



## Ewlyamartup Ready for the Future

Despite the seasonal hardships of 2006, Terry and Christine Blake of Ewlyamartup Farm in Katanning have been doing an amazing job implementing their property Environmental Management System (EMS).

Farming the property since 1984, Terry and Christine have adapted their wheat, barley, oats and merino wool production to include canola and prime lamb. They have also expanded over the last twenty two years from a ¼ share of 905ha to owning 100% of the property and purchasing an additional 64ha.

A volunteer with the local fire brigade and treasurer of the Katanning Community Childcare Centre, Terry is also an active committee member of the Katanning Land Conservation District Committee (LCDC) where he first heard about EMS in 2004.



*Photo left:  
Terry Blake in a trial patch of Melaleucas and other species on his Katanning property.*

The Blake's feel, as a result of implementing their EMS, that they will be able to increase production and show continuous improvement on their property. They are already using new technology and better farming practices and have developed a contour design for their property to minimise the impacts of cropping practices.

"I believe if I implement this BestFarms EMS it will be easier to get matching funding for on-ground actions to leave our farm in better condition for the next generation" said Terry.

And the Blake's are wasting no time in implementing their EMS. Since developing their Farm Action Plan in 2005, ten kilometres of grade banks have been constructed for surface water control, rehabilitation sites have been prepared below the banks and native trees and shrubs planted, perennial seed has been purchased for future pasture establishment and a 15,500 cubic meter dam has been constructed.



*Photo Above: Ewlyamartup farm entrance*

Terry applied and received funding for implementing parts of his EMS which includes monitoring of the project areas using photos and aerial maps, fencing and soil testing.

"We have survived the season to date and I believe there has been a gradual change in my mindset. By doing an EMS, we will monitor and record the environmental system and we will have a tracking of change." Terry noted.

The Blake's have found that their EMS has helped to access production and environmental assistance and that involvement in the local Katanning Land Conservation District has assisted in the adoption of newer ideas and technology.

**"By implementing our EMS, it will be easier to get funding for on-ground actions to leave our farm in better condition for the next generation."**

Terry believes that the biggest benefit, at worst, is that they will maintain production and more than likely will actually improve production.

In the next 12 months, the Blake's will continue their stubble retention and knife point cropping practices as well as establishing perennial grasses in low lying areas, fencing and rehabilitating beneath grade banks and continuing their monitoring of their EMS.



*Photo left:  
Terry checking the grade banks he uses for surface water management.*

Terry encouraged other landholders to adopt an EMS to start implementing on-ground actions now. "From what I see, most farmers have environmental concerns and most want an environmentally sustainable way of doing things. I wish I knew earlier what I know now, I've learnt such a lot".

Terry and Christine Blake are a fantastic example of how implementing changes on-ground can lead to great changes in all areas of the property.

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