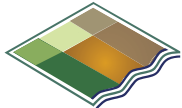




ADVISER



MANAGER



MAPPER

Goings on in the Back Paddock

New, free tools help target improved management, returns

A bonus two free calculators are now being offered in the free demonstration version of Back Paddock's Manager software, which helps plot a path to higher profits through farm planning and mapping.

The two calculators include the farm rotation analyzer and crop water use calculator.

The rotation analyzer assists to compare the sustainability of different cropping decisions, a concept that has been elusive due to the often large number and complexity of different farming measurements.

The analyzer approach is based on the premise that at the most simplistic level, sustainability is a function of the efficient usage of the most limiting resource (generally water), the soil health (a function of carbon input) and profitability (gross margin).

The calculator requires input of a small number of commonly available paddock details such as total crop rainfall, crop yield and value, and variable costs. These inputs are used to calculate ratios such as gross margin per millimetre of rainfall, gross margin / unit of carbon input and units of carbon input / variable cost (energy efficiency). This then highlights gains and trade-offs in overall sustainability based on management decisions about sequences of crop species in rotations, grain value, soil carbon contribution and variable costs.

The rotation analyzer approach can evaluate options at a paddock and farm level, but it is of limited use in comparing between farms due to differences in scale or operating cost structure that affect the relationship between gross margin and profitability.

Meanwhile, by using recorded rainfall and production information for particular paddocks, the crop water use calculator automatically calculates the crop production per millimetre of moisture.

It thereby evaluates the efficiency of converting water into production and profits by measuring how well stored moisture is being managed.

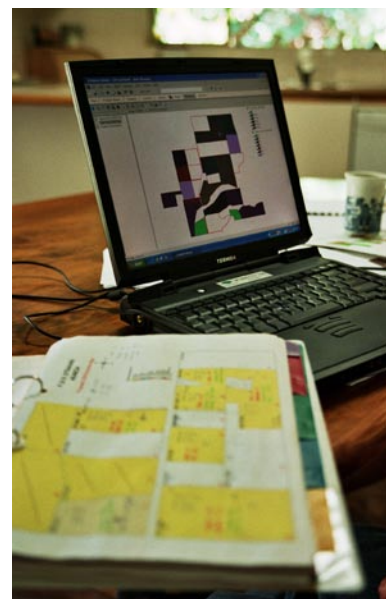
About 15-20 kilograms of cereal grain production per millimetre of rainfall is the general rule of thumb to target.

If low water use efficiency is calculated, management in the paddock can be examined more closely, such as whether there was a weed problem that may have competed for the moisture or whether there may be a subsoil constraint. This understanding may then result in decisions such as reducing some variable cost inputs to a more realistic level.

If the calculator reveals variations between paddocks, then the relevant management comparison between the paddocks can also be more closely investigated.

Licensed users should be aware that in the licensed version of the Manager software, the calculators can be used on all paddocks across the farm, whereas the free version is restricted to one paddock.

The free calculators can be downloaded at www.back-paddock.com.au/manager



BACK PADDOCK
SOFTWARE

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Customer service boost

Back Paddock has moved to ramp up its customer service with the recent appointment of former agronomist in NSW, Warwick Date, to the role of national customer solutions.

Warwick brings more than 20 years of professional agronomic experience to our team.

Since completing a Diploma of Applied Science (Agriculture) in Wagga Wagga in 1979, he has worked in a variety of agronomic roles with the Department of Agriculture and commercially. Warwick also completed a Graduate Diploma in Agriculture (Marketing & Management) through Charles Sturt University at Wagga Wagga in 1997.

He has used Back Paddock's software professionally and has been actively involved in the development of Adviser/Manager since its introduction in eastern Australia some eight years ago.

Located at Griffith, Warwick has had experience in both irrigated and dry land farming, with exposure to intensive horticulture in the Riverina. He has worked with a large range of crop types and has travelled extensively in Australia, New

Zealand and the UK, broadening his knowledge on the many varied agricultural systems used.

Warwick's experience and agricultural systems knowledge ensures that he has the specialist skills to assist customers on our range of products and services.

He will be seeking to further develop Back Paddock's products to new levels in customer service and development in the ever-expanding world of information agriculture.

Ensuring customer requirements are met will be a priority, with group training workshops likely to be held to keep customers abreast of program enhancements and shortcuts that make the job easier and more enjoyable.

Warwick said he believed the Adviser/Manager software product range was unmatched nationally and internationally, providing a lasting solution for farm and retail businesses alike.

"It's an easy to use program that really does help to plan for higher profits, and it is a most valuable storage system to track all nutritional and chemical applications



Warwick Date

so that the farming operation can be effectively managed. It's just getting better and better, especially the mapping, cash flow, rotation analyzer and scenario sections – and there's more to come!"

Warwick can be contacted on 02 6964 7866 or 0427 557 166, or by emailing wdate@nutrientms.com.au

Facelift for Sprays section

Users of the Sprays section in Back Paddock's Manager and Adviser software will now notice some slight variation and added versatility, whilst still being very familiar.

The layout has been improved to allow users to position tables where they like and it has addressed the issues some users were facing over large datasets.

Feedback has identified the need to sometimes view all sprays in a single summary regardless of which mix is being viewed. The new Summary View does this – and much more! It allows users to create their own grouped hierarchical report by simply dragging the column headings to the top. This can be used for a single paddock or across the farm. Groupings can include spray type (herbicide, insecticide etc) or chemical group to help with resistance planning.

The new Sprays section has also been designed to accommodate future enhancements to quality assurance, which will be available in coming months.

Make sure you regularly update to receive the new features.

Have you updated lately?

It's been all systems go for Back Paddock since the start of 2006 to make sure user experience is as trouble-free as possible and that the software continues to get better.

Updates are made available regularly that include bug fixes, feature enhancements and expanded Help documentation.

Subscribers are entitled to all product updates as they become available.

To check if you are running the latest version, go to the Help menu and select "Check For Updates" while connected to the Internet. Follow the prompts to complete your update. At this time the latest Version is 8.0.1.28. So if you are on Version 8.0.1.8 then you have missed 20 updates.

Be sure to check regularly to get the most out of the software. If there are any problems with the process, please call our Helpdesk toll free on 1800 557 166

It's in the blood for new business support officer

Business support officer Chris Rowe joined Back Paddock's Cleveland team about six months ago and is involved with project management, IT and account work as well as assisting Brett Charlton and Graeme Forbes on the Helpdesk.

Hailing from Nanago near Kingaroy, where he grew up on a dairy farm before later moving to Brisbane and then to Goulburn for a period before returning to Brisbane, Chris' appetite for IT started at an early age.

He said he always wanted to know how something worked and so started pulling apart everything in the house and building robots by the time he was 12.

This later progressed to upgrading his school's IT network and writing programs and offering advice to the school.

Chris has since completed a TAFE course to further hone his skills and ran his own business for two-and-a-half years before seeking a change and joining Back Paddock.

Having had a taste of agriculture in his early childhood, Chris is looking forward to assisting Back Paddock users.

He can be contacted on 07 3206 2123 or by emailing crowe@nutrientms.com.au

Contact us:

Freecall Helpdesk: 1800 557 166

The Helpdesk is open Monday to Friday from 7am to 7pm (AEST)

Email: mail@backpaddock.com.au • **Web:** www.backpaddock.com.au • **Fax:** 07 3206 2135

Post: PO Box 823 • Cleveland Qld 4163