

Take your
livestock to
new heights
with Ecotain®



Introducing the next generation in plantain breeding.

Why Ecotain®?

- Increase your milk and meat production
- An ideal source of minerals important for animal health and performance
- **Ecotain®** has strong cool season growth
- Valuable year-round production
- Higher leaf density than **Tonic**
- Reduced N losses from farm systems, through N leaching reduction from the urine patch
- **Ecotain®** is a suitable addition to grass pasture mixes and high legume density pastures

Animal Performance - Dairy



Ecotain® in grass mixes for dairy production

Adding **Ecotain®** to dairy pastures can significantly increase milk production. Figure 1 demonstrates a 2L/cow/day increase in milk production when cows grazing low quality ryegrass were supplemented **Ecotain®**.

MILK PRODUCTION (L/COW/DAY) OF COWS GRAZING IRRIGATED RYEGRASS BASED PASTURE VS. ECOTAIN® VS. GRASS + ECOTAIN®

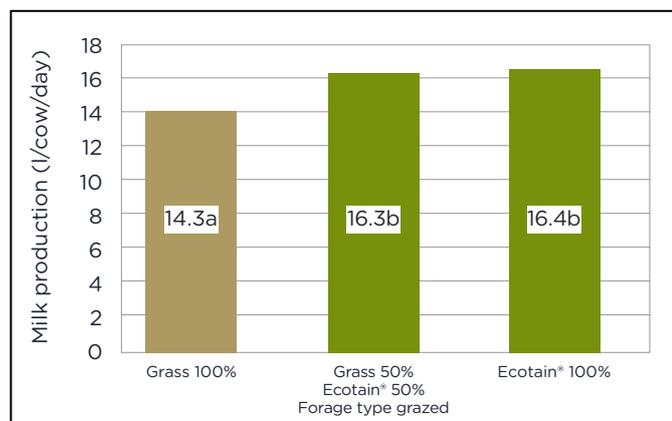


Figure 1 showing mean milk yield of cows grazing irrigated ryegrass or Ecotain® mixed pastures in summer (LSD 0.76, P value <0.001) Adapted from Box et al. 2016. This table has been developed in New Zealand from New Zealand information.

Ecotain® improves palatability in late spring and summer when grass goes reproductive, improving pasture utilisation.

The rapid rumen degradation time of **Ecotain®** allows cows to spend less time ruminating and more time eating, increasing feed intake and milk production.

Having **Ecotain®** in your dairy system can also help reduce nitrogen leaching by up to 89% (Woods, 2017 used with permission). Benefiting your farm and the environment.

Animal Performance - Sheep & Beef



Ecotain® forage systems can increase sheep liveweight production. The winter activity of **Ecotain®** allows farmers to lamb ewes or maiden hoggets on high quality forage, resulting in heavier lambs and ewes at weaning. Four separate trials have shown **Ecotain®** increased lamb weaning weights by 10 to 34%.

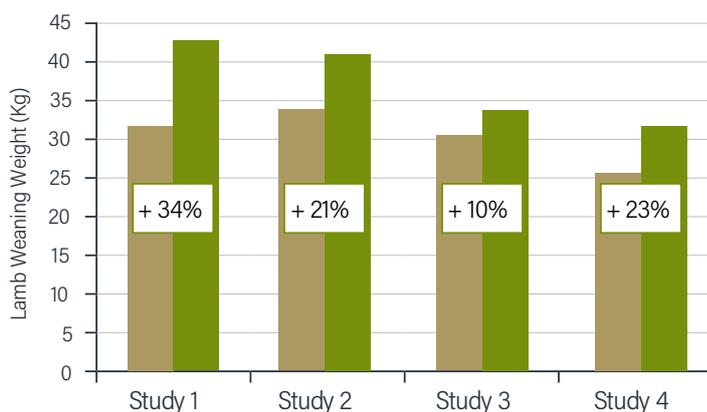
Livestock tend to be healthier on **Ecotain®**, due to elevated levels of important minerals (Zn, Cu, Se, MG, Ca, K).

Ecotain® stands have also shown anecdotal evidence of less dags on sheep and a reduced risk of facial eczema spore.

