

Alpine Valleys

agribusiness forum

'Australian Alpine Valleys - Where the Best Grows to Perfection'

Project Report

**Profitable and Productive Grazing Systems
(Evergraze) 2007-08**

**Total Project Cost
\$115,700**

Australian Alpine Valleys Agribusiness Forum received funding in 2007 to participate in a Profitable and Productive Grazing Systems Project for North East Victoria to be run in conjunction with the Evergraze project being conducted across southern Australia.

EverGraze is an innovative national project that is seeking to significantly improve profits and NRM outcomes on farms across the high rainfall zone (>550mm) of southern Australia by increasing the proportion of perennial species in pasture systems. The project has activities at 3 levels to achieve its goals on over 3000 farms by 2010.

The aim of this project was to advance farm productivity and deliver regional catchment strategies through focusing on pasture improvement using native and improved pastures to grow the best plants in the right location with the right management, by setting up six supporting sites to deliver information and the confidence for the uptake of new innovations by farmers which can then be replicated on surrounding properties by land managers using information and practical experiences gained through the project.

Eight landcare groups in the region were interested in participating, and eight sites were selected in areas of varying conditions, from Omeo to Wangaratta South.

A consultant agronomist was employed to oversee the development of each site, to monitor the pastures periodically and together with the landcare groups and DPI staff to organise field days for the dissemination of information to other landholders within the landcare groups.

Pastures were fenced, watered, soil tested and sown and rotationally grazed over the two year period of the funding.

Further funding was required, and received, to enable fuller assessment of the sites and management.