



Give farm grown feed (and your profitability) a shot in the arm

If your pastures could talk, some of them would be begging for help this spring. Regardless of the cause, your biggest driver of farm profitability needs a good injection of TLC to support you through another season.

Fortunately, there are several ways to make this happen. In taking advantage of these, you will safeguard your milk production and income this season, and in the years ahead.

Strategic investment in well-implemented pasture renewal and cropping always pays off, especially when times are tight, because nothing is more cost-effective than farm-grown feed. Just don't cut any corners...

Tick tock

The clock is ticking, so the sooner you start working on this, the better! Weeds are poised to invade every inch of bare ground in your paddocks, and will do so faster than you expect.

Your first step? Assess the state of all your paddocks, identify those not growing as much feed as they should be, and draw up an action plan to get them thriving again.

They may be thin and patchy, or run-out altogether. Whether you undersow, renew or crop these stragglers depends on your circumstances. But doing nothing with them is not an option, even if it seems cheaper right now.

Stitch and grow

Done well, undersowing is like CPR for thin pastures. You have to get in early, though, otherwise weeds will fill the bare ground. Miss the window, and the weeds will win, eating a hole in your profits, looking ugly and putting your cows off grazing.

Overall we find *Shogun* and *Forge* hybrid ryegrass are best for this. They'll stop those thin paddocks from continuing to go backwards, and provide heaps of feed you won't have to buy or find elsewhere.

For paddocks that need full renewal into perennial ryegrass pasture, you have many options available, including star performers like *Array*, *Maxsyn*, *Governor* and *4front*. Again, we stress the importance of doing a really good job to achieve the results you're after.

Other options?

Robbos fodder beet, *Bombardier* kale and/or *Invitation* swedes are all great choices for paddocks earmarked to be cropped this season.

They will give you and your cows plenty of high-quality, home-grown or off-farm grazing over winter 2024.

As always, we're here to help if you'd like more advice – just book your free Pasture Health Check today.