



RED MEAT UPDATES

TASMANIA

28 July 2017

Maximising pasture production and
utilisation for best practice lamb finishing
under irrigation



Chester Partnership



Longford Red Meat Group

- Formed in 2014 through a Lifetime Ewe Management course
- Pasture Principles in 2015
- MLA-funded Producer Demonstration Site (PDS) 2016 – 2019
- 14 LRMG members, based around northern midlands

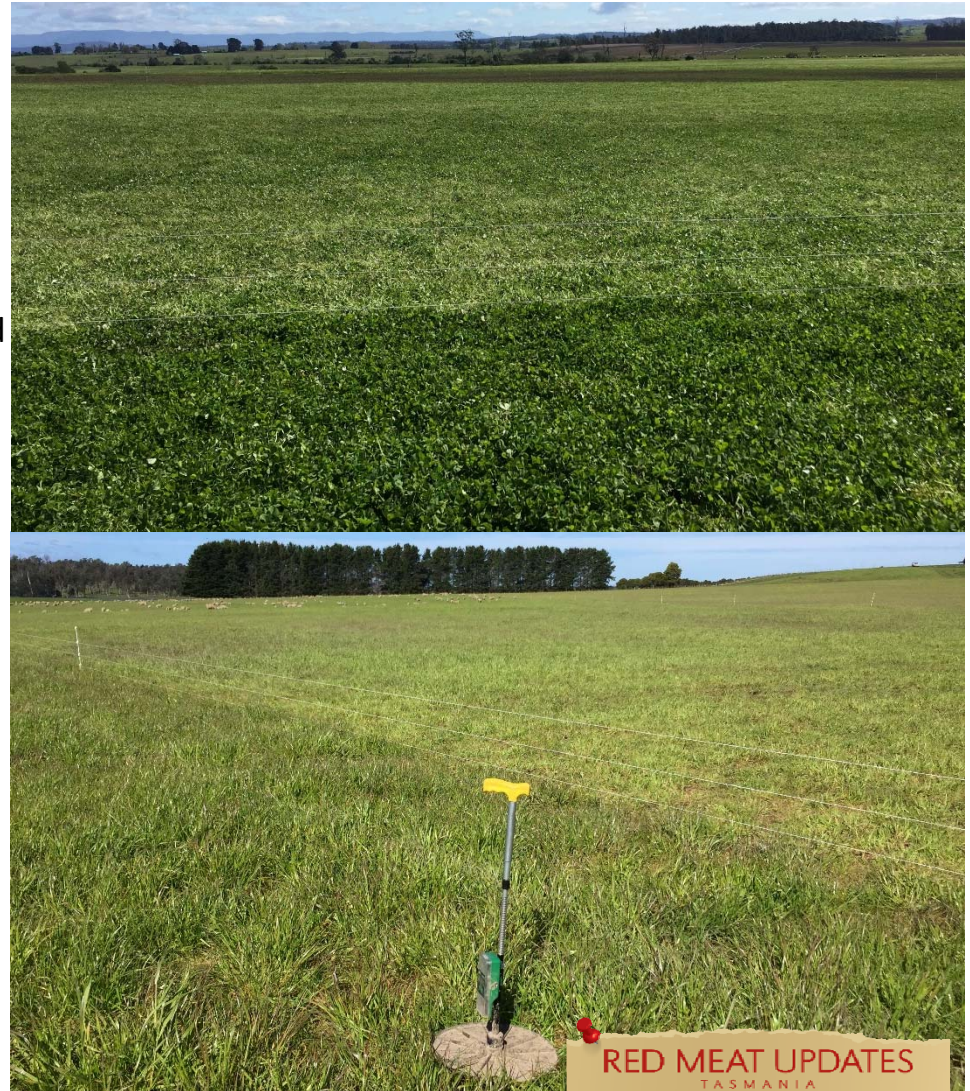
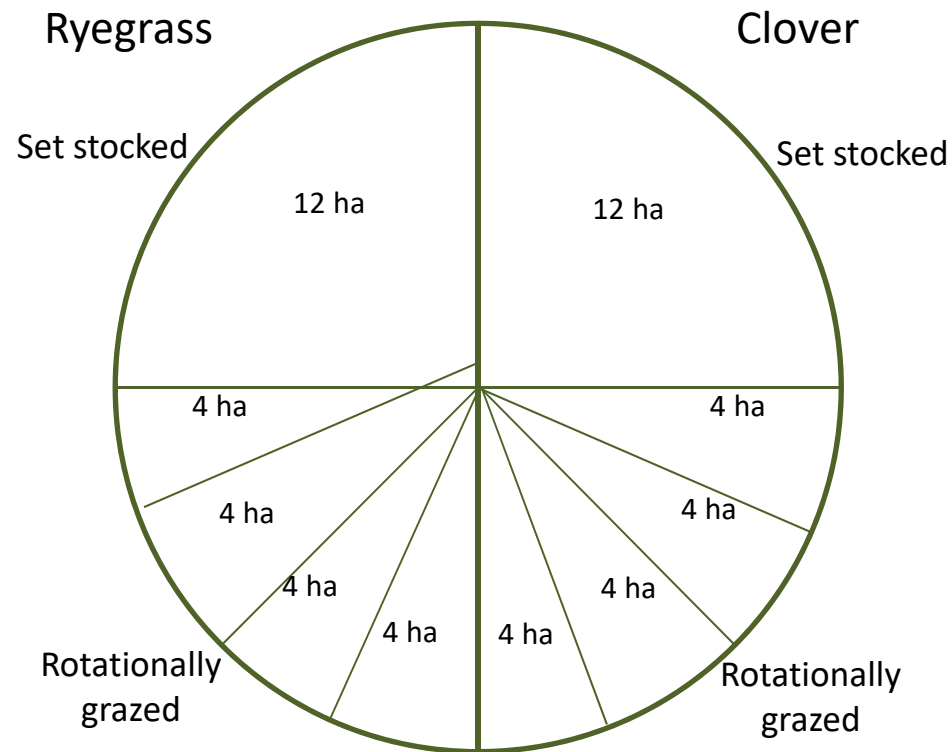


