



31 July 2026

Transitioning from dryland to irrigated pasture production

Navigating the change

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Montana Farming Co



ROB

development · animal health

HANNA

pasture management

SALLY

finance · heifer breeding

LACHLAN

finance · online tools



BERRYDALE

235ha dryland

200 cows

850mm average rainfall



BERRYDALE

RED MEAT UPDATES
TASMANIA



THE NEW FARM

180ha

120ha under pivot

580 ML water



THE NEW FARM

BERRYDALE



Three numbers run our farm

Leaf emergence rate

Today = 20 days
Summer = 7 days

Pre & post covers

2500kg dry matter / ha →
1600kg dry matter / ha

Animal demand

Maintenance first
 $(\text{Weight} / 100) + 1 + 4 \times \text{ADG} = \text{kgdm/head}$

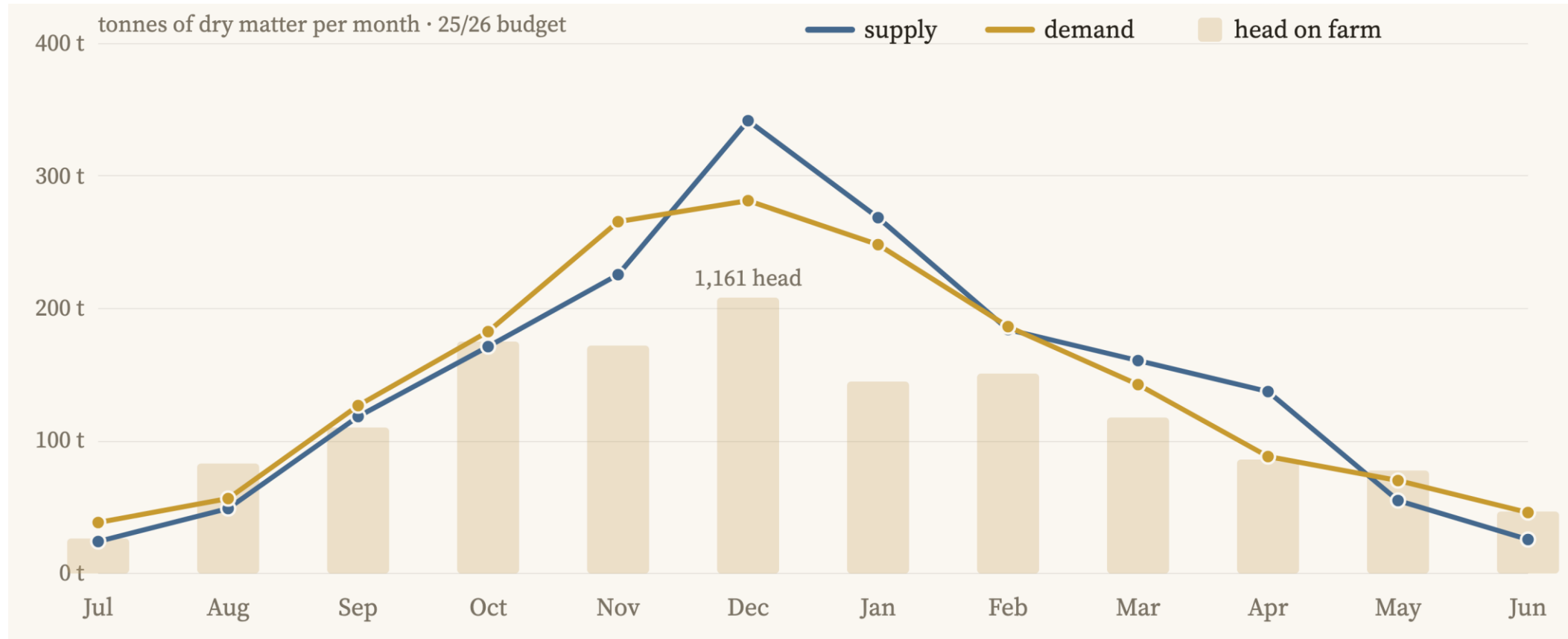


DAD'S AVERAGE PASTURE COVER

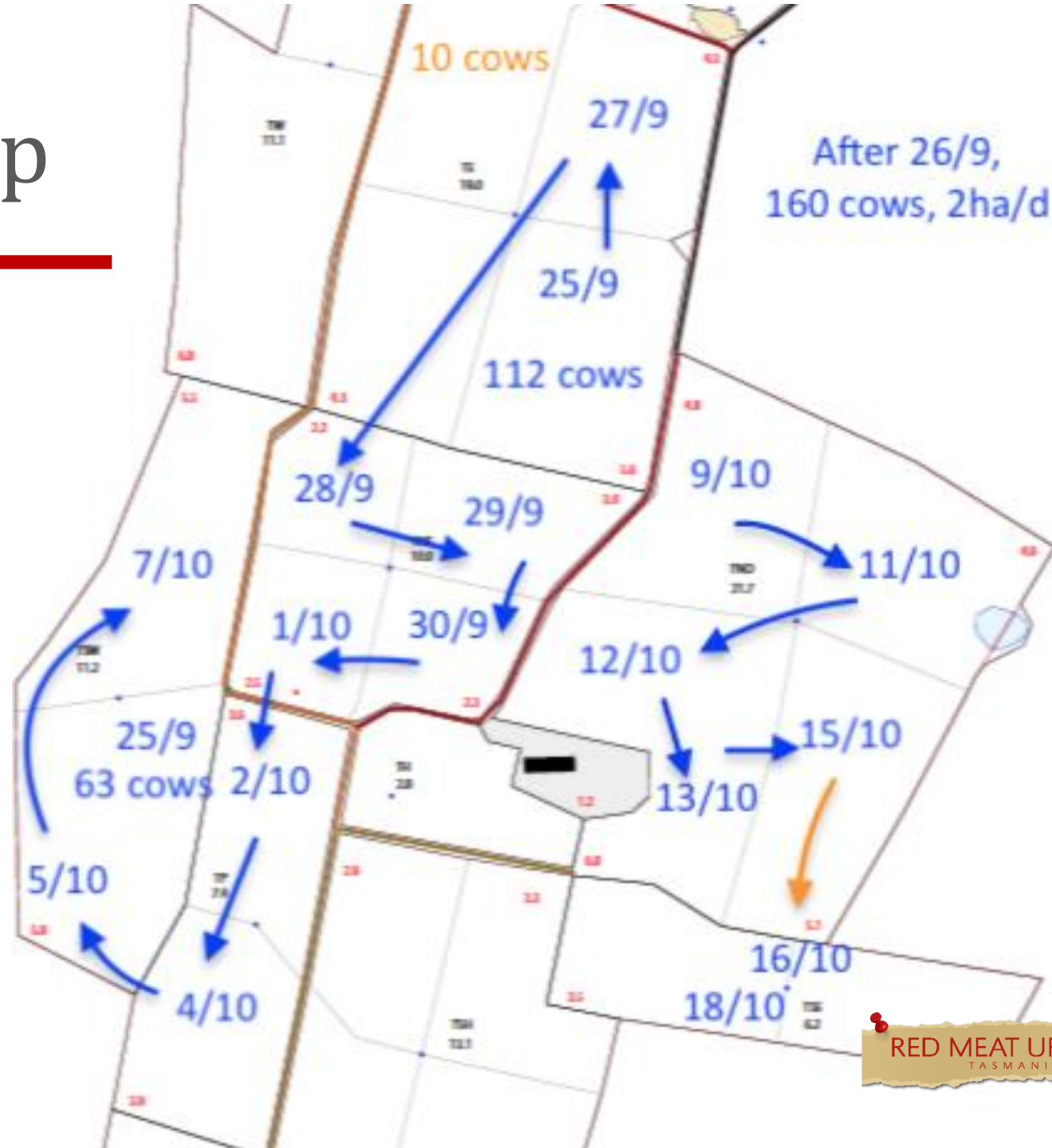
The mob model

