

AGRONOMY REPORT

HUMPHRIS

9th JANUARY 2017

DEC

JAN

FEB

SORGHUM –
GRAZING STAGE
PERENNIALS –
CURRENT FEEDBASE
FESCUE –
INCREASING IN
PRODUCTION



TONGALA
NORTHERN VICTORIA



FLOOD IRRIGATION



WARM, WET WEATHER



SORGHUM

Q. The cool weather this summer has helped extend the growth of ryegrass but made sowing management of sorghum more challenging. Talk us through the decisions around sorghum management that you made with your agronomist in December.

A. The ground prep was done in November – that included spraying and multi-disking. We decided to pre-irrigate so that we could drill into moisture. This worked well –we got a good strike. We staggered the sowing to help manage the first grazing and also staggered irrigations to support this.

Q. What stage is the sorghum at now?

A. We're about half way through the first grazing. With an irrigation followed by the rain around Christmas time, we couldn't get on to graze when we had planned to so we cut the first three bays for hay. At that stage the sorghum was about a metre high and we were worried that delaying the grazing might put us behind on the rest of it.

At the moment the sorghum we're grazing would be somewhere between 60 and 80cm tall.

Q. And how much is left behind?

A. They aren't leaving much behind, eating it down to about 10cm. As expected there is some dropped wastage, but the bulk is getting down the cows' throats.

Q. How does the sorghum fit into your current diet?

A. The cows are on the sorghum during the day and perennial pasture at night. We've been consistently testing these feeds to keep track of their nutritive characteristics (see the [Accelerating Change website](#) for details).

The cows are also getting 5kg/head of pasture silage each day, 5.5kg of barley and 1.5kg of lupin-canola mix.