The PDS Trial — objective

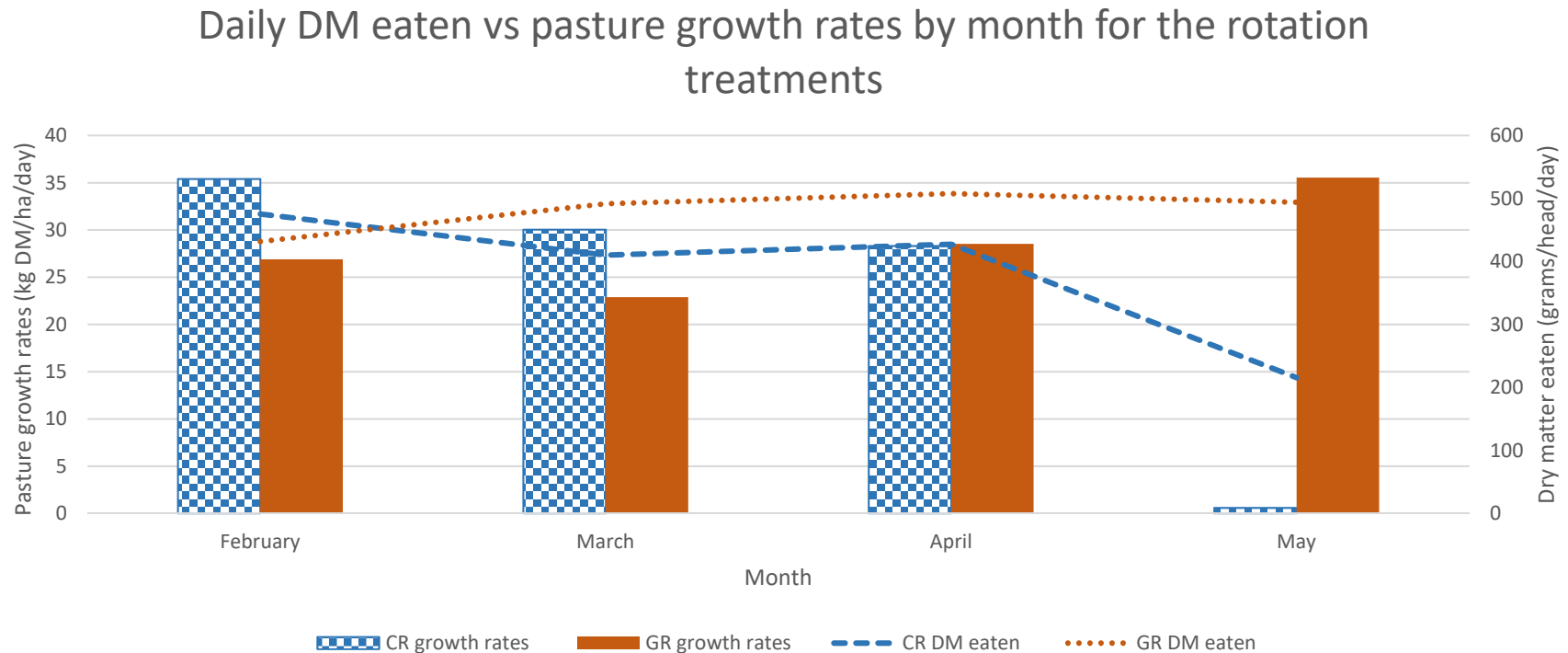
- Profitability and best practice management for finishing lambs under irrigation
 - Comparing rotationally grazed with set stocked and clover with ryegrass
 - Animal health management
 - Liveweight gain
 - Stocking rates and dry matter production



