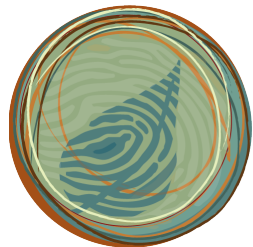


Innovative approaches to forage chains and feed gaps

Philip Barrett-Lennard, agVivo



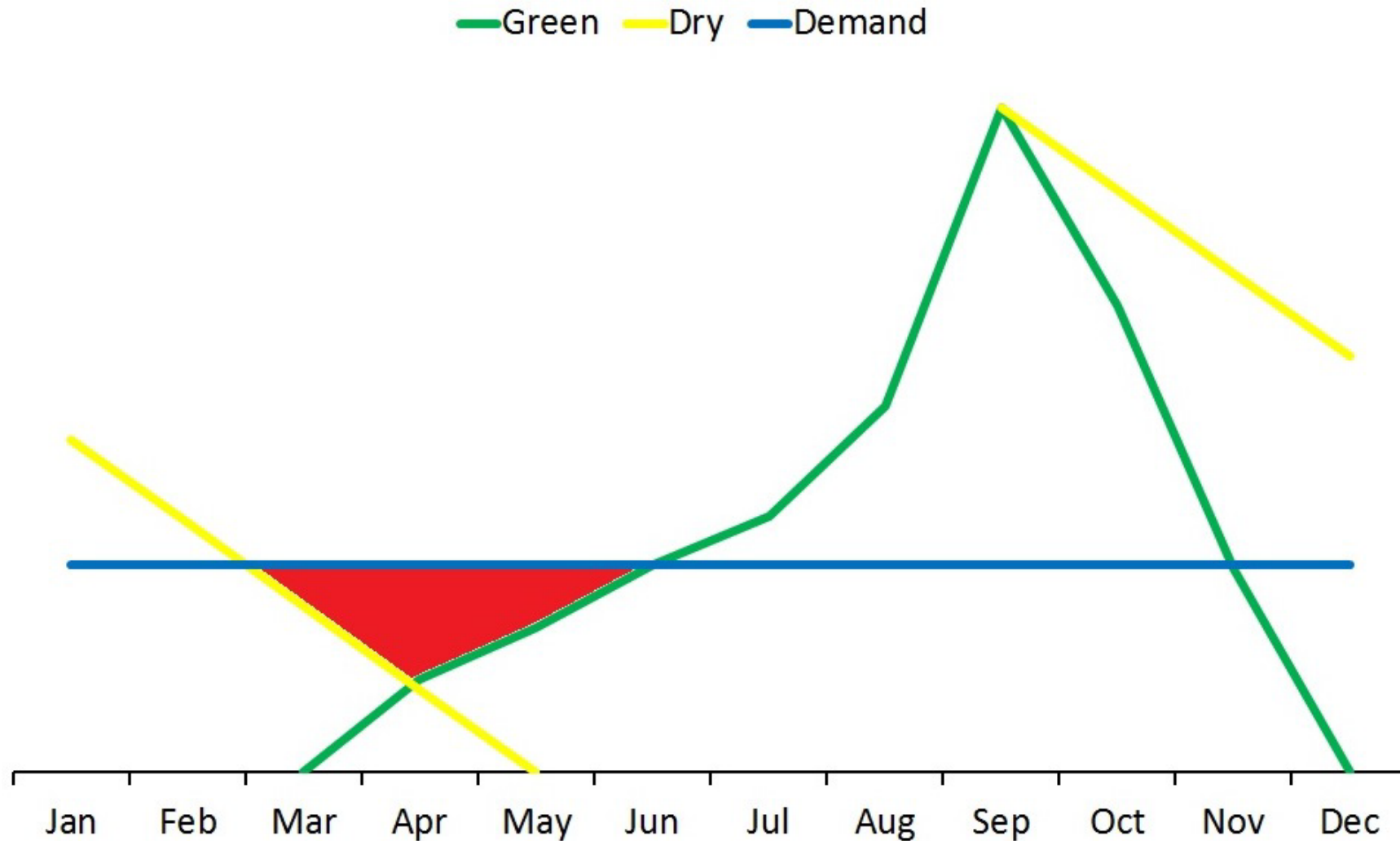
wheatbelt
natural resource
management



**National
Landcare
Program**



What is a feed gap?



