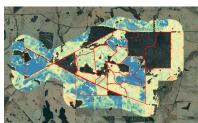
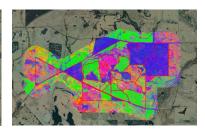


Pasture Management Practical







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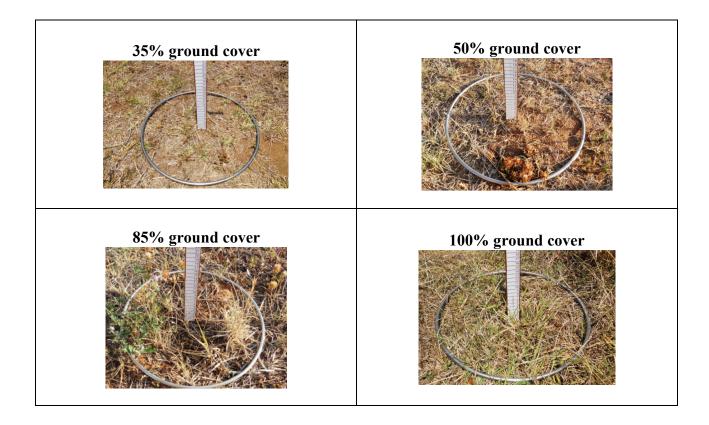




Manual pasture monitoring methods

Using Quadrats and visually assessing pasture quality

- 1. Take the metal quadrat and throw it randomly in to the paddock
- 2. Asses the percentage of ground cover of the pasture in the quadrat



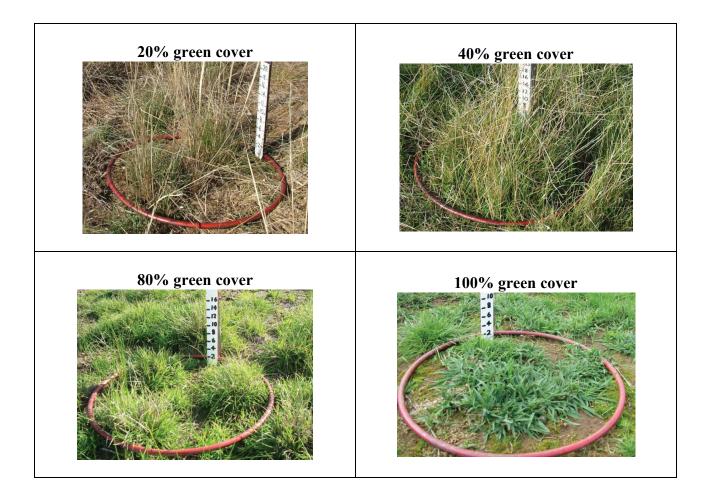
What is the percentage of ground cover?







3. Asses the moisture content/greenness of the pasture in the quadrat



How green is the pasture?

4. Now take a pair of scissors or hand shears and cut ALL the pasture in the quadrat, DOWN TO THE GROUND. Collect the sample by placing it in to a bag and identify which paddock it is from.







To get an accurate estimation of a paddocks pasture quality, multiple samplings would have to be taken across each paddock. The cut samples would have to be weighed, dried and re weighed before dry matter and feed on offer calculations could be done.

Questions

Knowing what is involved with manual pasture quality estimations;

1. Do you think this method is a quick way of collecting pasture data for a large number of paddocks? Why/why not?

Do you think this method is an accurate way to collect pasture data? Why/why not?







CiboLabs Pasture App

As well as the web interface, CiboLabs have developed a mobile data collection app to allow for rapid data collection in the paddock. The app is opened through your browser but will work offline, although it does need GPS to be turned on.

The app will upload any collected data once the phone or tablet is reconnected to mobile data or wifi.

Open the CiboLabs pasture App here https://enketo.cibolabs.com/x/#bZGzpQVO
It is best to bookmark this page for easy access in the paddock.

