Make the best use of your rainfall

J E. Watson
Department of Agriculture

Follow this and additional works at: https://researchlibrary.agric.wa.gov.au/journal_agriculture3

Part of the Fresh Water Studies Commons

Recommended Citation
Available at: https://researchlibrary.agric.wa.gov.au/journal_agriculture3/vol2/iss2/28

This article is brought to you for free and open access by Research Library. It has been accepted for inclusion in Journal of the Department of Agriculture, Western Australia, Series 3 by an authorized administrator of Research Library. For more information, please contact jennifer.heathcote@agric.wa.gov.au, sandra.papenfus@agric.wa.gov.au, paul.orange@dpird.wa.gov.au.
MAKE THE BEST USE OF YOUR RAINFALL

By J. E. WATSON, B.Sc., Adviser, Soil Conservation Service

Farmers are not always satisfied with the rain that falls on their farms—it is often too little, too much, too soon or too late. However, the farmer has a very great responsibility to make the best use of the rain he gets, and if he gets too much, to see that the excess can flow down to the rivers without causing damage.

WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR RAINFALL?

Do you let much of the early winter rains run off to the rivers, and so lose valuable water which should be used for early feed growth, and to bring the soil to the right moisture content for cultivation, thus ensuring an early start with the seeding programme?

Do you let millions of gallons run off your property during winter, and then be short of water in summer?

Do you let water running off your property carry with it plant nutrients and irreplaceable top soil which will silt up culverts, creeks, rivers and harbours?

Do you on the higher slopes complain of insufficient rainfall for growing certain plants (e.g., sub. clover), whilst your neighbours lower down are complaining of flooding problems and a rising salt water table?

Do you, even within your own property, have higher slopes which are too dry, while lower slopes and flats are too wet?

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO MAKE THE BEST USE OF YOUR RAINFALL?

(A) Manage your farm, making rational use of such practices as crop rotations, improved pastures, cultivation, controlled grazing, fertiliser applications, etc., so as to:

(i) Provide a vegetative cover on the soil for as much of the rotation as possible. This will cushion the impact of falling raindrops and protect the soil against the action of water running over the surface. Improved pastures give the best soil cover.

(ii) Build up the physical condition of the soil to achieve a maximum absorption of rainfall. Improving the soil structure will also increase the amount of water which can be stored in the soil and so kept available for plant growth.

(B) Make use of contour practices and grassed waterways where necessary to:

(i) Promote increased absorption.

(ii) Promote more even absorption over the whole farm.

(iii) Prevent water from concentrating on unprotected soil.

(iv) Make sure that all channels where water is likely to concentrate and flow are protected by continuous grass cover.

(v) Divert water for storage in dams (earth tanks).

(vi) Control excess run-off so that it leaves the farm slowly and without carrying a load of silt.

Good water conservation farming will increase production and promote soil conservation.
MODERN WOOL-PRESSERS

TO SAVE
TIME, LABOUR
and MONEY

The
WARREGO
WOOL PRESS
(Suitable for flocks up
to 20,000 sheep).
Handles scoured and
greasy wool simply,
quickly and efficiently.
Occupies space only
8ft. x 8ft., weights
under 12cwt. and can
be operated by one man
in a shed 10ft. high.
Single and double pur-
chase pulleys assist the
lift, and a pressure of
30 tons can be applied
by one man. Bale can
be sewn up before
door is opened. Makes
neat, square, compact
bales.
PRICE: £170 f.o.b. or
f.o.w., Fremantle.
DELIVERY ABOUT
SIX WEEKS.

The
BARCOO
WOOL PRESS
is also available and
is the right type for
large stations. Simple
to operate and im-
mensely strong for
heavy work, season
after season.
PRICE: £195, f.o.r. or
f.o.w., Fremantle.
DELIVERY ABOUT
SIX WEEKS.

The WARREGO
and BARCOO
WOOL PRESSES
are made from
well-seasoned tim-
ber and are effi-
ciently designed for
durability, speed
and simplicity.

Dalgety
AND COMPANY LIMITED

Please mention the "Journal of Agriculture, W.A.,” when writing to advertisers