

PASTURES FROM SPACE – DELIVERING THE INFORMATION TO FARMERS

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The Pastures from Space (PFS) project has developed the technology to predict pasture growth rate (PGR) for Mediterranean annual pastures (Donald *et al.* 2004). The Department of Land Information, Satellite Remote Sensing Services (DLI-SRSS), produces the PGR product operationally from satellite, meteorological and paddock data inputs (see Figure 1). The PGR product (Mata *et al.* 2004) is comprehensive in that all grazing properties in southern Australia are covered weekly using the MODIS sensor, which provides a maximum resolution of 6 ha.

The DLI-SRSS has also developed an internet system to deliver PGR information to farmers on a weekly basis over the growing season. This information is available at a range of scales, from Local Government Areas, to farms identified by roads or cadastral polygons, and individual paddocks using the farmer’s digitised boundaries. The information at each scale can be viewed graphically through a browser over the internet (<http://www.pasturesfromspace.csiro.au>).

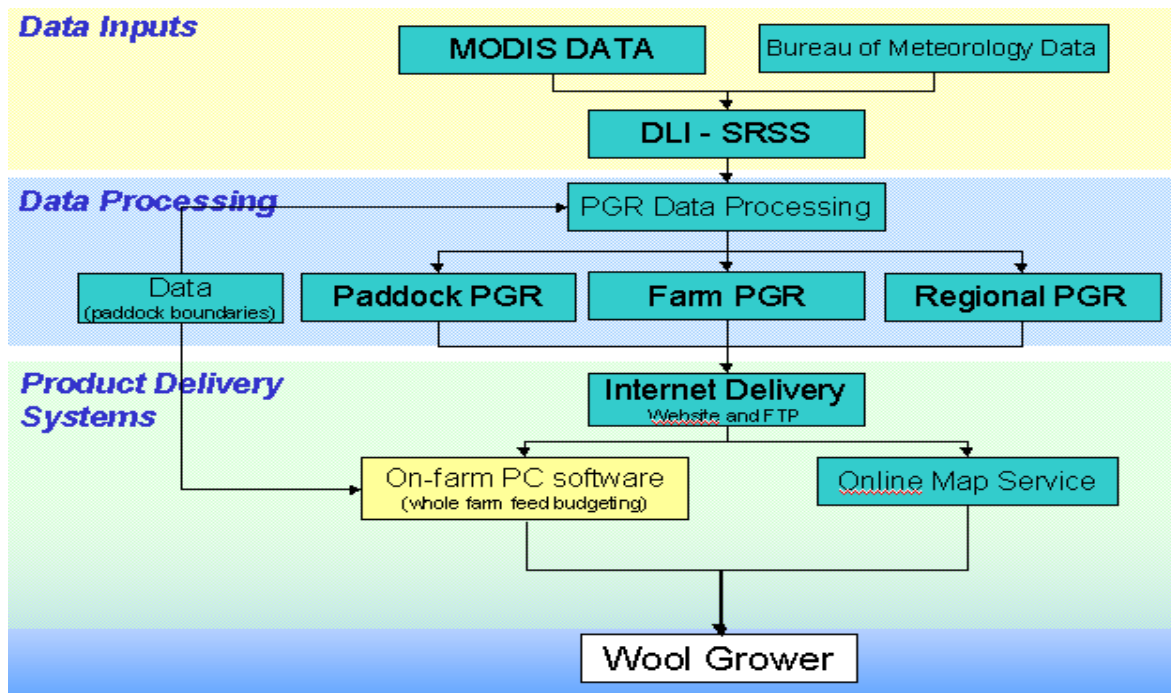


Figure 1. A display of the dual delivery system for pasture growth rate (PGR) products.

However, since the system is impracticable for delivering the large number of values needed for whole farm feed budgeting, the paddock information can also be downloaded automatically into third party software. For this latter service, Fairport Technologies has developed ‘Pasture Watch’, a software program that downloads PFS data automatically from the DLI-SRSS web server to the producer’s PC at the click of a button. Pasture Watch is set up to contain a farmer’s paddock database with individual pasture status records. Following the weekly updating of records within Pasture Watch, paddock values can be organised for graphical visualisation and whole-farm feed budgeting.

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MATA, G., HENRY, D.A., GHERARDI, S.G. and SMITH, R.C.G. (2004). *Anim. Prod. Aust.* **25**, (This proceedings).

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