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LEVY PDS PROJECT UPDATES					
L.PDS.2012	Alternate forage crops for Southern WA	Stirlings to Coast Farmers have been managing the MLA PDS project 'Alternate forage crops for Southern WA', since the start of 2020. The project is currently in its third and final year and at completion will include a total of six unique demonstration sites in the high rainfall zone (HRZ) of WA. The 2021 demonstration sites were located at Green Range, South Stirlings and Manypeaks. The producer demonstration sites aim to demonstrate the feed value of alternate high biomass forage crops in increasing stocking rates and liveweight gain of prime lamb or yearling cattle relative to current systems in the HRZ of Western Australia. Forage crops that have been assessed to date include Pallaton Raphno, sorghum and millet. Each alternate forage crop has supported a greater stocking density than their control counterpart. The Manypeaks site evaluated steers grazing sorghum compared to a control group on a senesced ryegrass pasture. Steers on the sorghum had excellent weight gain averaging 1kg per head per day, while the control group achieved a small weight gain	Stirlings to Coast Farmers	Samantha Cullen - *Stirlings to Coast Farmers*	membership@scfarmers.org.au

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		of 63.5g per head per day. After one month rest the sorghum recovered to support another grazing event. The South Stirlings site assessed lambs grazing Pallaton Raphno compared to a canola stubble with volunteer pasture. Lamb live weight gain was 7.66kg/ha/day for the Raphno, which was more than double the canola stubble at 3.57 kg/ha/day. The Raphno also supported multiple grazing events for the 2021/22 summer. The Green Range site compared lambs grazing millet to barley stubble. The 2021 season wasn't kind to the millet and it started to become droughted prior to grazing. In the end, the barley stubble was more profitable on a per hectare basis by $37.60. Full result analysis and report can be found on the SCF website. https://www.scfarmers.org.au/alternate-forage-crops *Access additional information and resources related to this project here.*			

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L.PDS.2015	Magnificent Maidens	This project, being managed by neXtgen Agri network, aims to demonstrate the opportunity in managing maiden ewes well so as to close the gap between maiden ewe reproductive performance and that of older ewes. Five core sites (two in WA and three in Victoria) are underway or have been completed across the project with each site aiming to demonstrate a different aspect of best-bet management and compare it with normal management on the farm. An 8 week course was conducted in early 2022 to assist producers across the wider network to implement improved practices around maiden ewe management. Strong producer engagement in the project demonstrates the importance of this topic to many sheep producers. Additional core sites will be added in year three of the project. *Access additional information and resources related to this project here.*	NeXtGen Agri Producer Network	Mark Ferguson – *NeXtGen Agri*	mark@nextgenagri.com
L.PDS.2020	PDS: Filling the autumn feed gap	The project 'Filling the Autumn Feed Gap' being managed by the Lower Blackwood Land Conservation District Committee (LCDC) is aimed at beef producers	Lower Blackwood Group	Joanna Wren -	joanna.wren@lowerblackwood.com.au

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		in the Lower South West Region and aims to demonstrate the potential of autumn grazed fodder crops to provide a lower cost and more productive alternative to supplementary feeding with conserved fodder. The project has completed its first year's strip trial site which saw 14 different varieties seeded and pasture cuts taken to measure dry matter and feed quality. The results will be compiled into a booklet. In year 2, five demonstration sites were seeded with selected varieties, and this will continue into year 3.		*Lower Blackwood Land Conservation*	
L.PDS.2203	Productive Saltland Pastures for southern WA	This project is called 'Productive Saltland Pastures for Southern WA' and is a continuation of Gillamii's commitment to the remediation of salt-affected land into productive pasture systems for livestock grazing. This PDS Project aims to improve members' knowledge and skills in the establishment, management, and benefits (profitability, productivity, and sustainability) of salt-tolerant forage systems on moderately salt-affected land. Over the last 5-months Gillamii has undertaken pasture biomass and nutritional sampling/analysis to baseline current productivity of the six sites as well as	The Gillamii Centre	Freya Spencer – *The Gillamii Centre*	admin@gillamii.org.au

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		using new technology developed by Veris Technologies to map the current pH, EC and OM of the soil to inform species selection and design at an upcoming planning workshop with local producers and industry.			
L.PDS.2204	Which set up? Implementing confinement feeding	The PDS project, Which set up? Implementing Confinement Feeding, managed by AgPro Management, commenced in February 2022 with a core producer group formed in the Northern Agriculture region of WA. Three confinement feeding demonstration sites have been established within this group. The project aims to identify WHY producers are wanting to confinement feed, and WHEN confinement feeding should be implemented. Through this project producers will be given the opportunity to improve skills to design, implement and manage different confinement systems, and understand the impacts on management and economics. So far core producers have been given the opportunity to increase their condition scoring skills, improve understanding of vaccination and nutrition value and engage with local grower groups to look at different confinement feeding systems.	StockPro	Brianna Hindle – *Ag Pro Management*	brianna@agpromanagement.com