			Month	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
			Days in Month	31	31	30	31	30	31	31	28	31	30	31	30
		ADG Basemodel	Dairy	0.95	0.95	0.95	1.00	1.50	1.50	1.20	1.00	0.85	0.67	0.52	0.95
			Beef	0.60	0.60	1.00	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.00	0.60	0.70
Mob Name:	2026 Weaners	Modelled ADG	(kgdm/hd/day)	0.8	0.80	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.00	1.00	1.00				
Mob Type:	Beef	Days on Pasture	(days)	31	31	30	31	30	31	31	28				
Efficiency:	88%	Efficiency	(1/kgdm/kgldwt)	88%	88%	88%	88%	88%	88%	88%	88%				
Arrival Date:	1-Jul-2026	Month Start Weight	(kg/hd)	347	372	397	442	488	533	564	595				
Arrival Weight:	345	Month End Weight	(kg/hd)	372	397	442	488	533	564	595	623				
Max Weight:	600	Feed Requirement	(kgdm/hd/day)	8.7	9.0	12.5	13.0	13.6	11.7	12.1	12.4				
Departure Date:	31-Mar-2027	Number of Animals	(hd)	93	93	93	93	93	49	49	0				
Mob Size:	93	Mob Requirement	(kgdm/month)	25,167	25,967	34,970	37,613	37,829	17,840	18,367	0				
Mob Name:	Squirts	Modelled ADG	(kgdm/hd/day)	0.8	0.80	0.95	1.40	1.40	1.40	1.20	1.00	0.85	0.80		
Mob Type:	Dairy	Days on Pasture	(days)	31	31	30	31	30	31	31	28	31	30		
Efficiency:	85%	Efficiency	(1/kgdm/kgldwt)	85%	85%	85%	85%	85%	85%	85%	85%	85%	85%		
Arrival Date:	1-Jul-2026	Month Start Weight	(kg/hd)	236	260	285	314	357	399	442	480	508	534		
Arrival Weight:	215	Month End Weight	(kg/hd)	260	285	314	357	399	442	480	508	534	558		
Max Weight:	600	Feed Requirement	(kgdm/hd/day)	7.7	8.0	9.0	11.4	11.9	12.4	12.0	11.4	11.0	11.1		
Departure Date:	30-Apr-2027	Number of Animals	(hd)	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	45		
Mob Size:	90	Mob Requirement	(kgdm/month)	21,430	22,225	24,199	31,934	32,230	34,674	33,400	28,795	30,826	14,996		

