RED MEAT UPDATES

TASMANIA

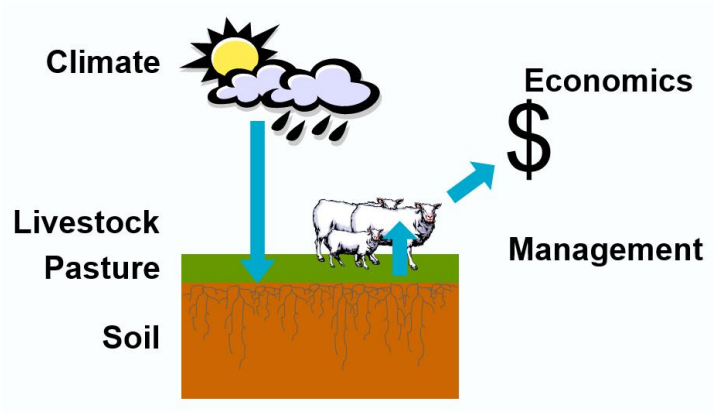
28 July 2023

Farming Forecaster in Tasmania – a decision support tool for graziers

Tim Ackroyd

NRM South

How can Farming Forecaster benefit you?



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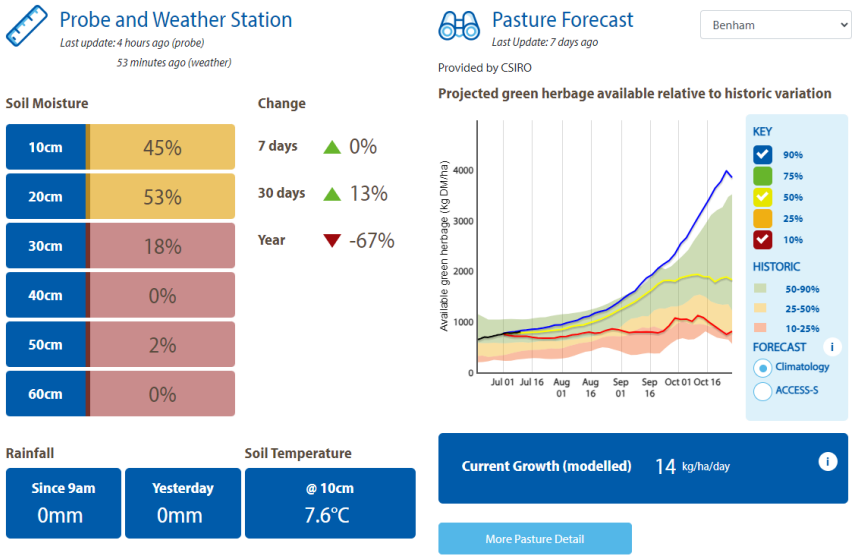

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Takes the guess work out of developing feed budgets

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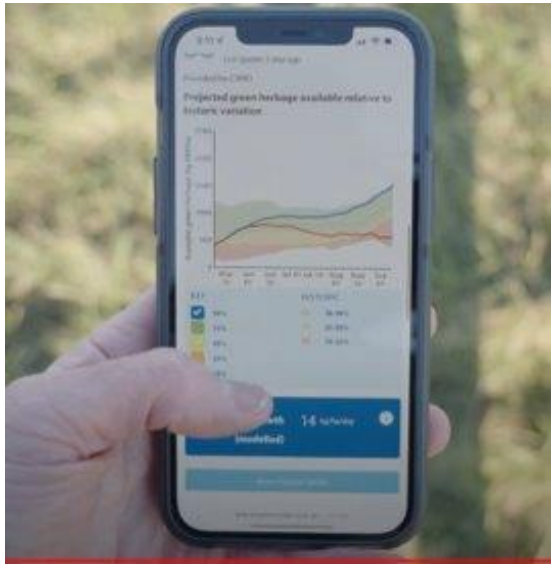
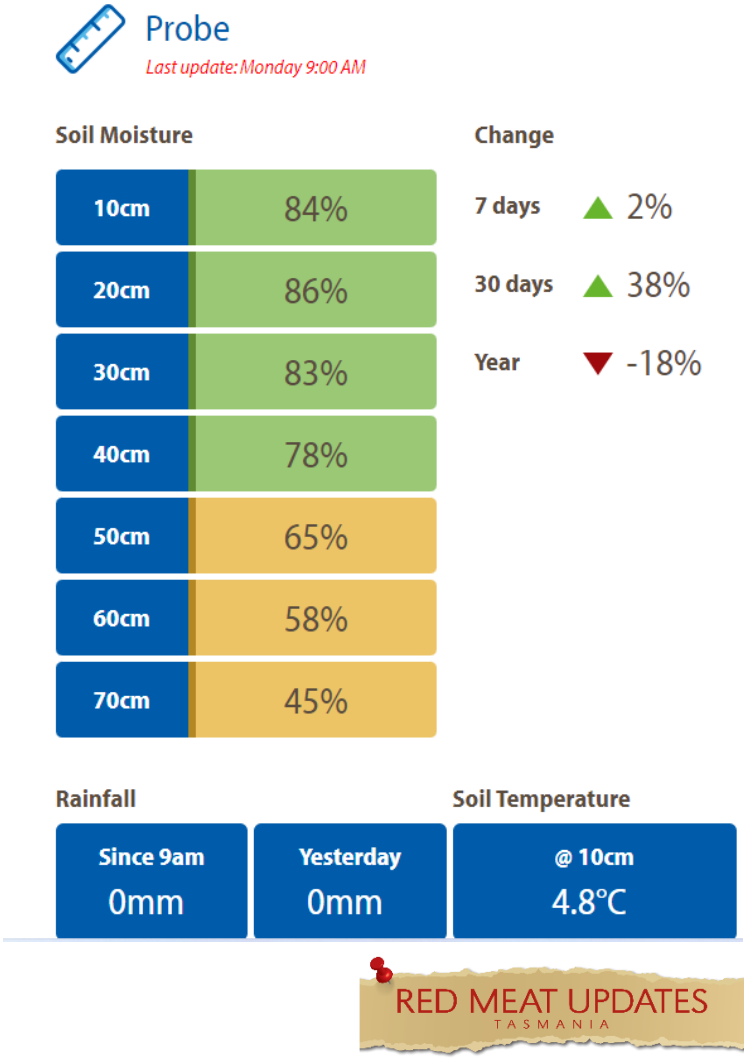
Let’s go live!

