

Mixed Species Annual Forage Crops Budget Series

Winter 2025

Table 1. Key assumptions and variable ranges (in brackets) used for the mixed species annual forage crops budget series.

Location and farming system	Forage composition and sowing rate (kg/ha)	Fertiliser (kg/ha)	Seed and fertiliser costs (\$/ha)	Stocking rate (head/ha)	Length of grazing period (days)	Weight gain per day (/head/day)
North, Lambs, Mix – graze only	Annual Ryegrass 8 kg, Oats 40 kg, Brassica 2 kg, Arrowleaf 3 kg	Croplift 80 kg at sowing	Seed \$114.70 Fertiliser \$94.40	22 lambs (12 to 30)	125 (80 to 150)	250 g (150 to 350)
North, Lambs, Oats – graze only	Oats 80 kg	Croplift 80 kg at sowing	Seed \$72.00 Fertiliser \$94.40	22 lambs (12 to 30)	95 (65 to 140)	250 g (150 to 350)
North, Cattle, Mix – graze only	Annual Ryegrass 8 kg, Oats 40 kg, Brassica 2 kg, Arrowleaf 3 kg	Croplift 80 kg at sowing	Seed \$114.70 Fertiliser \$94.40	4.0 steers (3.1 to 4.9)	120 (85 to 150)	1.3 kg (1.0 to 1.6)
South, Lambs, Mix – graze only	Vetch 40 kg, Oats 20 kg, Radish 1kg, Turnip 0.3kg, Arrowleaf 1 kg	MAP 50 kg at sowing	Seed \$109.80 Fertiliser \$73.95	22 lambs (12 to 30)	115 (85 to 135)	250 g (150 to 350)
South, Lambs, Wheat – graze and grain 2.0 t/ha ASW for decile 5	Wheat 70 kg	MAP 50 kg at sowing, Urea 110 kg topdress	Seed \$84.00 Fertiliser \$154.95	20 lambs (12 to 28)	60 (30 to 90)	250 g (150 to 350)
South, Lambs, Mix – graze and grain 0.8t/ha ASW for decile 5	Wheat 40 kg, Vetch 40 kg, Radish 2 kg, Turnip 0.3 kg	MAP 50 kg at sowing, Urea 70 kg topdress	Seed \$143.40 Fertiliser \$126.95	20 lambs (12 to 28)	90 (60 to 120)	250 g (150 to 350)
South, Cattle, Mix – graze and grain 0.8t/ha ASW for decile 5	Wheat 40 kg, Vetch 40 kg, Radish 2 kg, Turnip 0.3 kg	MAP 50 kg at sowing, Urea 70 kg topdress	Seed \$143.40 Fertiliser \$126.95	3.8 steers (3.0 to 4.5)	85 (55 to 120)	1.3 kg (1.0 to 1.6)

ASW = Australian Standard White wheat, MAP = Monoammonium Phosphate

Table 2. Costs, incomes, and gross margins from the mixed species annual forage crops budget series.

Location and farming system	Forage variable cost (\$/ha)	Livestock variable cost (\$/ha)	Livestock income (\$/ha)	Grain income (\$/ha)	Gross margin (\$/ha)
North, lambs, mix – graze only	-\$269	-\$2,239	\$4,684	na	\$2,176
North, lambs, oats – graze only	-\$221	-\$2,187	\$4,002	na	\$1,594
North, cattle, mix – graze only	-\$264	-\$4,814	\$6,579	na	\$1,501
South, lambs, mix – graze only	-\$238	-\$2,222	\$4,454	na	\$1,994
South, lambs, wheat – graze and grain	-\$420	-\$1,941	\$3,049	\$600	\$1,288
South, lambs, mix – graze and grain	-\$447	-\$1,982	\$3,569	\$240	\$1,380
South, cattle, mix – graze and grain	-\$444	-\$4,574	\$5,655	\$240	\$877

Figure 1. Costs, incomes, and gross margins from the mixed species annual forage crops budget series.