The PDS Trial — method

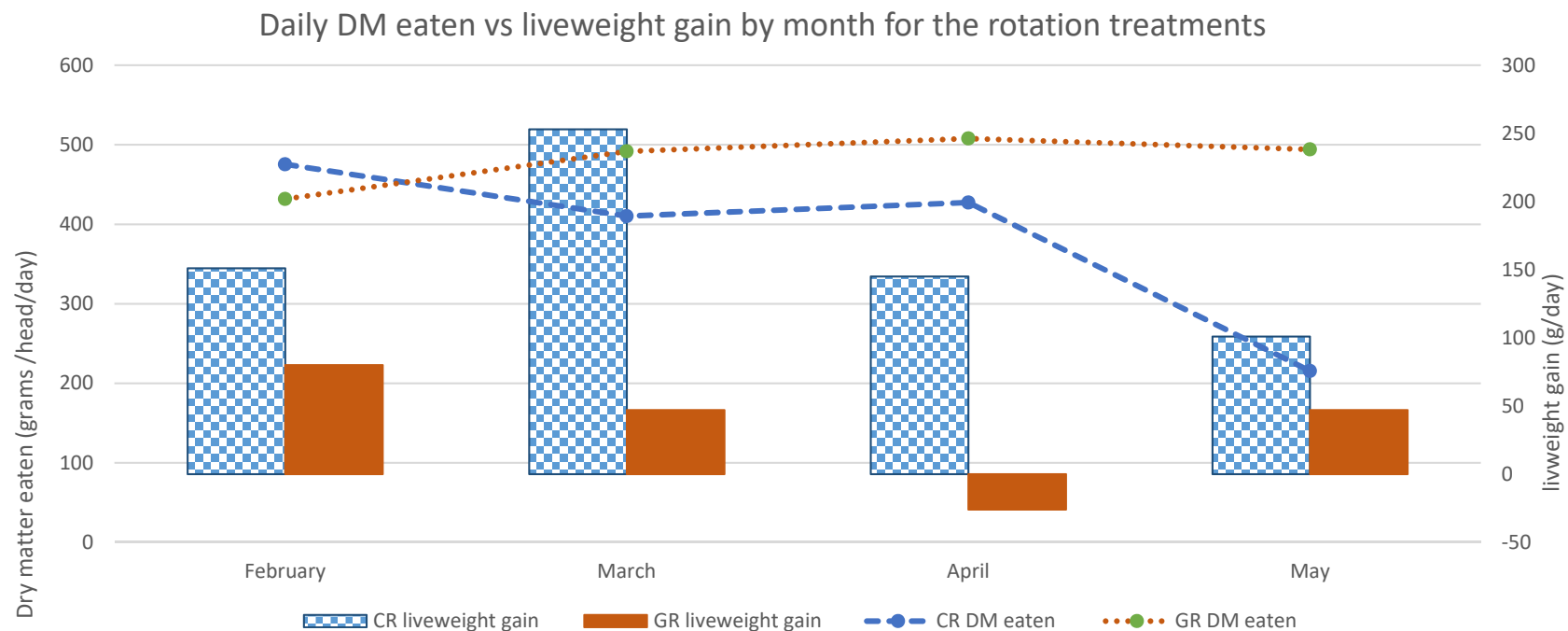


The PDS Trial — pasture results