https://farmingforecaster.com.au/



Understanding the probe data

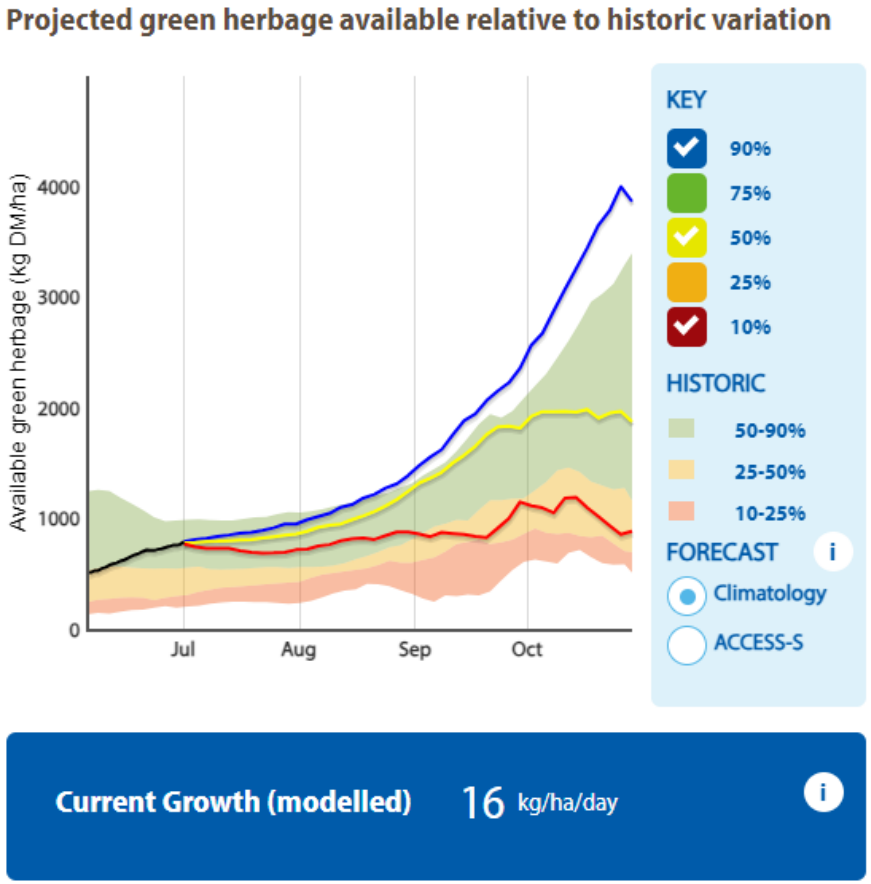
- Soil moisture and soil temperature
- Traffic light system on moisture every 10cm
- Ability to compare all data over time
- Rainfall information from a rain gauge
- Real time data at your fingertips!



Understanding the pasture forecast

<u>Shows the likely projected green herbage available over the next 4 months.</u>

- Coloured lines are different potential pasture curves over the next 4 months.
- Black line is tracking where we are now and is refreshed weekly.
- Solid shading is history, the colour represents how often this scenario occurred.
- The whole graph is updated monthly.



