

Turning Satellite Data Into Smarter Grazing Decisions: Cibo Labs at Clear Creek

TEKFARM – Supporting producers adopting technology | 2025

OVERVIEW

JJ and Karien Venter, Clear Creek farm NSW

At Clear Creek, near **Young on the NSW South-West Slopes**, mixed farmer and Elders agronomist **JJ Venter** helps manage a busy enterprise of dual-purpose crops and livestock. Checking soil moisture, estimating feed on offer, monitoring water points, and balancing data across multiple platforms, time and accuracy were all ongoing challenges.

Through the Farmers 2 Founders (F2F) TEKfarm Drought Resilience Program, JJ identified an opportunity to streamline decision-making and reduce some of that guesswork using **Cibo Labs**, a satellite-based platform that integrates seamlessly with his existing **AgriWebb** software.

Smarter Grazing Through Satellite Insights

Cibo Labs uses frequent satellite imagery to estimate Feed on Offer (FOO) and Total Standing Dry Matter (TSDM) across every paddock, updated throughout the season. The data integrates directly with JJ's Agriwebb records, allowing him to align livestock movement, paddock rotation, and feed budgeting in real time.

For a mixed farming system producing wheat, barley, oats, vetch, lupins, and lucerne-based pastures, this has meant a clearer picture of available feed and recovery rates, vital for balancing animal nutrition with pasture longevity.

"We can now manage grazing pressure more precisely," JJ explained. "It's about maintaining pasture health, protecting soil, and improving animal performance without relying on visual estimates alone."

"It's not a silver bullet, but it's an incredibly useful decision-support tool," JJ said. "It takes the guesswork out of feed availability and gives confidence that our grazing management is both sustainable and profitable."



Figure 1: Farming power couple Karien (livestock manager) and JJ Venter (Elders agronomist) on their farm Clear Creek near Young, NSW.

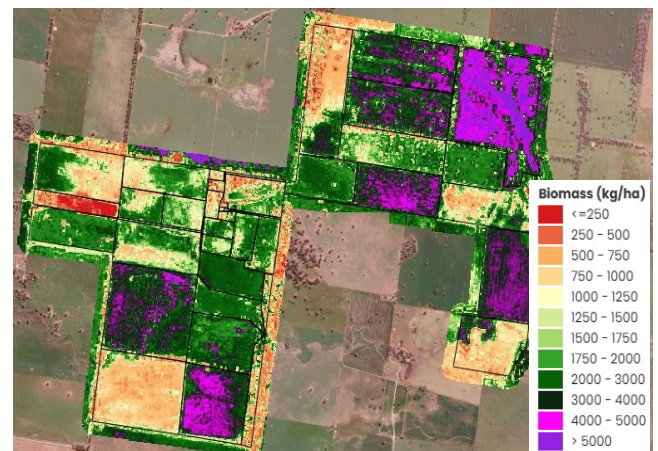


Figure 2: Cibo Labs interface for Clear Creek farm with biomass shown as kg/ha of Food on Offer (FOO).

Improving Efficiency and Drought Readiness

By digitising feed and biomass data, JJ has reduced the time required for manual paddock checks and removed the subjectivity from feed assessments. The system provides objective measurements that support:

- Smarter paddock rotations and stocking decisions
- Better recovery of pastures and dual-purpose crops
- Reduced over-grazing risk and improved groundcover retention

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These improvements translate directly into **stronger drought preparedness**. With reliable insights on feed availability and groundcover trends, JJ can respond earlier to declining conditions, adjusting stocking rates or supplementary feeding before productivity declines.

“Being prepared for drought requires a holistic approach,” JJ said. “Cibo Labs is one of the tools that helps us make proactive, evidence-based decisions.”

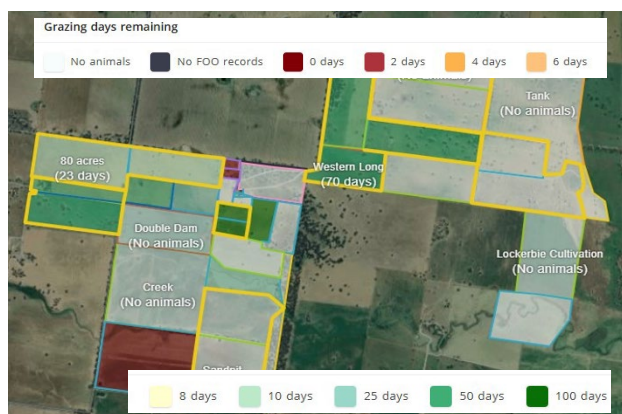


Figure 3. Integration of Cibo Labs FOO as days remaining within the Clear Creek's Agri web dashboard with biomass as kg/ha of Food On Offer (FOO).

Lessons and Learnings

While other tools such as soil moisture probes, water monitors, and weather stations were considered, upfront cost was a limiting factor. Cibo Labs offered an affordable entry point into digital monitoring, with the potential to expand into a more comprehensive data ecosystem over the next few years.

JJ noted that cloud cover occasionally limits satellite readings, but the Cibo Labs support team have been responsive and proactive in resolving issues. Their ongoing improvements and user training continue to build confidence among early adopters.

Building Capability and Confidence

The F2F TEKfarm process gave JJ, in both his farming and advisory roles, a broader understanding of how digital agriculture technologies can support resilience.

“The program made it easier to identify where the real pain-points were and to match those with the right technology. It has helped advisors and producers alike build confidence in adopting new systems,” he said.

Where to From Here?

With a successful integration of Cibo Labs into daily management, JJ plans to build on this foundation by:

- **Expanding the technology stack** to include soil moisture probes, tank sensors, and weather monitoring within 3–5 years.
- **Training local precision-agriculture advisors and producers** on interpreting satellite data, integrating multiple software platforms, and understanding connectivity and data-sharing requirements.
- **Collaborating with local PA contractors** to strengthen regional expertise in data management, file handling, and system compatibility across AgriWebb and other platforms.

By combining satellite analytics with local knowledge and upskilling, JJ is setting the example for how digital tools can transform mixed farming operations, turning data into decisions that improve productivity, sustainability, and drought resilience.



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