



# DAIRY PRODUCTION STARTS HERE



- Tetraploid perennial ryegrass ideal for dairy operations
- Very late heading date (22 days later than Nui)
- AR37 endophyte for improved persistence through better insect resistance
- Very high dry matter production
- Improved tiller density

Base is a tetraploid perennial ryegrass available with AR37 endophyte. Base was selected from high yielding, densely tillered plants that survived two years of severe drought and hard sheep grazing. This breeding history along with the AR37 endophyte gives Base pastures enhanced persistence. Animal production is maximised on Base pastures as a result of its exceptional dry matter production and low aftermath heading which improves summer pasture quality.

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## ENHANCED PERSISTENCE

Pasture persistence is improved mainly through the comprehensive insect protection provided by the AR37 endophyte. AR37 has good control of Argentine Stem Weevil larvae, Pasture Mealy Bug, Black Beetle, Root Aphid and Porina. Base also has a high tiller density relative to other tetraploids, which further helps Base pastures to persist. It has also been shown to be one of the best persisting ryegrasses at AgResearch's Ruakura site from 2008-2011.

## EXCEPTIONAL DRY MATTER PRODUCTION

No other tetraploid beats Base for dry matter yield, meaning more feed for your stock. A notable feature of Base's seasonal production is its high autumn and winter production. This is a key time of the year for most dairy farmers to help lift pasture cover heading into calving with extra benefits for those who are wintering dry cows on farm or who have winter milk contracts.

## ANIMAL INTAKE

Tetraploid perennial ryegrasses such as Base have greater palatability and digestibility than normal diploid type ryegrasses, which results in a pasture that is more readily harvested by stock. This is because tetraploid plant cells are bigger and have a higher ratio of cell contents (water soluble carbohydrates, crude protein) to cell wall (fibre, NDF). The greater animal acceptance and quality of Base, combined with its erect growth habit can improve animal intake and performance.

## PASTURE QUALITY

With a heading date 22 days later than Nui, Base can remain in a high quality vegetative state for longer ensuring the pasture remains green and leafy with less dead material and stem improving ease of consumption by stock. Low aftermath heading (i.e. reduced seed head appearance after the main flush of seed head) makes it easier to manage and to stay on top of quality once heading is finished.

The following trial information compares the dry matter production of Base AR37 with Bealey NEA2.

|             | Winter | Spring | Summer | Autumn | Total |
|-------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| Base AR37   | 112    | 108    | 108    | 114    | 109   |
| Bealey NEA2 | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100   |

Data are the mean of 5 trials (2 completed trials, and three trials that have completed 2 of 3 years). Trials located in Northland (1), Waikato (2) and Canterbury (2). One trial has missing data for winter year 1. Results were not significantly different.

## SOWING AND ESTABLISHMENT

Base seed is heavier than diploid perennial ryegrass seed, so ideally should be sown at a 40% higher rate than that of diploids. Base can be sown at 25kg/ha as a pure sward with Superstrike treated clover.

## GRAZING MANAGEMENT

Base persists better under rotational grazing. Avoid hard set stocking during periods of stress (eg. droughts, low fertility and insect attack).

## STOCK SUITABILITY\*

Dairy, sheep and beef.

\*As Base contains AR37 please note: Sheep have been found to get ryegrass staggers on AR37 ryegrass pastures, but the incidence is generally less and of a shorter duration than on ryegrass with the old standard endophyte, although the effects can be just as severe although typically for a shorter period of time. Ryegrass staggers have not been observed in dairy cows on farm to date. AR37 varieties should not be used on properties grazing either deer or horses.

### FEEDBACK FROM THE FIELD:



Brian and Julie Pirie milk 840 cows on 234 hectares on the western Hauraki Plains near Thames. As the farm has peat soil over marine clay, it heats up during the warmer months, resulting in ryegrass

pastures struggling to persist because of the heat and overgrazing. An infestation of Black Beetle has also damaged pastures in recent seasons.

"Base AR37 tetraploid perennial ryegrass established very well, considering it was a dry autumn, and it tillers very quickly. We've had really good grazings off it and it has good growth rates," says Brian. The AR37 endophyte also provides improved persistence against pasture pest attack. "Last year parts of the farm were badly affected by high numbers of Black Beetle but Base AR37 is looking good. It's a fine-leaf, late flowering plant with excellent tillering and a strong root structure, which should help it to survive any summer challenges."

"Looking at Base AR37 now, I am confident it will last and have already put in an order to sow more in autumn."

**Base tetraploid perennial ryegrass, the foundation for your profitable pastoral future!**



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