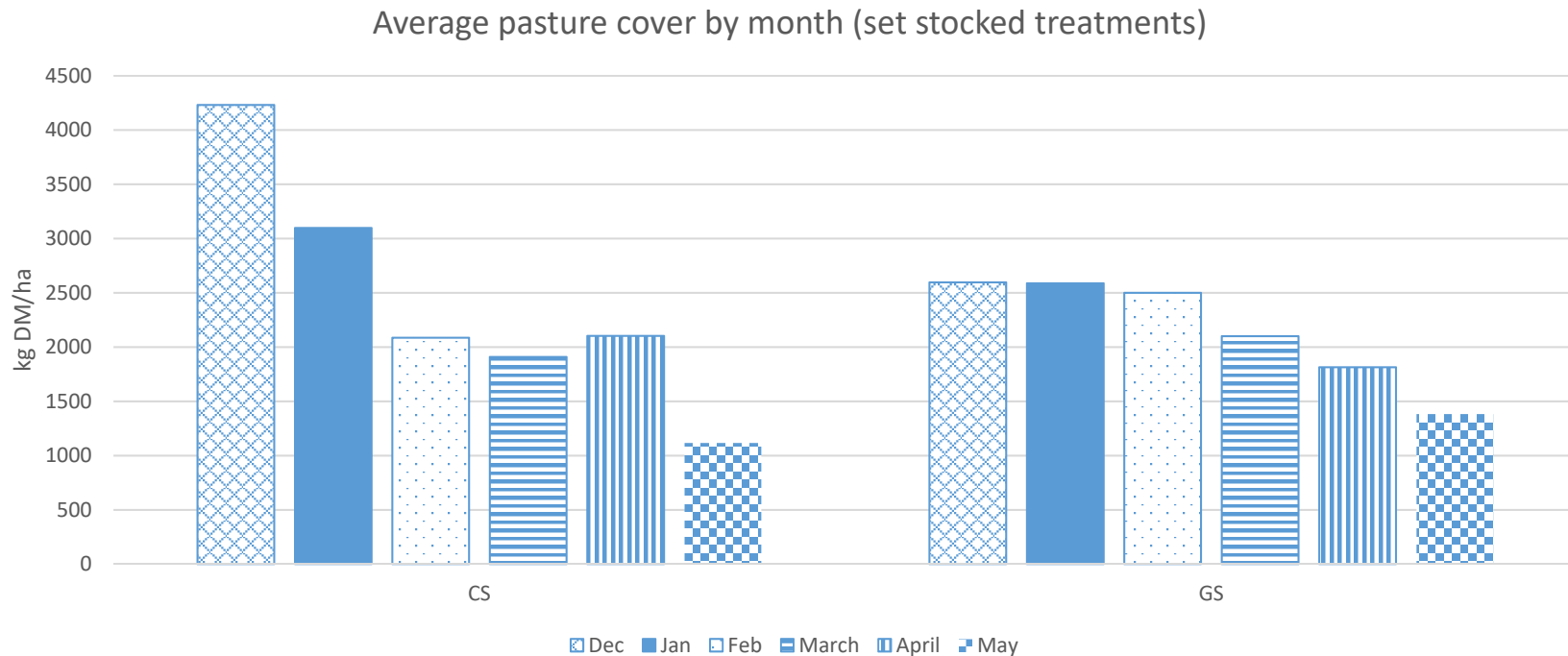
- Relationship between amount grown and amount eaten for both clover and ryegrass

