

# SGSL TRIAL SITE SUMMARY #8b



## CONVENTIONAL VERSUS ALTERNATIVE FERTILISERS ON SALT LAND (TALL WHEAT GRASS)

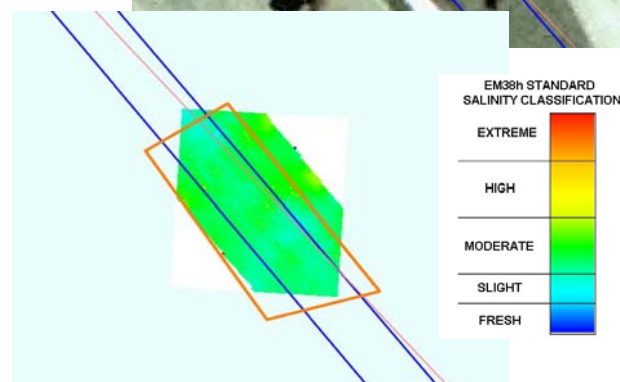
Mt Charles Farm Management Group, Upper South East, SA

### Research Objectives

To compare pasture production and feed quality from saltland pastures spread with conventional and alternative fertilisers.

To assess performance of different conventional rates of P and N fertiliser compared to 'LawrieCo' alternative organic treatments in tall wheat grass.

Aerial photo & EM survey.



### The Trial

- A replicated pasture trial was set up in an established tall wheat grass pasture paddock.
- Conventional phosphorous and nitrogen fertiliser (superphosphate and urea, with additional copper and zinc) was compared to LawrieCo Life Force™ products which comprised a range of organic and mineral fertilisers.
- A farmer's average rate of fertiliser application was applied in addition to an ideal rate of application.
- The treatments were also applied with and without lime.
- Pasture yield (dry matter) and feed quality were measured in addition to microbial activity.

### Fast Facts

#### Location:

3km N of Monkoora Telephone Exchange, Upper South East, SA

#### Soil Type:

Sand over limestone

#### Rainfall:

500mm

#### Pasture Base:

Tall wheat grass with annual medics and grasses.

#### Landscape:

Sandy interdunal plains

## Results

- Conventional fertiliser clearly outperformed the alternative fertilisers in terms of short-term pasture production measurements.
- Benefits of LawrieCo alternative fertilisers are claimed to accrue through reduced inputs over multiple seasons, and increased animal performance measurements. Unfortunately assessment of these aspects of the fertiliser performance was beyond the scope of the trial.



*Fencing the tall wheat grass trial site.*



*Tall wheat grass pastures (Aug 2003).*

## Want to know more?

### Participating Host Farmer:

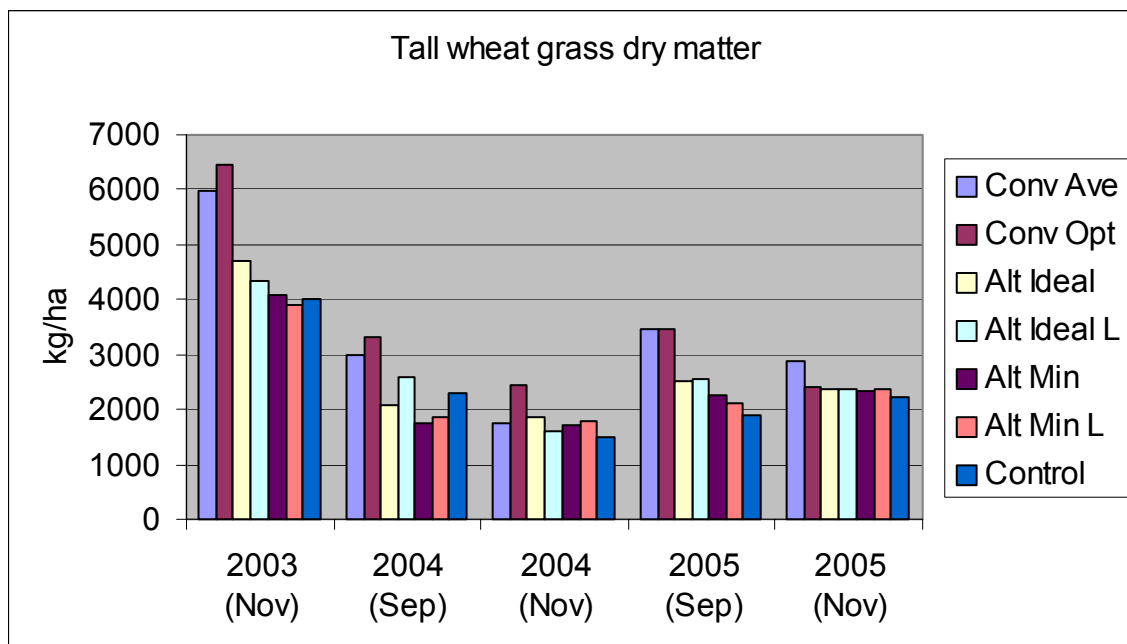
Kelvin Whibley

### Mt Charles Farm Management Group Leader:

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### Technical Support:

Glenn Bailey, Tel: (08) 8762 9100



*Dry matter production from the different fertiliser treatments, measured at each pasture cut.*