Supply & demand



Dad's rotation map



The rotation planner

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
Paddock	Break	Paddock	Area (Ha)	Ha / Day (Rotation)	Days / Paddock	Date Arrive	Time Arrive	Suggested Leave (Rotation)	Date Leave	Time Leave	Pre	Residual	Yield
P20		P20	4.1	0.70	5.8	Thu 25 Sep	12 pm	Wed 1 Oct - 8:10 am	Wed 1 Oct	8 am	2460	1550	910
P21		P21	1.5	0.70	2.1	Wed 1 Oct	8 am	Fri 3 Oct - 11:16 am	Fri 3 Oct	8 am	2376	1600	776
P4	Front	P4 - Front	2.2	0.70	3.1	Fri 3 Oct	8 am	Mon 6 Oct - 11:12 am	Sun 5 Oct	8 am	1886	1480	406
P4	Back	P4 - Back	4.8	0.70	6.8	Sun 5 Oct	8 am	Sun 12 Oct - 4:6 am	Thu 9 Oct	4 pm	1886	1500	386
P5	Front	P5 - Front	2.6	1.52	1.7	Thu 9 Oct	4 pm	Sat 11 Oct - 9:8 am	Sat 11 Oct	8 am	2800	1500	1300
P5	Middle	P5 - Middle	2.9	1.52	1.9	Sat 11 Oct	8 am	Mon 13 Oct - 5:52 am	Mon 13 Oct	8 am	2800	1536	1264
P5	Back	P5 - Back	4.8	1.52	3.2	Mon 13 Oct	8 am	Thu 16 Oct - 11:56 am	Thu 16 Oct	8 am	2082	1382	700
P6	Back	P6 - Back	3.6	1.52	2.4	Thu 16 Oct	8 am	Sat 18 Oct - 4:57 pm	Sun 19 Oct	4 pm	2698	1500	1198
P6	Front	P6 - Front	3.1	1.52	2.0	Sun 19 Oct	4 pm	Tue 21 Oct - 5:2 pm	Tue 21 Oct	10 am	2698	1500	1198
P21		P21	1.5	1.52	1.0	Tue 21 Oct	10 am	Wed 22 Oct - 9:43 am	Wed 22 Oct	4 pm	1942	1400	542
58		58	3.3	1.52	2.2	Wed 22 Oct	4 pm	Fri 24 Oct - 8:12 pm	Fri 24 Oct	8 am	2418	1480	938
57		57	4.2	1.52	2.8	Fri 24 Oct	8 am	Mon 27 Oct - 2:27 am	Sun 26 Oct	4 pm	2418	1600	818
56		56	5.1	1.52	3.4	Sun 26 Oct	4 pm	Thu 30 Oct - 12:41 am	Wed 29 Oct	8 am	2418	1600	818
Bull Paddock		Bull Paddock	7.3	1.52	4.8	Wed 29 Oct	8 am	Mon 3 Nov - 3:29 am	Mon 3 Nov	8 am	2292	1648	644
Triangle		Triangle	1.2	1.52	0.8	Mon 3 Nov	8 am	Tue 4 Nov - 2:59 am	Tue 4 Nov	8 am	2376	1564	812
P4	Front	P4 - Front	2.2	1.52	1.5	Tue 4 Nov	8 am	Wed 5 Nov - 6:48 pm	Wed 5 Nov	4 pm	2250	1494	756
P4	Back	P4 - Back	4.8	2.07	2.3	Wed 5 Nov	4 pm	Fri 7 Nov - 11:41 pm	Fri 7 Nov	4 pm	2376	1774	602
P5	Front	P5 - Front	2.6	2.07	1.3	Fri 7 Nov	4 pm	Sat 8 Nov - 10:10 pm	Sun 9 Nov	10 am	2614	1914	700
P5	Middle	P5 - Middle	2.9	2.07	1.4	Sun 9 Nov	10 am	Mon 10 Nov - 7:38 pm	Tue 11 Nov	9 am	2376	1914	462
P5	Back	P5 - Back	4.8	2.07	2.3	Tue 11 Nov	9 am	Thu 13 Nov - 4:41 pm	Thu 13 Nov	2 pm	2376	1914	462
P6	Back	P6 - Back	3.6	2.07	1.7	Thu 13 Nov	2 pm	Sat 15 Nov - 7:46 am	Sat 15 Nov	8 am	2558	1690	868
P6	Front	P6 - Front	3.1	2.07	1.5	Sat 15 Nov	8 am	Sun 16 Nov - 7:58 pm	Mon 17 Nov	8 am	2558	1690	868
58		58	3.3	2.07	1.6	Mon 17 Nov	8 am	Tue 18 Nov - 10:17 pm	Wed 19 Nov	8 am	2964	1551	1413
57		57	4.2	2.07	2.0	Wed 19 Nov	8 am	Fri 21 Nov - 8:43 am	Sun 23 Nov	8 am	3062	1816	1246
56		56	5.1	2.07	2.5	Sun 23 Nov	8 am	Tue 25 Nov - 7:10 pm	Tue 25 Nov	4 pm	3020	1800	1220
Bull Paddock		Bull Paddock	7.3	2.07	3.5	Tue 25 Nov	4 pm	Sat 29 Nov - 4:41 am	Sat 29 Nov	4 pm	2446	1690	756

Down to the hour

Paddock	Area (Ha)	Ha / Day (Rotation)	Days / Paddock	Date Arrive	Time Arrive	Suggested Leave (Rotation)	Date Leave	Time Leave
P4 - Front	2.2	0.70	3.1	Fri 3 Oct	8 am	Mon 6 Oct - 11:12 am	Sun 5 Oct	8 am
P4 - Back	4.8	0.70	6.8	Sun 5 Oct	8 am	Sun 12 Oct - 4:6 am	Thu 9 Oct	4 pm
P5 - Front	2.6	1.52	1.7	Thu 9 Oct	4 pm	Sat 11 Oct - 9:8 am	Sat 11 Oct	8 am