The app allows producers to collect a wide assortment of data including;

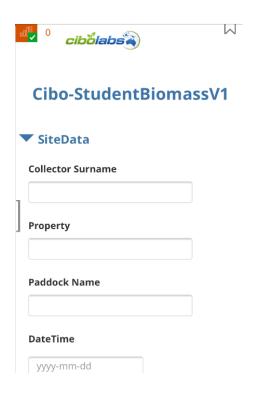
Data collection

Property, paddock and time identification









GPS location

*GPSLocation (Location of FIRST Quadrat)

Clicking this icon will record the GPS location of where you are standing

The app will ask for the GPS locations of where the first and last pasture cuts were taken







Manual Feed on Offer results

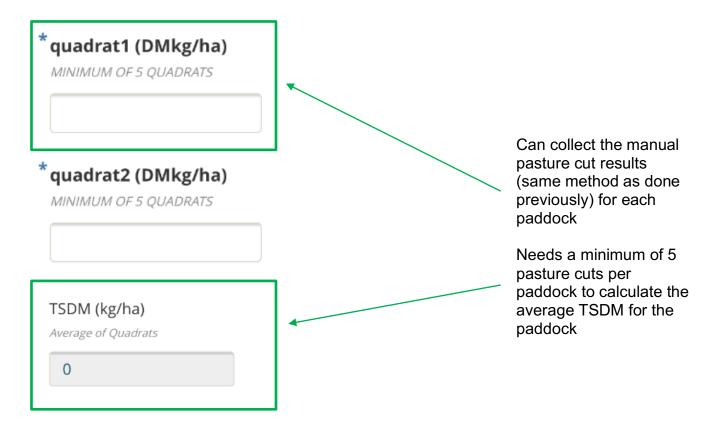








Photo of pasture quadrat

Site Photo - Direction of Transect Might need to lower camera res to <5mb Click here to upload file. (< 10MB) Ground cover and pasture quality	•	Can take and upload a photo of the paddock to remind you later what the pasture quality was like and as a reference for what certain FOO values look like.
Average Ground Cover %) Average of quadrats (0-100)		These are added manually based on the
Green Fraction % (0-100) Percentage Green (Average of Site)	4	methods described previously.
Dry Matter % (100-Moisture%) Hay should be >85%DM, All Green ~20-30%DM		NDVI can be measured using a handheld Greenseeker, or similar device
NDVI Average NDVI for transect		
Pasture species and any commen	ts	



Co Dominant (common name)

Sub Dominant (common name)

Comments





Accessing data

Once the data has been uploaded it can be accessed through Google Sheets here: https://bit.ly/2ZvEDhK

This is a "live" database.

To work with the data (manipulate, graph etc) it will need to be saved to Excel.





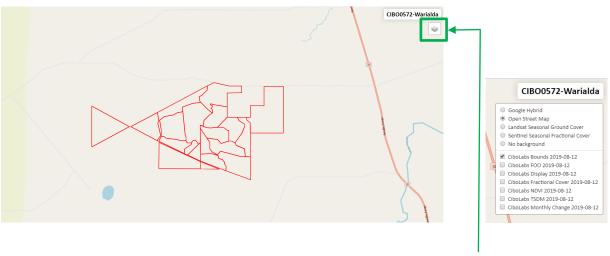


Monitoring pasture using "Cibo Labs"

 Open the current dataset for Warialda Farms on the CIBO labs website using the following link

https://bit.ly/2m2JILo

Your screen should look like this.



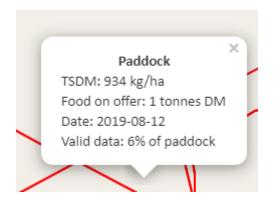
- 2. Use the layers tab in the top right hand corner, under the farm name, to scroll through the different layer options.
- 3. Click on a paddock to see how much feed on offer (FOO), total standing dry matter (TSDM) and valid data there is for that paddock.

You will notice a pop up like the one below.









