

Land Services Program

Geoff Peters - mentor

Location

“Ballatherie”, “The Lea”, and “Yandemdah” are located 20km west of Hillston, NSW. The average annual rainfall is 370 mm.

The total area of all three properties is 36,000 ha, consisting of Lachlan River flood plain country with grey self-mulching soils, interspersed by creek lines with some lighter country and some bush country.

Enterprises

Ballatherie Poll Merino Stud, wool production, beef cattle production and dryland and irrigated cropping (flood and centre pivot). The main aim is to drought proof the properties.

Background

Geoff has 50 years of experience working on property. Geoff completed his school certificate before completing trade welding and wool classing at TAFE.

The Peters family have been involved within the merino industry since the early 1950s. Geoff currently runs the properties with his two sons.

Geoff has extensive experience in the stud sheep industry, being the Willandra Stud representative for the area, before establishing Ballatherie Poll Merino Stud in 1998.

Area of expertise

Geoff is highly experienced in mixing nutritionally balanced rations for livestock. This particularly came to the fore during the millennium drought when he built a drought lot on his property “Ballatherie”.

This drought lot was used extensively by Geoff to allow production to continue during dry times.



Geoff is also experienced in determining paddock level drought feeding regimes. This ensures that productivity on his properties is maintained, whilst ensuring that the pasture base is looked after.

Having the ability to grow their own supplementary feed has meant that Geoff needs to plan ahead to ensure that feed reserves are maintained.

Management motto

To operate a self-sufficient, sustainable and successful family enterprise.