

# Seymour/Culgoa Aggregation



*Driving profits through technology*

## Property Highlights

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Total Area	1,185ha
Rainfall	1,100mm
Production Target	400,000kg – 500,000kg of live weight gain

The grazing property Seymour is located in the New England Tablelands of NSW, in the district of Nowendoc.

Nowendoc is approximately 1,100m above sea level and experiences a very temperate climate with substantial annual rainfall of 1,100mm.

Through the use of industry leading technology, Seymour has been developed to turn this beautiful climate and substantial rainfall into plentiful, green grass, that is then harvested and turned into naturally raised beef. The farm is EU Accredited and Pasture Certified.

Seymour's development has seen the property transformed from unimproved brown to lush green.

The current owners have invested heavily in a soil fertility program, a re-grassing program, fencing and water program, as well as major infrastructure projects of cattle yards, laneways, sheds and house. This was undertaken to support a high performance pasture system.



# Soil Fertility Program

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Broken up into three components:

## 1 Capital

- 2.5t/ha of lime has been applied to all sown country to lift soil pH by one unit.
- 80kg of Phosphorus has been applied to all sown country
  - ensuring that the soil Phosphorus bank is full.
- 300kg of Potassium has been applied per hectare to all sown country
  - ensuring that the soil Potassium bank is full.
- 60kg of Sulphur has been applied per hectare to all sown country
  - ensuring that the soil Sulphur bank is full.

***What this means: we have invested over \$500/ha in capital soil fertility to ensure we grow more grass per mm of rainfall than our competitors.***

## 2 Maintenance

To ensure that the investment in the capital fertility bank is preserved, Seymour measures its production take-off and bases its maintained fertility program around these numbers. Currently Seymour invests in a maintenance budget of 4t/ha of composted manure, applying 36kg/ha of P; 120kg/ha of K; 25kg/ha of S and 150kg/ha of N.

This budget supports the current take-off of 500kg of live weight per hectare at a cost of \$220/ha per year.

***What this means: we grow 12kg of high quality dry matter per mm of rainfall received. The district average is 6kg of dry matter per mm of rainfall.***

## 3 Strategic

Through the use of Nitrogen and Gibb acid pasture growth curves can be manipulated to ensure they are growing grass when their competitors are not.

With an application of 100kg per hectare of Urea and an application of 20gms of Gibb acid with their winter weed spray, Seymour have the ability to grow an extra 1,000kg of dry matter per hectare on the sown country at a cost of \$60/ha.

***What this means: for an investment of \$60/ha Seymour grows 1 tonne of extra high quality feed, that is then converted into approximately an extra 50kg of live weight gain per hectare.***

***This equates to invest \$60/ha to capture \$150/ha of extra income – when no one else is doing so!***



## Re-grassing Program

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Over the autumns of 2015 – 2016, Seymour developed the backbone of its production system by sowing the best temperate pasture genetics available.

It was decided that in order to flatten out the overall feed curve, the property would have one third of its area sown to Perennial Ryegrass and Clovers (*PG150 Perennial Ryegrass*) and two thirds of its area would be sown to Tall Fescue Prairie Grass and Clovers (*Quantum2 MaxP*).

The re-grassing program was undertaken using industry best practice techniques – designed to use technology to minimize economic, production, and environmental risk. All grass seed was applied through zero till techniques, minimizing our energy footprint.

Through the re-grassing program Seymour have been able to lift the total quantity of dry matter per hectare, but importantly also lifted the quality of feed on offer.

Seymour's aim is to put on kilograms of live weight – 365 days per year. The annual production budget is set at producing 400,000kg of live weight gain.

**Click this link to view footage of Seymour and the re-grassing program**

<https://vimeo.com/155630767>



*Seymour developed the backbone of its production system by sowing the best temperate pasture genetics available.*



### **Modern Ryegrasses**

- Better feed intakes
- Better peak meat production
- Slower drop off peak
- Improved mating

#### **PG 150**

*A late heading diploid perennial ryegrass.*

*Reduced aftermath heading. This means that it is easier to keep on top of ryegrass quality – ensuring higher MJME and crude protein levels. This assists the animals ease to consume dry matter on offer.*

*Source: PGG Wrightson seeds.*





## **Understanding MaxP Tall Fescue Endophyte**

### **What is MaxP?**

MaxP is a novel tall fescue endophyte that improves the ability of tall fescue pastures to handle pest attack and moisture stress. Tall fescue with MaxP endophyte offers improved persistence compared with tall fescue without endophyte. MaxP endophyte produces a loline compound and along with peramine can assist the plant by offering increased pest resistance and thus improve overall plant production.

The persistence of tall fescue with maxP endophyte verse tall fescue without endophyte has been replicated over many trial sites over many years. The plant density is higher with the endophyte than the same fescue without endophyte.

MaxP has been tested since 1997.

*Source: PGG Wrightson seeds.*

## Fencing and Water Program

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Seen as an integral part in capturing kilograms of live weight gain from animals in a natural and healthy way, Seymour has developed an extensive water and fencing asset. The water given to animals grazing the lush green grass is supplied through troughs. The main water source is a developed spring fed dam.

This spring is pumped to a header tank, via solar energy, and then reticulated around the property. Science would suggest that by supplying our natural pasture fed cattle with clean trough water, our production system is enhanced by at least 10%.

In order to sustain our pasture base Seymour has been subdivided into 30 paddocks. This paddock subdivision enables all stock to be rotated onto fresh feed on a weekly basis.

The Paddock subdivision fences use solar generated electricity. This assists with future subdivision plans accessed efficiently and at minimal cost.

The design of the fencing program ensures that Seymour can be run and maintained efficiently at low cost.



*Seymour has developed an extensive water and fencing asset.*



# Major Infrastructure

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## Cattle Yards

State-of-the-art design for efficient, low stress handling of large numbers of cattle. The main set of cattle yards are constructed from steel and are supported by a further two sets of timber cattle yards.

## Road and Laneway

The main artery of the farm enables B-Double truck access from front to back and also allows for the efficient movement of personnel and livestock over the farm.

## Shed

## Houses





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Existing paddock plan – 1,185 Ha