TSDM = the total amount of dry feed in the paddock in kilograms per hectare (a measurement of area)

Food on offer = The total amount of food on offer in the whole paddock

Valid data = How much of the paddock could be seen on that day and not covered by cloud

4. Use this same method to look at other paddocks on the property.







HINTS High amounts of pasture **Food on Offer** (tonnes) Low amounts of pasture Photosyntheically active Non-photosynthetically active **Fractional Cover** Bare ground NDVI Lowest Bare ground or water Normalised different Poor, low density pastures vegetation index (NDVI) Dense, green, healthy pasture Highest **Total Standing Dry Matter** Lowest Low amounts of dry feed **Total standing dry** matter (kgs/ha) High amounts of dry feed Highest <25% of last month Pasture that has decreased in the 25-50% of last month last 30 days (areas with less feed) 50-75% of last month Change in ground 75-100% of last month Pasture that hasn't changed in the cover (past 30 100-125% of last month last 30 days 125-150% of last month days) 150-175% of last month Pasture that has increased in the 175-200% of last month last 30 days (areas with more feed) >200% of last month







Comparing food on offer for different paddocks

Using the paddock ID numbers in the image below as reference, use the Cibo Labs interface to fill in the table below.

Feed on Offer - use the "CiboLabs FOO" layer and record the colour of the paddock. Then click on the paddock and record the amount of food on offer (in tonnes)

TSDM – use the "CiboLabs TSDM" layer and record the dominant colour in the paddock.

Then click the paddock and record the TSDM value (in kg/ha)

Valid data – click on the paddock and record the value for valid data (in %)

Photosynthetic cover – use the "ClboLabs Fractional Cover" layer and record the dominant colour of the paddock. Record what this colour means.

Ground cover change in 30 days – use the "CiboLabs Monthly Change" layer and record the dominant colour of the paddock. Record what this colour means.

You can use the colour reference charts in the section above to help you.









Date of data collection:

Paddock	Feed On Offer (tonnes)	TSDM (kgs/ha)	Valid data (%)	Fractional (photosynthetic) cover	Ground cover change in 30 days
1					
2					
7					
10					
14					
17					
19					







Questions

- 1. Did high NVDI relate to high FOO? Why might these be similar/different?
- 2. In terms of the amount of change in ground cover over the last 30 days, what would cause some paddocks on the farm to be growing while others remain the same and/or are going backwards?
- 3. What do you think influences the validity of the data collected for paddocks 2 and 20?
- 4. Based on the FOO and TSDM values, which paddock(s) would be the best to graze stock in now? Which paddock(s) would you not graze stock in?







Application of data

The data collected from the Cibo Labs interface can be useful to producers as it can help determine how many animals they can feed for a given period of time.

Example 1: Brad is a sheep producer who has a flock of 600 lactating ewes. However, the paddock they are in as is running out of feed. The paddock he wants to shift them to is a 50ha paddock. The Cibo labs data has informed him this paddock has a TSDM reading of 900kg/ha. Brad wants to know how long he can graze his ewes in this paddock for.

Number of ewes = 600 Paddock size = 50ha TSDM reading = 900kg/ha

A lactating ewe has a DSE = 3.0 (they eat 3 times more than a non-lactating sheep)

First Brad needs to work out the stocking density of his paddock.

Stocking density = $\frac{\text{number of animals } X \text{ DSE of animal}}{\text{paddock size}}$

$$\therefore \text{Stocking density} = \frac{600 \text{ X } 3.0}{50}$$

Stocking density = 36 DSE/ha (each day the flock is eating 36 kg of feed per hectare)







Example cont.

Next, Brad needs to know how many days he can run his 600 sheep in the new paddock

Number of days =
$$\frac{TSDM}{Stocking density}$$

$$\therefore \text{ Number of days} = \frac{900}{36}$$

Number of days = 25 days

Brad has enough feed in the paddock to gaze his ewes for 25 days.