Feed gaps

...are expensive to fill with supplements

...can have knock-on effects at other times of the year

...are stressful for animals, people and the land

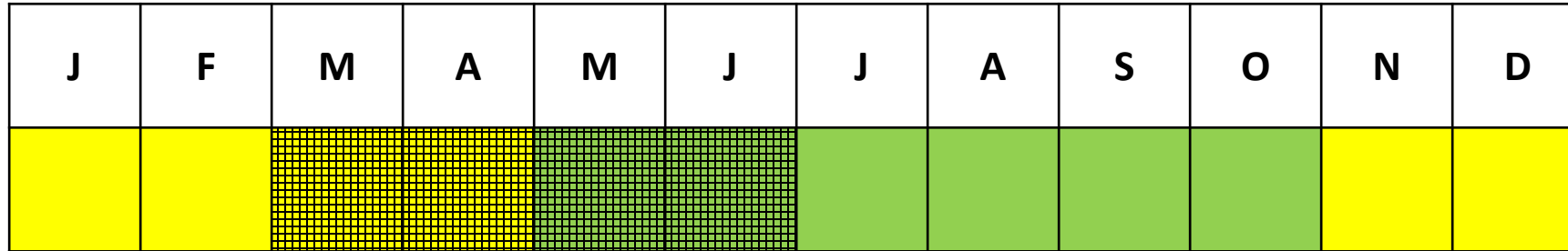
Forage Chain concept

We can use different types of plants and feeds to create a year round Forage Chain.

Different plants and feeds have different optimum windows for grazing.

The challenge is to link them together over the whole year, avoiding feed gaps.

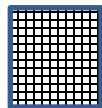
What is a forage chain?