The PDS Trial — pasture results



- For clover LWG is related to amount eaten
- For ryegrass no relationship between LWG and amount eaten (quality)

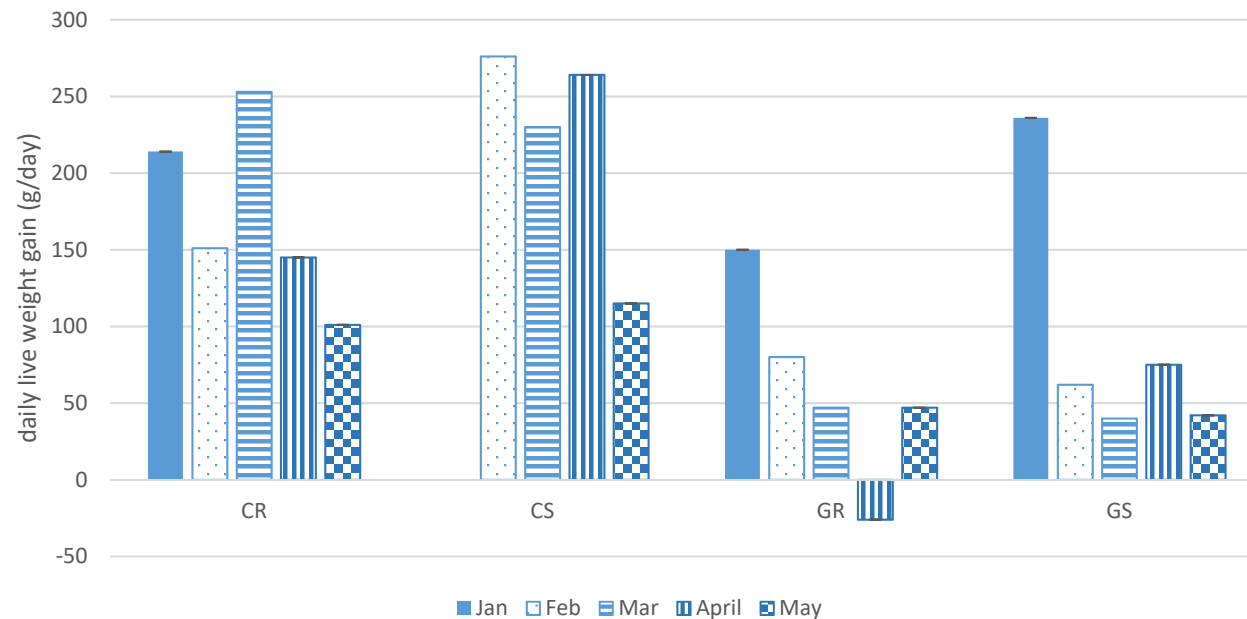
The PDS Trial — pasture results



- Set stocking grazing systems limit ability to capitalise on spring pasture flush

