



OATS PERFORMANCE

WITH OGM[®]

“So you want to sell me some OGM[®], but what can I expect to see in return?”

Farmers who have used OGM[®] as a soil conditioner for their paddocks, have repeatedly made claims of improved soils and paddock resilience, especially when the weather is unfavourable. There was a need for an agronomist, or farmer, to measure the effect of OGM[®] on the performance of a paddock in order to better communicate these benefits on farm. So in February 2017, Global Renewables and Fertsread came across an interesting young man.

This young man was a humble agronomist, turned farmer, who was keen to use his skills and his paddocks as a demonstration site. The independent agronomist spent 6 years working in various agronomy and farm advice roles after graduating from Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga NSW. In 2016, he eventually decided to take on a more lead role on the family farm, which is located in an area known as “The Mullion” between the ACT and Yass in NSW.

The approach taken was to do a year on year trial, rather than a replicated trial,

on a cropping paddock sown with oats at varying application rates of OGM[®]. The oats crop was used as feed for his sheep to graze on through the winter and spring.

“Dad was so excited by the results that he can’t stop telling people about OGM[®]”

“Dad said you can’t grow oats on this land”, but the trial with OGM[®] was about to change all that. Oats were sown in three paddocks, two of which were treated with 6 tonnes/ha and 13 tonnes/ha of OGM[®] and the third had no OGM[®] applied.

As described by the agronomist, “the soil profile consists of an A profile of a loamy granite, which goes to a depth of 10-12cm. The B profile moves into a clay loam Granite and moves into the C profile, consisting of a medium clay course granite which is hard in

summer and can get very wet and boggy in a wet winter. Very typical pipe clay country.”

The trial was measured by taking pasture cuts within fenced cages and conducting plant tissue tests to understand the quality of the crop being grazed. Sheep were introduced at various intervals.

WHAT IS OGM[®]?

OGM[®] is a high nutrient compost product, made from the recovery of organics from household waste in Sydney. OGM[®] is processed in the world class facility, owned by Global Renewables, to the satisfaction of the NSW DPI biosecurity requirements and NSW EPA resource recovery criteria. By 2018, over 50,000 ha of agricultural land, and 2000 ha of mine rehab land, has been improved using OGM[®]. Since 2004 the facility has contributed to a reduction in 2.5 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions.

THE RESULTS



Control



6t/ha of OGM®



13t/ha of OGM®

The results were very exciting! The carrying capacity of these paddocks increased by 4 DSE and 8 DSE for 6 tonnes/ha and 13 tonnes/ha of OGM® respectively. That means for every 1.5 tonnes/ha of OGM® applied, the paddocks were able to provide enough feed for 1 DSE for the 5 month period. A summary of the results can be found in Table 1.

“Dad was so excited by the results that he can’t stop telling people about OGM®” said the agronomist. These cropping paddocks have since been sown with wheat for the 2018 winter crop and are being measured to see if the benefits of OGM® continue in a second year. The agronomist commented that “the results with wheat are awesome” despite the continued dry conditions.

TABLE 1: SUMMARY TRIAL RESULTS

Trial	OGM Applied	kgDM/ha/day	MJME/kg	DSE/ha*
Control	Zero OGM®	22.2	12.6	16.3
Half application	6 t/ha OGM®	27.5	13.2	20.2
Maximum Application	13 t/ha OGM®	33.3	13.2	24.5

* This is based on a 5 month grazing period, forecasting to have grazed to zero kgDM/ha.



As a side project, the agronomist has set up a plot with 72 different pasture species that he was provided by two local seed suppliers. The plots are designed to educate local farmers about how available seed varieties perform in the local region. The plots were all treated with fertiliser and OGM®.



For more information on the trial, or to get in contact with a distributor, please contact Global Renewables on: (02) 9677 3120 www.globalrenewables.com.au/ogm