Questions

- 1. If weaned lambs have a DSE of 1.5, calculate how long you could graze a flock of 500 lambs in;
 - a. A 75ha paddock with a TSDM reading = 950kg/ha
 - b. A 50 ha paddock with a TSDM reading = 1275kg/ha
 - c. A 125ha paddock with a TSDM reading = 480kg/ha







2. Which paddock (a, b or c) would you choose to put the lambs in? Why?

Example 2: Mandy has a property where she grazes steers for a few months before they are moved to a feedlot. Mandy wants to buy some more stock but doesn't know how many animals to purchase. She knows that the steers will only be on her property for three months (90 days) and that she has 120ha to graze them on. Cibo Labs data has informed her that the 250ha paddock she wants to use has a TSDM reading of 1350kg/ha.

Paddock size = 120ha TSDM reading = 1350kg/ha Number of days = 90 days

Growing steer has a DSE = 10 (they eat ten times more feed than a non-lactating sheep)

First Mandy needs to know what the stocking rate of the paddock is

Stocking density =
$$\frac{TSDM}{Number of days}$$

$$\therefore \text{ Stocking density} = \frac{1350}{90}$$

Stocking density = 15 DSE/ha (can run stock up to 15DSE per hectare for 90 days)







Example cont.

Next, Mandy needs to know how many animals she can purchase

:. Number of animals = (15 * 120) / 10

Number of animals = 180 steers

Mandy can purchase 180 steers from the saleyards.

Questions

- If a lactating cow has a DSE of 16, calculate the number of cows you could graze for 30 days if you had;
 - a. A 70ha paddock with a TSDM reading = 960kg/ha
 - b. A 105ha paddock with a TSDM reading = 750kg/ha
 - c. A 32ha paddock with a TSDM reading = 1200kg/ha







Extension Questions

While we could leave stock in a paddock long enough for them to eat all the available pasture, this would lead to overgrazed paddocks, areas of bare ground, poor water absorption and poor plant growth. This is not an effective way to farm and is very detrimental to land management. Therefore, it is often assumed that of the available pasture present 20% of it will not be grazed.

Now, recalculate the previous questions by reducing the TSDM values by 20%.

Example 1: Brad is a sheep producer who has a flock of 600 lactating ewes. However, the paddock they are in as is running out of feed. The paddock he wants to shift them to is a 50ha paddock. The Cibo labs data has informed him this paddock has a TSDM reading of 900kg/ha. Brad wants to know how long he can graze his ewes in this paddock for.

Number of ewes = 600 Paddock size = 50ha TSDM reading = 900kg/ha

A lactating ewe has a DSE = 3.0 (they eat 3 times more than a non-lactating sheep)

First Brad needs to calculate how much feed he has available for the sheep to eat

True TSDM = TSDM
$$\times \frac{80}{100}$$

= 900 $\times 0.8$
= 720

Next, Brad needs to work out the stocking density of his paddock.

Stocking density = $\frac{\text{number of animals } X \text{ DSE of animal}}{\text{paddock size}}$







Example cont

$$\therefore \text{Stocking density} = \frac{600 \text{ X } 3.0}{50}$$

Stocking density = 36 DSE/ha (each day the flock is eating 36 kg of feed per hectare)

Next, Brad needs to know how many days he can run his 600 sheep in the new paddock

$$Number of days = \frac{True TSDM}{Stocking density}$$

Example cont.

$$\therefore \text{ Number of days} = \frac{720}{36}$$

Number of days = 20 days

- If weaned lambs have a DSE of 1.5, calculate how long you could graze a flock of 500 lambs in;
 - a. A 75ha paddock with a TSDM reading = 950kg/ha
 - b. A 50 ha paddock with a TSDM reading = 1275kg/ha
 - c. A 125ha paddock with a TSDM reading = 480kg/ha







- 2. If a lactating cow has a DSE of 16, calculate the number of cows you could graze for 30 days if you had;
 - a. A 70ha paddock with a TSDM reading = 960kg/ha
 - b. A 105ha paddock with a TSDM reading = 750kg/ha
 - c. A 32ha paddock with a TSDM reading = 1200kg/ha

