



## Social Media In Agriculture



## FACT SHEET

## Sustainable grazing in the Upper North

The use of perennial fodder shrubs and cell grazing systems are two valuable tools in protecting soils, enhancing biodiversity and improving productivity in the low rainfall areas of the Upper North of South Australia. The Upper North Farming Systems Group has initiated a range of research, development and extension projects to support sustainable farming in a drying climate.

### Perennial shrubs for low rainfall farming.

Ian Ellery discusses transforming from a wheat based system to a perennial shrub based system on his family farm at Morchard in the Upper North of South Australia. A lot of their cropping country is becoming unviable due to increasingly variable rainfall patterns and they are looking to return this to grazing by establishing perennial shrub species and native grasses. The cost of establishment is going to be the largest barrier to developing the system into the future. This project is supported by Upper North Farming Systems, through funding from the Australian Government's Caring for our Country, Eyre Peninsula NRM Board and Rural Solutions SA.

<http://youtu.be/AqpuLVKijks>



### Establishing perennial shrub pasture

Ian Ellery, on the family property at Morchard in the Upper North of South Australia, explains how returning unproductive cereal cropping land has been assisted by trial work conducted through the ENRICH program. This program assessed a range of perennial fodder shrub species from which the five best were selected for larger scale evaluation. This project is supported by Upper North



For further information about Ag Ex and to get involved  
go to the Ag Excellence Alliance website [www.agex.org.au](http://www.agex.org.au)



Farming Systems, through funding from the Australian Government's Caring for our Country, Eyre Peninsula NRM Board and Rural Solutions SA.

<http://youtu.be/tps0yD8UQXU>

### **Cell grazing explained.**

Neil Sleep discusses the cell grazing system he has developed on the family farm near Peterborough in the Upper North of South Australia with Michael Wurst from Rural Solutions SA. The dedicated use of a grazing management chart is the heart of the system. The success of the system is resting paddocks long enough, never allowing them to be grazed past the point of 50% feed on offer. This project is supported by Upper North Farming Systems, through funding from the Australian Government's Caring for our Country, Eyre Peninsula NRM Board and Rural Solutions SA.

<http://youtu.be/qK6MJVLaqmE>

### **Cell grazing – benefits and challenges**

Neil and Antoinette Sleep and their family manage a 3,600 ha grazing property near Peterborough in the Upper North of South Australia. Their cell grazing system is managed to achieve a strong perennial plant base. Since implementing the system, sheep carry capacity has increased 17%, stock condition is more even throughout the year and they are saving 14 days per year in stock movement activities. This project is supported by Upper North Farming Systems, through funding from the Australian Government's Caring for our Country, Eyre Peninsula NRM Board and Rural Solutions SA.

[http://youtu.be/7TjOFu\\_3HIY](http://youtu.be/7TjOFu_3HIY)

### **Biodiversity in low rainfall grazing systems of South Australia**

Encouraging native species in grazing systems in the Upper North of South Australia has provided many benefits in terms of soil health, biodiversity conservation and production. Achieving and maintaining ground cover is key to making the system work on Neil and Antoinette Sleep's family property near Peterborough. Listen to Neil discuss the benefits of maintaining ground cover and increasing biodiversity in the grazing system with Jodie Reseigh from Rural Solutions SA. This project is supported by Upper North Farming Systems, through funding from the Australian Government's Caring for our Country, Eyre Peninsula NRM Board and Rural Solutions SA.

<http://youtu.be/7ouJWCdxXA4>