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CO-CONTRIBUTOR PDS PROJECT UPDATES					
P.PSH.1346	Assessing economic benefits of confinement feeding	Stirlings to Coast Farmers have had a great start to the project 'Assessing the Economic Benefits of Confinement Feeding, with three very diverse confinement feeding setups as site hosts. This year, confinement periods were between 36 days and 50 days. The different systems included a full mixed ration, feeding ewes in a communal-feed-trough pen, a two-grain mix fed into half poly culvert, fence mounted feed troughs along each pen, and the third trail fed a lupin-barley-oats mix that had been treated with Home n' Dry alkasystems product. All were also supplying ad lib hay or straw on the ground in the pens and watering through water troughs. Feed tests were done on all grains and hays being fed and used to create balanced rations to suit ewe pregnancy status and condition score goals. Using the information from these professionally formulated rations, all sheep gained condition while in confinement, meeting the farmers' condition score goals. Allowances were made for the additional extra condition the ewes would gain on the quality pastures before lambing.	Stirlings to Coast Farmers	Kelly Gorter – *Stirlings to Coast Farmers*	kelly.gorter@scfarmers.org.au

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		Pasture cuts were carried out on the lambing paddocks to quantify the extra pasture produced by utilising confinement to defer grazing and showed between a 3% to 14% increase in dry matter production. These cuts were done between 7 and 28 days apart depending on the property and system. No control mobs or paddocks were available. Copies of articles addressing this project are available at: www.scfarmers.org.au/confinement-feeding			
INTEGRATED R&D PDS PROJECT UPDATES					
P.PSH.1284	Increasing Adoption of Phosphorus Supplementation in Northern Australia (WA)	The benefits of phosphorus (P) supplementation for breeding herds in northern Australia are well researched and widely known, with P being essential for livestock growth, fertility, and milk production. However, across northern Australia only a portion of cattle grazing on P deficient pastures are being managed with supplementation. This is due in part to perceived difficulties in implementing wet season supplementation on extensive properties. The goal of this project is to validate and demonstrate an "Easy P" supplementation program to overcome difficulties of supplying and distributing supplements to stock during the wet season, and		Annie Bone – *Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development*	annie.bone@dpird.wa.gov.au

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		subsequently increase the adoption of P supplementation across the northern beef industry. Early results from the project indicate that providing bulk P to stock at the beginning of the wet season in addition to usual supplements in the dry, a key strategy of the Easy P method, is as effective as more traditional and labour-intensive methods. The project will involve producer demonstration sites in northern WA, Queensland, and the NT to test the Easy P supplementation method within commercial systems. These sites have been identified and testing is now underway to determine the P status of the properties and herds.			
P.PSH.1356	The potential of biomineral fertilisers to increase soil carbon sequestration	This project has now been established, with baseline soil and pasture samples from the trial site and 3 core producer sites complete. The first fertiliser treatments have also been applied. Two workshops have been run upskilling producers with information on soil carbon, carbon accounting and fertiliser use.	Future Food Network	Daniel Hester – *Pedaga Investments*	danielhester@pedaga.com.au
P.PSH.1288	Feed365	Small plot experiments were established at Katanning Research Station in late autumn/winter 2021 for the forage cereals, winter annuals and perennials. The	ASHEEP, West Midlands Group, and	Daniel Real – *Department of Primary*	Daniel.Real@dpird.wa.gov.au

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		tropical and subtropical crops were established in spring 2021. From the forage cereals evaluated, the most productive species were triticale and barley for the early cuts and triticale, barley, and oats for the late cuts. From the annual legumes, subclover and the three species of vetch were the most productive. The most productive summer crop in the first cut three months after sowing was sunflower. Results from the second summer crop cut and perennial species cuts are yet to be analysed. The grazing plots were sown in June 2021. Biomass data was taken from each plot from August 2021 and forage quality was assessed in the plots when they were grazed. From this preliminary data of the establishment year, the best treatments grazed during the growing season (September to November) were Cadiz and subclover. For the early summer (January and February) the best treatments were French hard serradella and Japanese millet. For autumn (April and May) the best treatments were lucerne, chicory and cocksfoot and tedera. Three grower group sites were also established with ASHEEP, West Midlands Group and Wagin-Woodanilling Landcare Zone, with demonstration plots sown in autumn 2022.	Wagin-Woodanilling Landcare Zone	*Industries and Regional Development*	