The PDS Trial — liveweight gain

Average daily liveweight gain by treatment and month



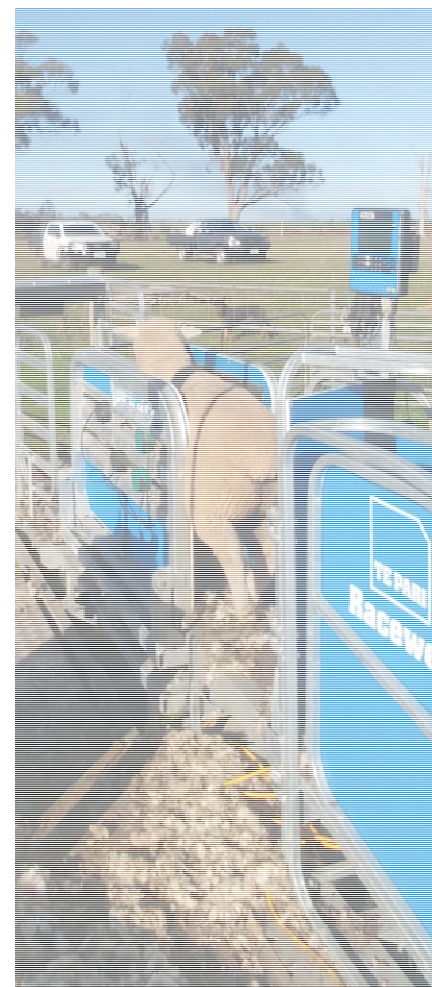
FEC test results by month

	5/01/2017	17/02/2017	23/02/2017	13/04/2017	26/4/2017	6/06/2017
CR	15	475	550	-	0	175
CS	60	100	375	-	0	200
GR	30	-	100	1470	0	375
GS	135	100	100	320	0	775

The PDS Trial — expenses summary

	CR	CS	GR	GS
Trial inputs costs*	\$1,209	\$446	\$1,471	\$616
Irrigation & fertiliser costs	\$4,276	\$4,276	\$4,276	\$4,276
Animal husbandry costs	\$710	\$690	\$943	\$718
Shearing costs	\$-	\$-	\$1,291	\$924
Supp feeding costs	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
Lamb deaths	\$892	\$321	\$1,095	\$327
Selling costs (freight)	\$2,326	\$2,772	\$972	\$1,042
Lamb purchases	\$122,400	\$137,100	\$63,200	\$69,700
Total costs to June 17	\$131,812	\$145,604	\$73,247	\$77,603
<i>cost/ha</i>	<i>\$10,984</i>	<i>\$12,134</i>	<i>\$6,104</i>	<i>\$6,467</i>
<i>cost/lamb</i>	<i>\$113</i>	<i>\$105</i>	<i>\$151</i>	<i>\$149</i>

* moving stock, weighing, topping grass



The PDS Trial — profitability

Treatment	Total income	Total expenses	Gross margin	Gross margin/ha	Gross margin/ML
CR	\$180,474	\$131,812	\$48,662	\$4,055	\$845
CS	\$211,578	\$145,604	\$65,974	\$5,498	\$1,145
GR	\$98,165	\$73,247	\$24,918	\$2,077	\$433
GS	\$99,924	\$77,603	\$22,321	\$1,860	\$388

Top three take-home messages

1. Easier to make good money from clover than grass when finishing lambs BUT need to consider grazing options for the other six months of the year
2. To get best performance out of pastures need to be measuring and monitoring and responding to what you're observing
3. Chicken and egg of increasing SR and increasing pasture production

Tools, resources and training

- Lifetime Ewe Management
- Pasture Principles
- Plate meter and/or pasture ruler
- eIDs
- Feed budgeting tools





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T A S M A N I A

Longford Red Meat Group would like to thank the
following for their support of the trial:

MLA; TP Jones; Dr Bruce Jackson; Macquarie Franklin



Andrew Archer

Chester Partnership

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