<b>Exotic diseases</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have a biosecurity plan in place and regularly review it</li> <li>• Family members and staff are trained to identify and report symptoms of exotic diseases</li> <li>• Have a quarantine paddock for newly purchased livestock</li> <li>• Traceability - ensure NLIS database transfers are up to date and accurate stock records being kept</li> <li>• External vehicles to report to main house/office on arrival</li> <li>• Biosecurity sign placed on front gate of each property</li> </ul>
<b>Weeds</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have access to washdown facilities</li> <li>• Biosecurity sign placed on front gate of each property</li> <li>• Ensure visiting vehicles are free of weeds/weed seed prior to vehicle arrival, or at a set location on property that is regularly monitored</li> <li>• Chemical and/or mechanical removal of weeds (access funding if available)</li> <li>• Quarantine newly purchased livestock</li> <li>• Have family/staff/neighbours upskilled in identifying weeds</li> <li>• Have a good neighbour program in place</li> </ul>
<b>Pests</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have suitable fencing e.g. exclusion fencing</li> <li>• Implement coordinated baiting programs</li> <li>• Trapping / shooting</li> <li>• Chemical control</li> <li>• Rotational grazing (moving cattle to clean paddock)</li> </ul>
<b>Stock routes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Washdown facilities; monitor area for weeds</li> <li>• Have adequate signage in place</li> <li>• Ensure boundary fencing is secure, where applicable</li> </ul>