



Supplying fresh water quickly is the key for grazing cattle at Wanilla

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Producers: Ron and Maureen Gerschwitz

Location: Washpool at Wanilla

Property Area: 630ha

Enterprise: 70 breeding cattle

Annual Rainfall: 500mm



Maureen and Ron Gerschwitz

When Ron Gerschwitz chose to reduce the size of his cropping program and increase breeding cow numbers, he needed to extract maximum grazing from the paddock feed available. This was achieved through the repositioning of watering points and paddock subdivision.

Old watering points on Ron's property were positioned in the corners of the paddock. This resulted in his cattle camping around water troughs for too long, leaving feed untouched at the top ends of paddocks, or walking off too much condition between feeding and watering.

Paddock subdivision

Ron used permanent electric fencing consisting of treated pine posts at 20-60m spaces and steel droppers at 20m, to divide a 85ha paddock into half.

Changing the watering point

A new watering point was extended half way down the paddock which also provides water for the newly subdivided paddock. Water comes from a 9,000 litre tank located at the top corner of the paddock. The pipeline is 40mm ID Rural B'Class and this flows into a 3.6m long concrete trough through a 40mm diameter low pressure inlet.

The benefits

Subdivision of paddocks and the additional water point now encourages his cattle to graze across the whole paddock.

Ron has observed that his cattle now spend more time grazing across the paddock and less time camping around water.

He has now embarked on a program of adding a header tank to every stock trough on his property, and using 40mm ID Rural B'Class pipe from tank to trough, to achieve good flow rates and minimise the time taken for his cattle to drink.



3 wire electric fence used for cattle.



Existing trough and tank setup. The tank is elevated 1m using an old galvanised tank filled with soil.

