



JOHN BORG

FARM MANAGER

COOLMORE AUSTRALIA

JERRYS PLAINS.NSW.2

Dear John

SOIL AND PASTURES ON COOLMORE STUD.

Ross Watson is independent professional pasture agronomist with over 30 years experience in the Hunter Valley. He operates his consultancy business , Ross Watson Agriculture P/L from his base in Scone, NSW.

He consults to Coolmore Stud as well as most of the leading thoroughbred studs and livestock operations in the Hunter Region. He is recognised as one of the leading pasture agronomists in Australia. He is widely recognised both here and overseas for his experience and knowledge on the establishment, management and nutritional qualities of equine pastures .

In reference to Coolmore Stud, I can confidently say that

- It is the **largest single thoroughbred breeding business and property in Australia.**
- The property occupies around 3000 ha of predominately Class 1, 2 and 3 Agricultural Land that being prime and good agricultural land.
- This property has one of the largest areas of prime agricultural land, of any single property, in the Hunter Region.
- It has around 800 -1000 ha of prime agricultural land which is dedicated to highly improved pastures, with the majority of this area serviced by travelling irrigators.
- It is has the largest area of pasture, serviced by travelling irrigation systems , in the southern hemisphere.
- It is also the largest area of irrigated pasture, on a single property, in the Hunter Region and amongst the largest irrigated pasture areas in NSW.
- *This is one of the largest areas of highly improved pasture on any single property in the Hunter Region.*

- The highly improved pasture areas are managed to support the major mare + foal enterprise from late winter through, spring, summer and autumn.
- Coolmore also has around 1000 ha of semi improved dryland pasture areas to support dry mares in autumn /winter after weaning and the grow out of yearling horses where more moderate growth rates are desired. The remainder of the property consists of semi improved undulating slopes and native grass hill country, which supports a major beef cattle operation. The property has a desirable balance of highly improved, semi improved and native pasture area, which are individually utilised at different times throughout the year to match the nutritional and feed requirements of different classes of horses and beef cattle run on the property.
- These prime agricultural land areas on Coolmore are certainly some of the best quality soils in Australia and certainly within the Hunter Region. Much of the major stud farm development is located on these prime agricultural land areas, which adjoins the Hunter River, which dissects this farm.
- These soils, due to their alluvial development, have uniquely high levels of major and minor soil nutrients, a highly favourable soil pH of 6.5-7 and an excellent balance of exchangeable cations. These soils possess high levels of Calcium+ Phosphorus as well as high levels of trace elements, which allow the production of pastures of a highest quality. The high nutrient and mineral content of the pastures on these soils contributes to healthy and well grown thoroughbred horses and other livestock.
- These clay loam soils have excellent structural characteristics, high water holding capacity and soil profile depth. These soils possess all the qualities of Class 1 Agricultural Land which would allow long term, sustainable agricultural production. These soils are rare and must be protected for future agricultural activities.
- Coolmore possesses a unique balance of high quality alluvial soils adjoining the Hunter River with medium fertility, undulating hill country surrounding and adjoining these river flats. The river flats are intensively developed to provide high carry capacity and high quality pastures to support their major thoroughbred breeding operation. These improved pastures are required to meet the elevated nutritional demands and grazing intensity of their major mare + foal operation throughout spring, summer and early autumn.
- The Coolmore pastures are regularly tested for their nutritional qualities. These improved pastures are amongst some of the highest quality pastures, in Australia, with high levels of key nutrients such as Calcium, Phosphorus, Protein, Digestibility, Metabolisable Energy and most trace elements. They provide an excellent nutrient base for the production of well grown and healthy horses.
- The standard of the pastures at Coolmore are amongst the highest of any livestock operation in NSW.

Ross Watson

Consulting Agronomist

Scone.

www.pastureimprovement.com.au