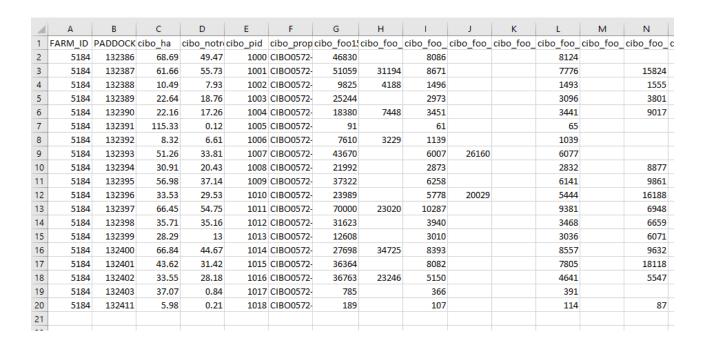




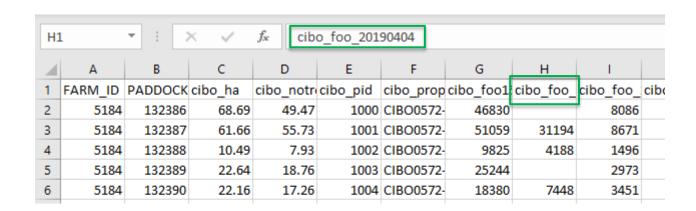
Graphing Feed on Offer

- 1. Open up "CIBO0572-Warialda-Paddocks.xlsx"
- 2. Before you do anything save this file to your folder.

Your spreadsheet should look something like this



You will notice that many of the column headings end in an 8-digit number



Here cell H1 ends in " 20190404".







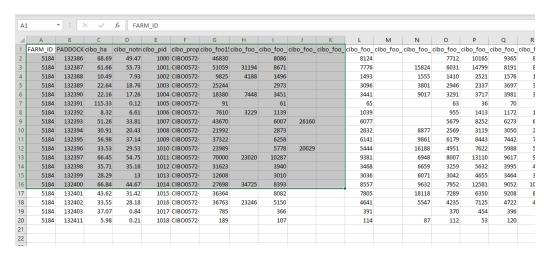
This is the date that this data was collected on (04/04/2019).

However, in its current format this is not useful for graphing data over time and so you will need to reformat your spreadsheet.

3. Highlight the entire dataset and copy the data.

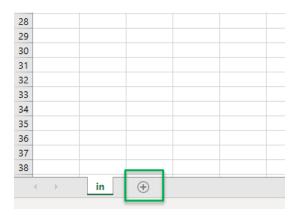
Click Call A1 and hold until you have highlighted all the data in the spreadsheet.

The image shows the highlighted data (grey) and non-highlighted data (white)



Once your data is all highlighted click "Clt + C"

4. Open up a new sheet

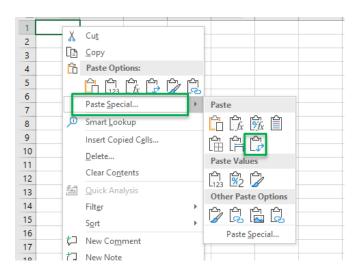




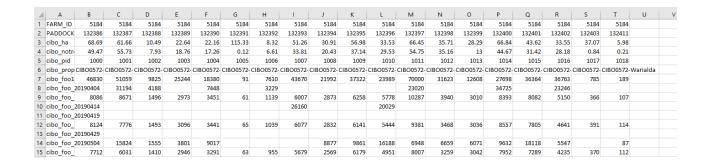




5. Paste the data in to your new worksheet and right click the cell A1. Select **Paste**Special and then the transpose option



You will now see that your data has been flipped and that the column headings are now the row headings.



However, we still need to reformat the dates

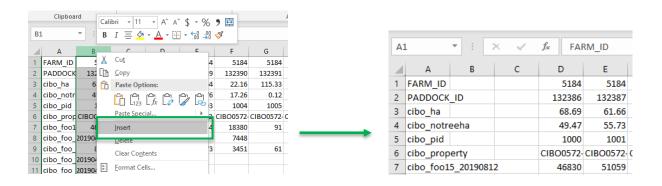
6. Insert two new columns to the right of column A

Highlight column B, right click and select "Insert". Repeat this process.