WEANING WEIGHT DIFFERENCES OF LAMBS BORN, GRAZED AND WEANED FROM PERENNIAL RYEGRASS OR ECOTAIN® STANDS FROM FOUR STUDIES

■ Perennial ryegrass ■ Ecotain®

- Study 1:** Adapted from Judson. (2008). (109 day lactation)
- Study 2:** Adapted from Judson et al. (2009). (95 day lactation)
- Study 3:** Adapted from Judson et al. (2009). (87 day lactation)
- Study 4:** Adapted from Judson (2010). Unpublished hogget lambing (hogget 90 day lactation)



Ecotain® - The Plant



Mature Ecotain® plant with coarse fibrous roots.

Ecotain® environmental plantain is a flexible perennial herb, which is widely adapted to many climates and soil types. It persists through hot summers and wet winters if it is not overgrazed in these conditions.

Ecotain® has erect growth and broad leaves enabling maximum intake per bite.

Ecotain® has a coarse fibrous root system which is very efficient at extracting nutrients, meaning **Ecotain®** can perform in a wide range of soil fertility.

Ecotain® is best suited in environments of 600mm+ rainfall and maximum production occurs in fertile soils.

SOWING RATES AND GRAZING TIMES FOR ECOTAIN®

Suggested sowing time	Suggested sowing rate	Growth habit	Time to first grazing	Grazing management	Persistence
Soil temperatures 10°C and rising	10-14kg/ha pure stand 6-8kg/ha in clover mix	Erect, leafy	When the plant has seven true leaves	Rotational graze	Perennial 2-4+ years depending on grazing conditions

Increasing Pasture Diversity

Ecotain® adds diversity to pasture mixes, increasing the palatability and quality of swards. Increased palatability leads to higher intake and better utilisation. The following table shows recommended rates of **Ecotain®** with various grasses such as **Savvy** cocksfoot, **Hummer** Tall Fescue, **One50** perennial ryegrass and **Knight** Italian ryegrass.

Ecotain® 5kg/ha	Ecotain® 5kg/ha	Ecotain® 5kg/ha	Ecotain® 5kg/ha	Ecotain® 4kg/ha	Ecotain® 8kg/ha
Knight Italian ryegrass 15kg/ha	Savvy cocksfoot 8kg/ha	Hummer tall fescue 15kg/ha	One50 AR37 perennial ryegrass 15kg/ha	Titan 5 Lucerne 8kg/ha	Forage rape 2kg/ha



Ecotain® and Knight Italian ryegrass.

Ecotain® and Hunter forage brassica.

Ecotain®, Relish red clover and Tribute white clover.

Highly Winter Active

The winter activity of **Ecotain®** is exceptional. Our Ballarat research farm showed that **Ecotain®** can produce up to 3000kgDM/ha more than other plantain varieties from May - September. This feed is some of the most valuable produced during the year and is crucial for the success of **Ecotain®** based farm systems.



Ecotain® winter activity (left) vs. winter dormant plantain types (right), photo taken mid winter 2018.

Post Dry Recovery

Ecotain® has the ability to recover quickly from long dry periods once it receives moisture, getting to a grazable mass very quickly. This autumn recovery can provide quick feed while grass paddocks regrow.

The ability of **Ecotain®** to survive dry periods makes it a great 2-3 year option in 600mm+ rainfall environments where a high quality forage is required from autumn to late spring/summer.



Ecotain® immediate response 2 days after autumn break, NSW.



Ecotain® 6 weeks after autumn break NSW.

Grazing Management

Ecotain® suits grazing management similar to perennial ryegrass. To maximise production and quality, rotationally graze on a 20-25 day rotation in spring. Rotations of this length will minimise seed head build up. Sheep rotations of 35 days or more can reduce palatability.

Pre grazing residuals should be 12-15cm and should be grazed down to 3-5cm before stock are removed. Cattle rotations can be longer as the fibre content is beneficial and they are less selective.

Ecotain® can be set stocked at lambing time, but ewes and lambs should be put onto a rotational grazing system after marking.



Young cattle grazing pure sward plantain, Central NSW



Distributors

Agricom cultivars are available from all quality seed suppliers. For further information and advice contact one of our distributors:

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