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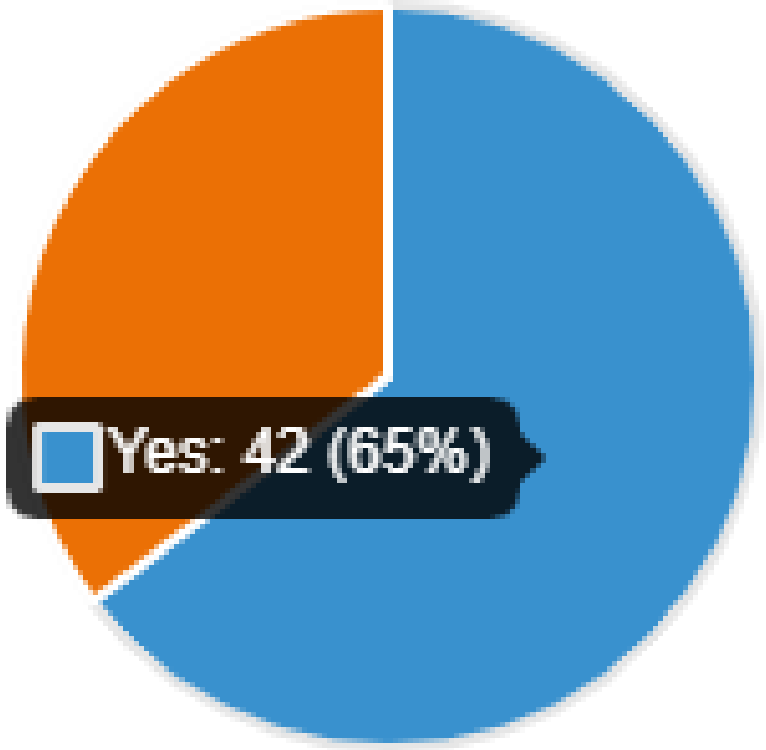
Feedback from NSW producers

Has Farming Forecaster assisted you in making decisions around adjusting stocking rates? 66 responses:



Feedback from some Tasmanian users

East coast producer Henry Dunbabin, Milton:

‘Most of us have an idea of how much feed is in front of us, but it's generally gut feel, Farming Forecaster backs this up with data’

Jason Lynch, Senior agronomist, Pinion Advisory:

‘It will bring more confidence to decision making for the livestock sector giving us real time localised information on pasture growth for feed budgeting’

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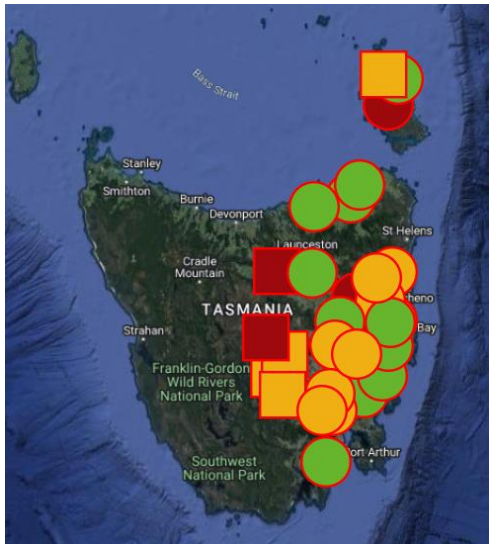
The Tasmanian Farming Forecaster project

- Establishing 43 sites across Tasmania in 11 regions.
- Seasonal events with livestock and technical experts on:
  - seasonal forecast on growing conditions
  - training on Farming Forecaster and ‘Stockplan’
  - ‘what if’ scenarios & strategies to deal with seasonal conditions.
- AG technical experts are helping deliver this project.
- Opportunities for producers to establish their own sites.



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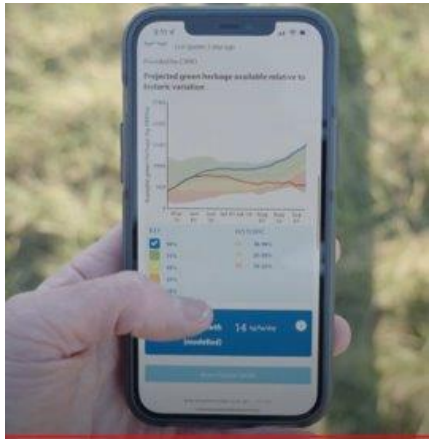
Farming Forecaster: top three take home messages

1. Access to robust information that can help us prepare for climate variability, particularly drought.
2. An opportunity to get together and discuss seasonal forecasts & better understand local growing conditions.
3. Ability to improve outcomes for Tasmania's landscape, including ground cover, soil and water assets.



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Tools, resources & training

Farming Forecaster web-based app (available on your phone, tablet and PC):
https://farmingforecaster.com.au/

Useful short 'How to' Farming Forecaster training videos:
https://farmingforecaster.com.au/TrainingResources

For more information and how to get involved in discussions:
Tim Ackroyd 0400 047 665 tackroyd@nrmsouth.org.au

Australian Government

Future Drought Fund

NRM SOUTH NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

NRM North

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