Climate Clever Beef

It is estimated the beef industry is contributing 79% of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions produced by agricultural practices in Australia, mostly in the form of methane from livestock.

The Pedersen family on Karma Waters chose to participate in the Climate Clever Beef (CCB) project to, firstly, identify feasible and profitable herd and grazing practices on Karma Waters and, secondly, assess carbon farming options that may be available to extensive beef enterprises.

Branding, growth and death rates are not only the key profit drivers of any breeding business but directly influence total GHG emissions as well as emission intensity. On all extensive beef enterprises native pasture productivity directly influences these herd production efficiencies.

Stocking rate management and rotational wet season spelling maintain pasture composition and improve diet quality on Karma Waters.

A fixed pasture monitoring site was established in Black Snake paddock in 2005. Breeders have been rotated between Black Snake and Front Dam paddocks since 2009 so each area could receive a wet season spell every second year. Photos are taken each year at the end of the wet and dry seasons. Rainfall, native pasture composition, Stylo establishment, ground cover, stock management, and fire frequency are also recorded.


**Soils**
- Ironbark/Ironwood-Shaley soils

**Pastures**
- Ground cover approximately 35%
- 40% fire grass
- 40% herbage
- 10% native sorghum
- 10% other

**Season**
- 27” of rainfall from October 2004 to February 2005

**Comments**
- Stocked

**Season**
- Not a good year for rain; 5” of rainfall from February to October 2005

**Comments**
- Stocked

Pastures
- Ground cover 35%
- 50% herbage
- 20% fire grass
- 20% native sorghum
- 10% Verano, Seca, white spear grass and black spear grass

Season
- Late start to wet; 26” of rainfall from November 2005 to March 2006

Comments
- Stocked
- This site taking longer than others to rehab due to close proximity to dam
**Pastures**
- Ground cover 70%
- 55% fire grass
- 10% black spear
- 10% giant spear
- 10% fire grass
- 10% Verano
- 5% native sorghum
- Blue tipped grass evident also—very palatable

**Season**
- 50” of rainfall from November 2007 to April 2008

**Comments**
- Destocked over the wet
- Not burnt
- Aerial seeded with Verano/Seca January 2008

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**Season**
- 7” of rainfall from April to December 2008

**Comments**
- Destocked until end of September 2008
- Stocked until the end of December 2008
Pastures
- Ground cover 80%
- 50% Verano, Seca
- 30% black spear, native sorghum, fire grass
- 10% weeds
- 10% herbage

Season
- Late start to wet; 26” of rainfall from mid-January to April 2013

Comments
- Locked up since September 2012, unburnt

Further information
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