



The Bull Sheet

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A word from Tom

Volume 2, Issue 1 Apr 2010

Hi Everyone,

Newsletter Spotlight

It has been a busy start to the year. I have my website up and running and I am getting a marketing program underway. Those of you in the southern north island may have seen my flyer in your Farmlands accounts.

In this issue:
What to do this Autumn to grow more for the year.
Value Add of the month: Techno contractor for hire.

Congratulations to David Turney the winner of a Garmin GPS as part of that promotion. David's parents George and Di have been clients for a number of years so it was great to see it end up in their family. I hope the GPS will give you a lot of fun.



Tom Chisholm
B.Agr

Thanks to Mark Green from [Geosystems](#), our surveying GPS suppliers, for helping out with the prize.

Attention Victoria and South Australia

I have time available in early May if you would like a visit let me know and I can schedule you in.

If you have had a look yet check out our web site www.agdesigngps.com I will keep you up to date as I add more to the site.

tom@agdesigngps.com

I have been at Taupo with Helen and our children Charlie and Meg for the weekend. The weather was fantastic and the lake and surrounds provide a spectacular venue at this time of year.

The trout were biting and we saw some spectacular fish leaping out of the water at different spots. The Crowley family were with us for the weekend and Dave is very competent angler. The 5lb brown that he landed was a fantastic fish. Just to show that skill is not everything, even with fly fishing, I managed to pull in a rainbow trout of my own. The fish are safe for a while now but I may have to call in and try my luck when I am driving past on my trips north over the winter.

Value add of the month is Jason Fulton. Many of you will know Jason and it is great to see him and his family back in the Manawatu. Jason is keen for some new projects so if you need a hand with anything Techgrazing related or general farm work give him a call.

The remainder of this month will see me in New England, NSW. I have a busy couple of weeks surveying and making out new grazing systems.

Let me know if you have a questions or features you would like included in the bull sheet contact me and I will do my best to include it in the next issue.

Talk to you next month,

Tom Chisholm

What to do this Autumn to grow more for the year.

It seems to have been a summer of climatic extremes here in New Zealand. Northland are struggling with a complete lack of the rain, extra tough in a climate where summers are often so productive. A marked contrast with the Hawkes Bay where summer rains have been stock, normally sold before Christmas, not leave farms until February and March.

For grazing farms autumn offers a chance to hit the reset button. Heading into the winter demands a focus on the future. Decisions have to be made about lambing dates, stocking policies and rates as well as rotation lengths.

Your grazing management objectives will vary depending on your summer.

Dry Summer:

If you have had a dry summer and have low covers you will be looking for the Autumn break rains to re establish your pastures. The most important period of time under these conditions is the period immediately after you get rain. If you have carried stock through to the re emergence of your pasture then you will want to protect your newly established tillers as much as possible. After a drought re-growth pasture is very much like new grass. **The longer you can keep off the pasture and let it establish, the quicker you will generate reasonable cover.** It is not uncommon for farmers in dry areas to lock stock up and semi feedlot with supplement for 30 days or more once the Autumn break has come if they are carrying a lot of stock. This will give your pasture a head start and give you much more cover to play with heading into winter.

Wet Summer:

If you have had strong summer production then you may face pasture quality issues. Chances are that you will have clumps of low palatability feed that are going to require restriction of stock intake in order to clean pastures up. The temptation may be to start a longer rotation early in the autumn to address this. This has to be balanced with the needs of the overall pasture. If you have a high autumn covers the bottom of the pasture is shaded. **If you do not work on reducing your overall pasture cover and let some light in to the base you risk having a very open pasture with lots of bare ground between tillers late in the winter.** This will have a significant impact on your spring growth.

Autumn saved pasture does not work:

When entering into rotational grazing the increase in stocking creates a temptation to close up an area of the farm to feed off in the late winter. I have occasionally installed systems at this time of year into very long pasture. This is to be avoided for the following reasons:

- You will shade your pasture reducing tillering. This will slow your spring growth.
- The feed will be of low quality when you graze it.
- You will grow less grass during the winter. Because sunshine hours reduce, the amount of cover you can support reduces through the winter. If your covers are too long the pasture will die quicker at the bottom than it grows at the top resulting in negative net growth.
- Your pasture utilization will be reduced as the taller pasture will be more susceptible to damage as it is grazed.

Rather than shutting up an area in the early Autumn that may not be grazed for up to 180 days you need to have a plan with rotations that will keep you Autumn covers under control but start to build up reserves as you near the winter.

Your Autumn grazing management plan will be specific to your pastures, current conditions and current enterprise.

If you would like to discuss your specific Autumn grazing program e-mail tom@agdesigngps.com or call the Agdesign office today to discuss your plans.

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New Zealand: 0800 243 374

Australia: 1800 262 790

Value Add: Techno contractor for hire



Jason Fulton

Servicing Manawatu, Wanganui, Hawkes Bay and other areas by arrangement.

Jason is experienced in all areas of Technograzing installation, management and maintenance as well as machinery operation and general farm duties. Jason has completed a low stress stock handling course and has his own working dog.

If you require any of the following:

- A relief Techno shift person
- Existing Techno or other fencing and water system maintenance
- Stock work
- Installation of new Techno
- General farm and machinery work.

Jason has 20 years of experience with Technograzing, the last 12 years managing large Techno properties.

To contact Jason Fulton call:

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Questions or comments? E-mail us at tom@agdesigngps.com or call +64 6 354 5714