Crop Stubble

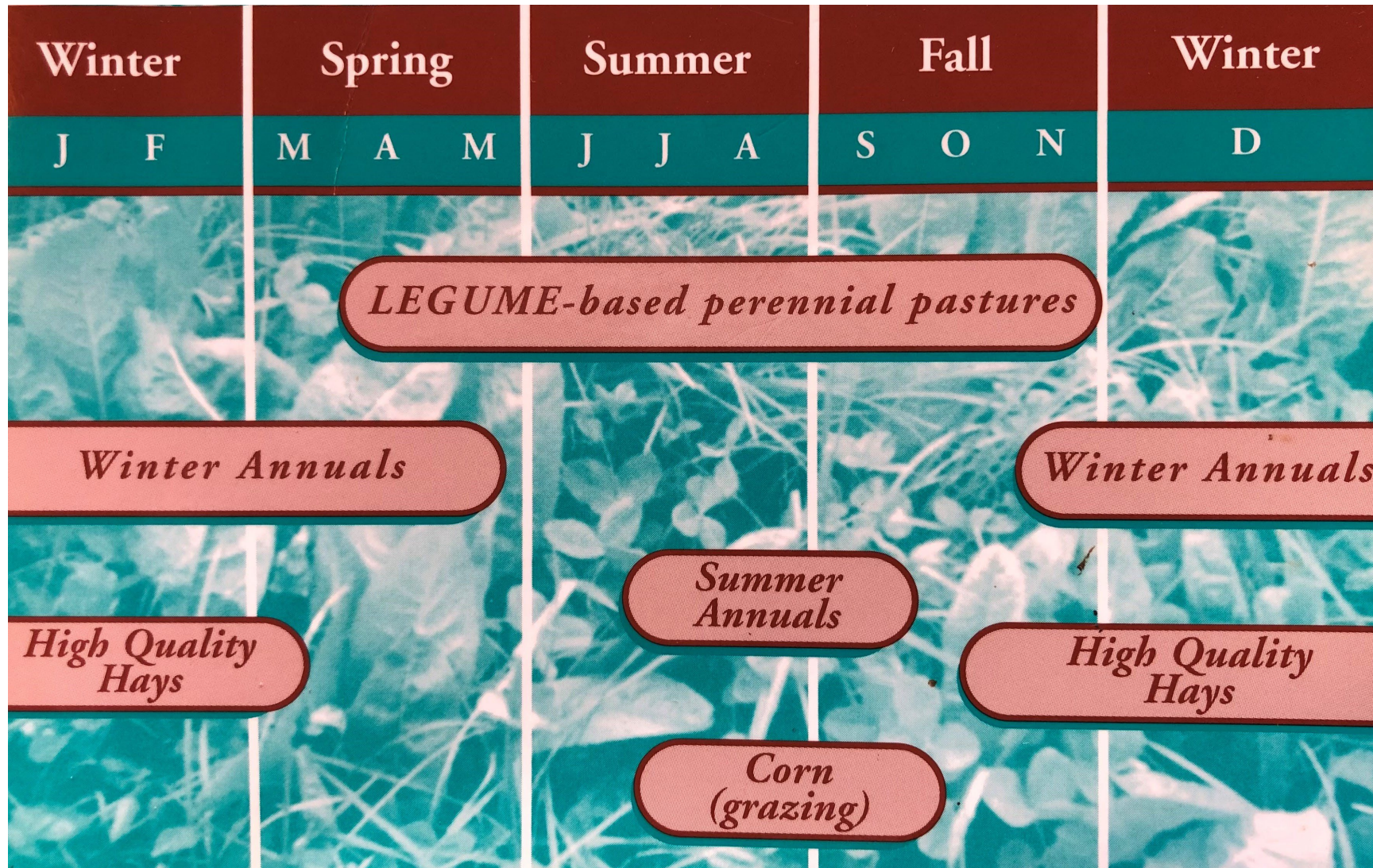


Annual Pasture



Grain

What is a forage chain?

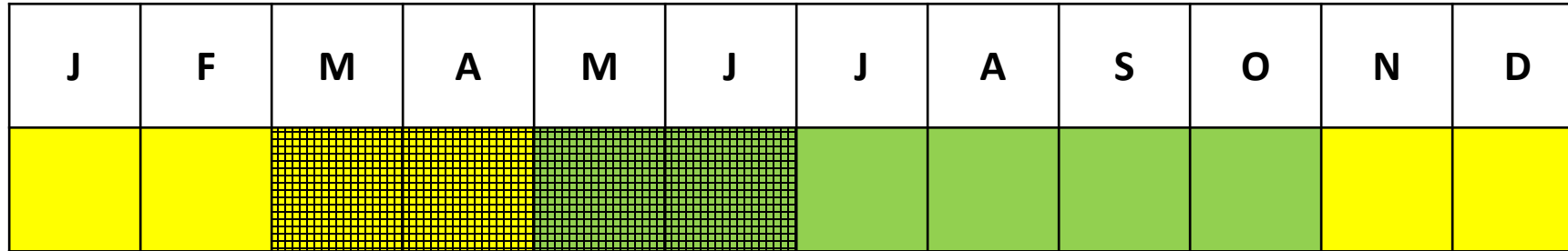


How does this relate to Soil Health?

↑ ground cover = ↓ erosion = ↑ soil health

↑ plants (diversity, productivity, perenniality) = ↑ soil health

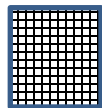
Basic mixed farming forage chain



Crop Stubble



Annual Pasture



Grain



Add crop grazing

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D



Crop Stubble



Annual Pasture



Crop Grazing

Add crop grazing + early sowing

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D



Crop Stubble



Annual Pasture



Crop Grazing



Add CG + ES + fodder shrubs

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D



Crop Stubble



Fodder Shrubs



Annual Pasture



Crop Grazing



Add CG + ES + FS + fodder crop

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D



Crop Stubble



Fodder Shrubs



Annual Pasture



Fodder Crop



Crop Grazing

LATE

BREAK!



UNIVERSAL
FEEDERS

UNIVERSAL
FEEDERS
www.universalfeeders.com.au

Add CG + FS + FC + confinement

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D



Crop Stubble



Fodder Shrubs



Annual Pasture



Fodder Crop



Crop Grazing



Confinement Feeding

A more robust year round forage chain

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D



Crop Stubble



Fodder Shrubs



Annual Pasture



Fodder Crop



Crop Grazing



Confinement Feeding





The planning process

1. Current forage chain
2. Feed gaps
3. Poor performing soils
4. Forage opportunities
5. Future forage chain

Forage Chain - Future

[illegible]

Big opportunities

- Confinement / deferral
- Cereals for extra winter “feed”
- Better (3rd gear) pastures for TB ewes
- Quality late spring pastures for lambs
- Turning shit land into something useful
- Turning risky land (e.g. frost prone, sand) into reliable profit
- Better utilisation of chaff, straw, seconds, etc

The end goal – raising the baa

- Higher stocking rate
- Higher animal production
- Less supplementary feed
- Less labour
- Lower cost of production
- Less stress
- More ground cover
- Healthier soil

Questions

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