

# Profit Farm Pasture

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# Individual animal performance

- **Genetics**
- **Health status**
- **Nutrition**
  - **Pasture quantity**
  - **Pasture quality**

determines  
growth potential



govern expression  
of growth potential

# Profit

Profit is an outcome of:

- Production
- Value of product sold
- Cost of production

# The cost of production

- Labour
- Feed
- Fertiliser
- Animal health?

# Profit and feed

Profit is closely linked to maximizing the production from the minimum amount of feed

# Pasture as the primary feed source

- Profit is an outcome of income per hectare
- Production per hectare is the outcome of:
  - production per head
  - number of head per hectare
- Both of these are driven by:
  - amount of pasture grown
  - the amount of pasture utilised

# The efficient (profitable) use of pasture

- Grow as much pasture as possible
- Know how much is needed
- Know how much pasture you have
- Keep pasture quality as high as possible
- Allocate the pasture to closely match demand and supply
- Monitor to modify all of the above if necessary
- Farm “efficient” weighted breeding stock

# Growing lots of pasture

- Fertile soil
- Rotational grazing
- Productive pasture species
- Nitrogen



# How much is needed?

- Feed demand for all stages of production is well known
- The QMS ewe time line tells all
- Calculate the feed demand/ha

# How much feed is there?

- Measure – pasture stick, rising plate, electronic gadgets
- Monitor growth rate
- Retrospectively calculate demand
- Make educated guesses

# What is high quality pasture?

- Has high content of green leaf
- Has low stem and dead content
- Preferably has high clover content
- The herbage is “young”
- Has grown in cooler temperature conditions
- Animals have the opportunity to select a high quality diet

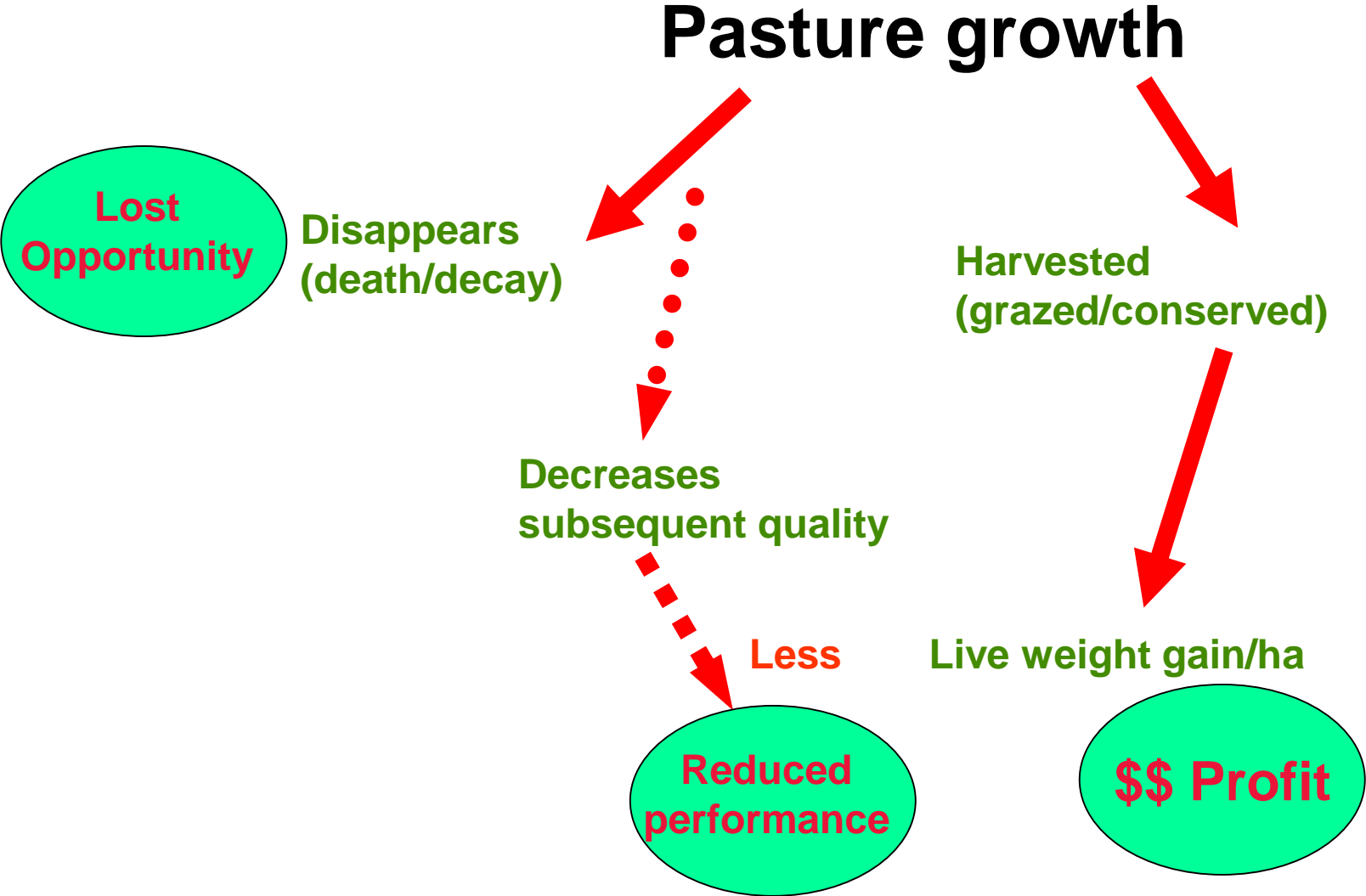
# Maintaining a high quality pasture

- Anticipate the supply/demand
- Use body condition as a flexible tool
- Grazing management – rotational verses set stocking
- Plan
- Utilise “tools”
  - mowing
  - cattle
  - sacrifice grazing areas (deferred grazing)

# Controlling the allocation of pasture

- Know how much is needed
- Know how much is there
- Ration the supply based on planned need/feed availability
- Use residual pasture cover as indicator of allocation
- Fencing is the most powerful tool
- Profit is closely linked to the percentage of pasture grown that is consumed

# Pasture utilisation



# Monitor

- Monitor, monitor, monitor, monitor
- Feed on hand
- Quality
- Liveweights

# Supplements

- Are an expense
- Fill in the expected gaps
- Fill in the unexpected gaps
- Target type and time of supplement to specific stock need
- Always aim to maximize the use of pasture
- Always aim to utilise as much pasture as possible



# Remember

- Suckling lamb and calf weight gain is driven by the quality of pasture that they are grazing:
  - time of lambing/calving
  - level of pasture control
  - weaning date
- Ewe and cow mating dates set a very predictable feed demand – so planning to have feed at certain times should be easy!!