



WHERE THE GRASS STAYS GREENER

“
Pasture in paddocks treated with OGM® grows faster and stays greener for longer.
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William Gilmore's father had a saying, if you've never made a bad decision, you won't have made good ones either, and the philosophy behind those words clearly resonates throughout the family. The Gilmores are not afraid to try new things, and that approach has helped them establish a series of highly successful farming operations near Oberon on the NSW Central Tablelands.

William carefully monitors his costs and returns. While he might keep an open mind about tweaking operations, he doesn't innovate for the sake of being different, and he's not one to waste money or resources. The bottom line is that any new system must improve performance.

One of the good decisions of recent years has been the inclusion of Organic Growth Medium (OGM®) as part of a wider pasture improvement regime. OGM® is a composted and pasteurised product that provides a

rich source of organic matter, nutrients and biological activity. The nutrients are derived from garden waste, food waste, and other organic elements recovered from household waste. OGM® is produced by Global Renewables at the UR-3R resource recovery facility. Located at Eastern Creek in Sydney since 2004, the facility processes 220,000 tonnes of household waste per annum to recover valuable materials and make various products. Around 30% of the feedstock (70,000t/yr) is converted to high-end OGM®, which meets strict quality standards to the satisfaction of the NSW EPA and DPI.

William's OGM® is supplied by Mark Nunan from Nunan Fertilizers, which has been ground-spreading fertilizers in the Oberon region for over 25 years. While Mark knows his way around all the detailed product analysis statistics, he and his clients are more interested in the practical outcomes than the theory.



OGM® can be blended with lime before application

At the end of the day, customers like the Gilmores keep coming back because the pasture in paddocks treated with OGM® grows faster and stays greener for longer.

Pasture growth benefits of OGM® nutrients may be noticeable in a good season, but it is during poor seasons that the OGM® paddocks really stand out. William considers that moisture retention and crop resilience, when conditions get tough, are the major benefits of OGM®. During a dry spell, the OGM® paddocks stay greener for longer, compared to paddocks with traditional fertilizers only.

The Gilmore family applied more than 30,000 tonnes of OGM® in the first four years of introducing the product, and based on the outcomes achieved William is planning to apply OGM® across the

majority of his farmland. While he considers the results well worth the effort, he isn't shy about highlighting some of the challenges he has faced as a major OGM® user.

Seasonal variations, the perennial farming challenge, are also an issue with OGM® - not in terms of the product itself, but rather in the logistics of supply and distribution. Global Renewables' OGM® production rates are quite constant throughout the year. While William can apply OGM® as a top dressing for established pastures throughout the year, his demand peaks around December/January as he prepares paddocks for feed crops. OGM® can be stockpiled on site, although there are limited all-weather access points at the property; when it's not possible to stockpile OGM® in the same paddock it will be applied, the application costs increase.

NSW EPA restrictions around maximum application rates are also a source of some frustration. While there's still plenty of

“*OGM® can provide a very cost effective solution to increasing farm productivity.*”

virgin ground to improve, eventually William will have covered the entire farm. By then, he hopes the NSW EPA will have enough data to consider allowing more than the current 10 tonne per hectare maximum application rate.

One of the concerns around OGM® is that the product can contain small amounts of physical contamination (less than 1.5% by weight). William says the first OGM® he saw had a “fair bit” of plastic in it, although upgrades at the Eastern Creek facility have seen significant ongoing improvements to product quality. William says, “the product now doesn't even resemble the first OGM® we saw”.

William is drawn to the sustainability benefits of helping 'close the loop' by returning nutrients from food waste in the city in order to improve the productivity of agricultural soils. For all customers, the real attraction of OGM® is that it can provide a very cost effective solution to increasing farm productivity.

The Gilmore family saw enough potential to give OGM® a chance, and now they've seen enough results to know it really does improve performance. Yet again, they've demonstrated the way to make better decisions is to be open to having a go at something different.

INTRODUCING AUSTRALIAN WHITES



The Australian White is a new sheep breed combining selected characteristics of White Dorper, Van Rooy, Poll Dorset and Texel blood lines. The result is a large framed, hardy and fast-growing sheep that sheds its own hair.

The Gilmore family, through Tattykeel Sheep Studs, played a key role in developing the Australian Whites,

which now seem poised to take the world by storm.

The breed was developed to suit Australian conditions, but the Gilmores quickly realised the potential benefits in other markets. For example, there are over 120 million sheep in China; the Gilmores are working hard to ensure a good portion of that flock will be Australian Whites.



GLOBAL RENEWABLES™

For more information and distributor details contact Global Renewables on (02) 9677 3120 www.globalrenewables.com.au/ogm