

Land Services Program

George Millear - mentor

Location

"Tiltagoona Station" is 27,000 hectares and located 120 kilometres north-west of Cobar. The property consists primarily of east-west running sand dunes with heavier red soils in between. There are also many areas of heavier Bimble Box country. Other timbers include Mulga, Pine, Rosewood, Belah, Ironwood, Wilga and Beefwood. Hopbush, Turpentine and Punty bush are also common. The Tambua Creek (sometimes) runs through the property and is wooded with Baradine Redgum.

The common grasses are Woollybutt, Neverfail, various Stipas and Kangaroo grass. Winter herbage mainly consists of various Medics, Copperburrs and Crowsfoot.

Enterprises

White Dorper breeding has been the primary enterprise for many years. Breeding cows have been run in years when forage has been abundant. In the future there will be less focus on breeding in favour of agistment and trading as the seasons allow. Goats are also harvested.

Background

George was raised on a wool growing property in western Victoria. He completed a degree in Agricultural Economics at UNE Armidale in 1993. He then worked as Regional Ag Economist in Longreach Qld 1994-98. George purchased Tiltagoona in 2003 and has been re-building and developing it since then.

George highly values training and has undertaken the following courses:

- Holistic Management 2004-5
- Low Stress Stock handling with Grahame Rees and Rod Knight 2009
- KLR Marketing (2012) and Mastermind member (on-going learning)



- Beef Cattle Nutrition through FutureBeef (Qld) 2014.

The effects of these courses on George's management and decision making have been profound.

Area of expertise

The past 15 years on Tiltagoona has been a great learning experience. The erratic Western Division climate has been very 'true to form' in that time, delivering rainfall from a high of 32 inches in 2010 to a lowly 3 inches in 2018. This has emphasised to George how management needs to be very flexible and the need to capitalise on opportunities when they arise and not be afraid to sell down stock heavily when seasons turn. The challenge is to match feed demand with feed supply and leave a healthy residual of plants and groundcover whilst making a satisfactory financial return.

George's skills in fencing (mainly electric), water development and trap yard construction have grown over the last 15 years.

Management motto

Invest in quality training, adopt it and keep on learning.
Mother Nature has the final say.