OCT 2025

SUN 5

MON 6

TUE 7

WED 8

THU 9

FRI 10

SAT 11

8 AM

9 AM

10 AM

11 AM

12 PM

1 PM

2 PM

3 PM

4 PM

5 PM

Move mob — P4 Front
→ Back

Move mob — P5 Front
→ Middle

Move mob — P4 Back
→ P5 Front

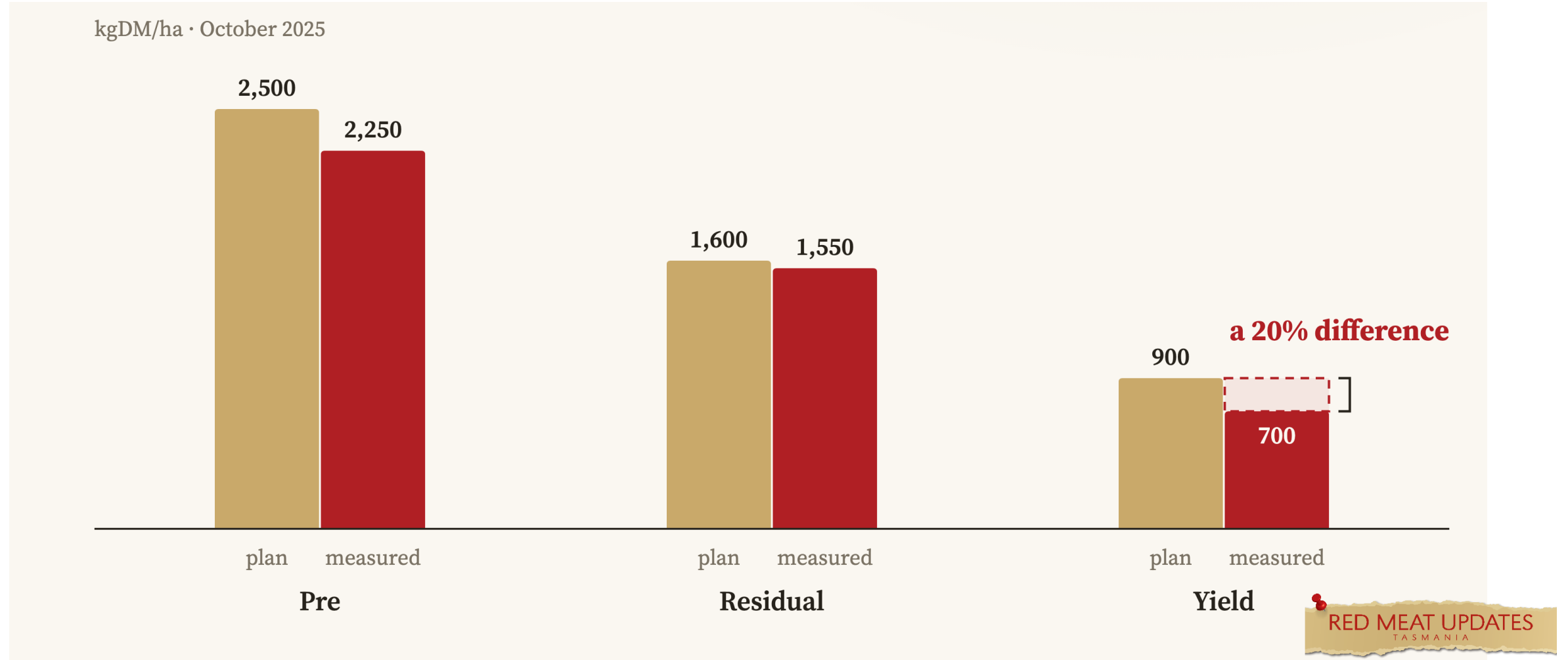


FROM THE Paddock

Two Stories

RED MEAT UPDATES
TASMANIA

Effect of a cold spring





THE IRRITATOR IN ACTION

Reduction in pasture growth rate



What it produced

1,200

kg liveweight gain per hectare · season one

What it produced

1,200

season one

1,150

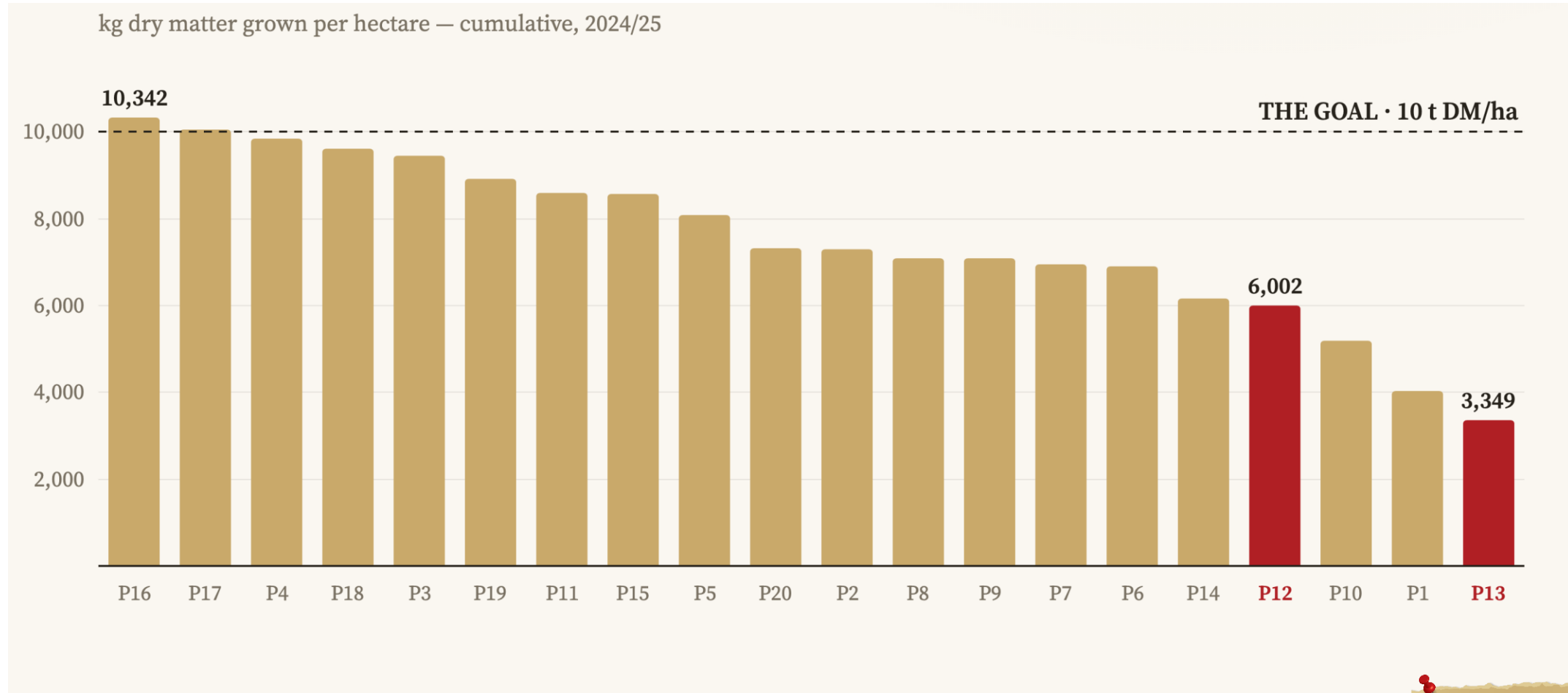
kg liveweight gain per hectare · season two



HOME TO BERRYDALE

 RED MEAT UPDATES
TASMANIA

Every paddock writes its own business case





RED MEAT UPDATES

TASMANIA

What we've learnt

- 1 We shouldn't have waited for irrigation.**
- 2 We build the system before the season starts.**
- 3 Data takes time, but it's worth it.**
- 4 Evolution, not revolution.**



EVOLUTION, NOT REVOLUTION

Recommended resources

Pasture Principles · Pinion Advisory

A beef discussion group

SWAN Systems · daily ETo

Custom tools? **Find Lachlan afterwards.**



Thank you

Hanna McCreath

Montana Farming Co