



FUTURE FARM
INDUSTRIES CRC

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efocus™

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> Tastier saltbush could bring new feed to the drier parts of Australia

A plant selection program by Future Farm Industries CRC (FFI CRC) has shown that a [tastier kind of saltbush could become a nutritional feed source for the drier saline and non saline parts of Australia](#).

Three trial sites set up by FFI CRC near Tammin (WA), Condobolin (NSW) and Monarto (SA) have been watching how sheep respond to having saltbush in the paddock. Observations so far show sheep prefer to eat the east-coast sub species of Old man saltbush.

Preliminary research has also shown that the digestibility of old man saltbush could be improved by ten percent which translates to one mega joule of energy per kg of organic matter.



> Public lecture promotes oil mallee biodiversity benefits

A lecture was recently given by Dr Patrick Smith (CSIRO) to promote a [Biodiversity Benefits of Oil Mallees fact sheet](#) recently produced by the CRC.

The fact sheet highlights the [findings of a three-year study](#) that showed that oil mallees provide valuable resources to animals and plants. In particular, the study found that the Western pygmy possum frequently visited oil mallees at night to eat their blossoms.

Dr Smith was recently interviewed by ABC Radio WA about the findings of this study. Go [here](#) to listen to the interview.





> Understanding Practice Change by Rural Landholders presentations now online

Videos and podcasts from the popular *Understanding Practice Change by Rural Landholders* symposium held in November last year are [now available](#) for viewing.

Thanks to some generous sponsorship, [presentations](#) from this symposium are available on line in video and audio formats via a dedicated [website](#).

For each speaker, the website provides material in a range of formats including:

- An edited video of each presentation
- Videos of the complete presentation which can be downloaded and viewed any time
- Streaming audio of each complete presentation
- A downloadable podcast (MP3 file) of each complete presentation
- A copy of the speaker's PowerPoint file that can be viewed on screen.

There is a strong likelihood that a similar symposium in will be held in Western Australia sometime in July this year.



> Hamilton EverGraze® Field Day

EverGraze® will hold its fourth annual [Hamilton Field Day](#) on Thursday, 14 May at the Department of Primary Industries (DPI Vic) Pavilion, Mount Napier Road, Hamilton from 9.30am-4pm.

The Day will feature a series of short practical and interactive presentations before a free barbecue lunch. From 1:30pm to 4pm there will be a self-guided tour of the site with *EverGraze* staff available to answer questions throughout the afternoon.

Registration on or before Monday May 11 is essential for catering purposes. Contact Sandra Greenaway on (03) 5573 0971 for further information.

[EverGraze](#) - More livestock from perennials is a FFI CRC, MLA and AWI research and delivery partnership.



> CRC Weed Risk Assessment Protocol now online

The *CRC's Weed Risk Assessment Protocol (WRA)*, which shows the process followed by FFI CRC in determining the weed-risk posed by species under evaluation, is available for [download](#).

- The WRA is divided into three sections:
- Invasiveness

- ImpactsDistribution.

Each section has a series of questions that generate a score depending on the response given. A final weed risk score is then calculated by multiplying the adjusted scores for each section, which can then be used to compare weed risk with other species.

Species identified as 'very high' weed risk will not be pursued by the CRC, and should be removed from field trials.

Example of WRA test scores of species being evaluated by the CRC are also available for [download](#).

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