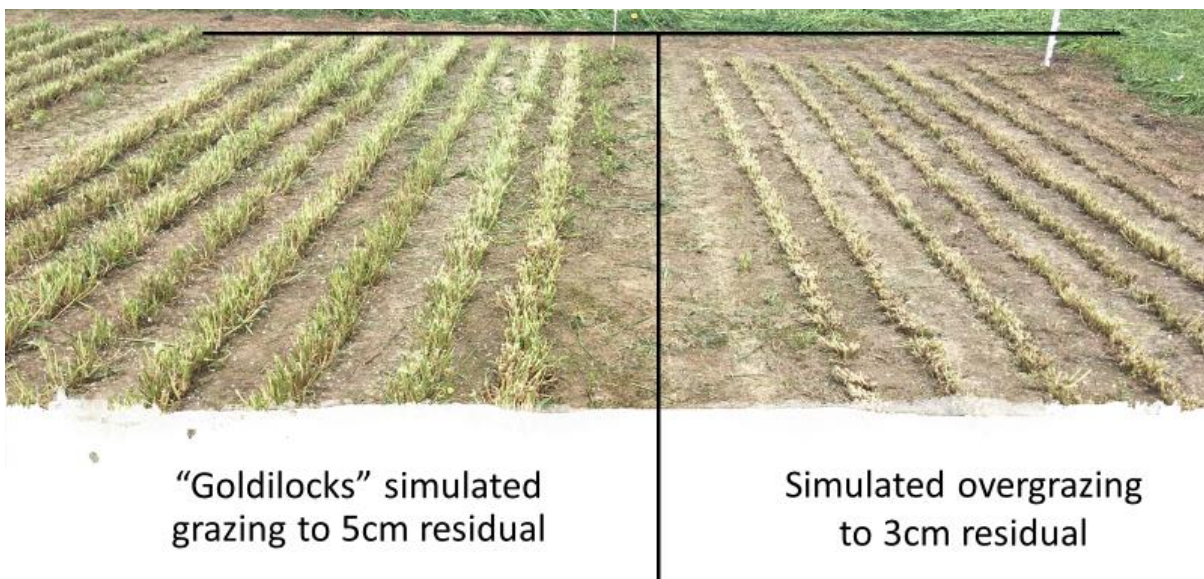


Goldilocks Grazing Trial 2019

The Goldilocks Grazing Trial is bigger and better in 2019 to support best-practice ryegrass grazing management in our dairy region. Overseen by Dairy Australia, the project 30:30 identified ideal grazing management to maximise pasture yield and utilisation under rotational grazing. Ideal grazing of annual ryegrass is between 2 to 3 leaf stage and results in a post-grazing residual of 4 to 6 cm. Leaving a post-grazing residual of 4 to 6 cm optimises pasture productivity, nutritive value and persistency without limiting the intake by milking cows.



Western Dairy has planted four full replicates for three different grazing simulating treatments at the WASP 2019 Dardanup site. The treatments are:

- *Grazing too early* – First graze too early, too hard
First graze at 3 leaf stage but far from canopy closure and leave a residual at 3 cm, but subsequent grazing back to optimum (*grazing just right* below)
- *Overgrazing* – Right time, too hard
Grazing at 2.5 to 3 leaves or full canopy closure and residual continues to be 3 cm
- *Grazing just right* – Right time, right residual
Grazing at 2.5 to 3 leaves or full canopy closure and a residual continues to be 4 to 6 cm

The 'grazing too early' treatment aims to simulate what can happen after a late break in the season, when pasture is immature but conserved feed is in short supply. Demonstration work last year showed a cumulative 1 t DM/ha difference between the 'grazing just right' and 'grazing too early' treatments. Western Dairy will continue to monitor the yield and growth rates over this season and publish the most up-to-date result.