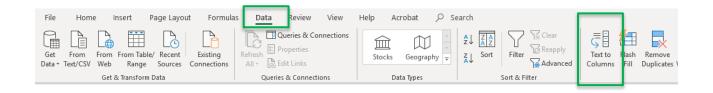




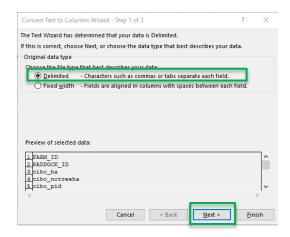




- 7. Highlight column A
- 8. In the Data tab select Text to columns



9. In the first command box select "Delimited" then select "Next".

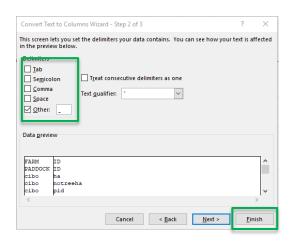




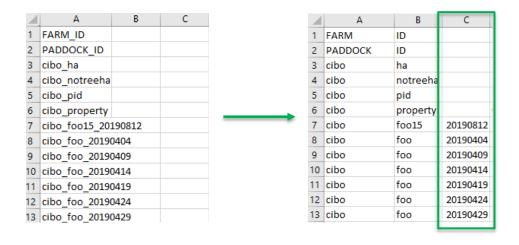




10. In the next window, uncheck 'Tab', select "Other" and place a "_" in the box. Then select "Finish"



You will notice that the headings from Column A have been split wherever there was a "_" and that all the numbers (dates) are now listed in Column C.



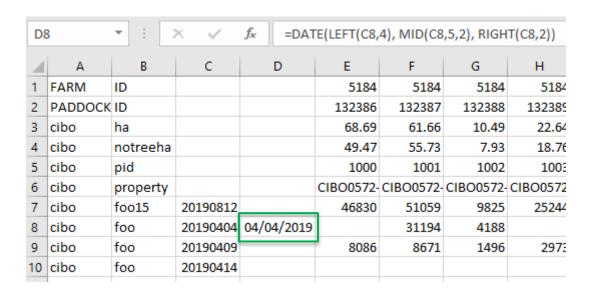
- 11. Like you did previously, insert a column to the right of Column C. This column will end up containing our list of dates.
- 12. Type the following formula in to cell D8

D8 = DATE(LEFT($\mathbb{C}8,4$), MID($\mathbb{C}8,5,2$), RIGHT($\mathbb{C}8,2$))



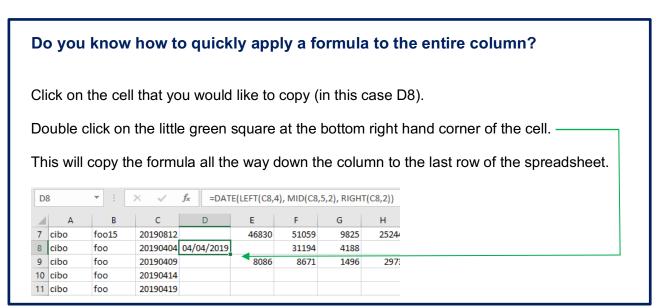






You will now see that the number from cell C8 has been converted to the correct date format in D8.

13. Apply the same formula to the rest of Column D



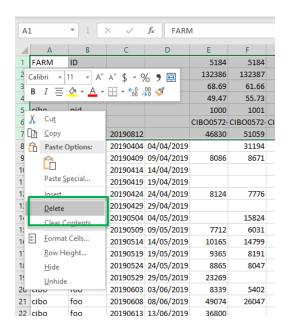
As you only want the data that relates to the amount of feed on offer in each paddock you can delete some of the data to make things easier.



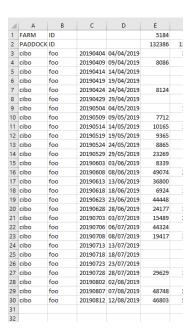




14. Delete rows 3-7



Then delete all rows from 'Row 31' onwards. Your spreadsheet should look like this.



Now we can determine how much feed was on offer over the whole property on each day.







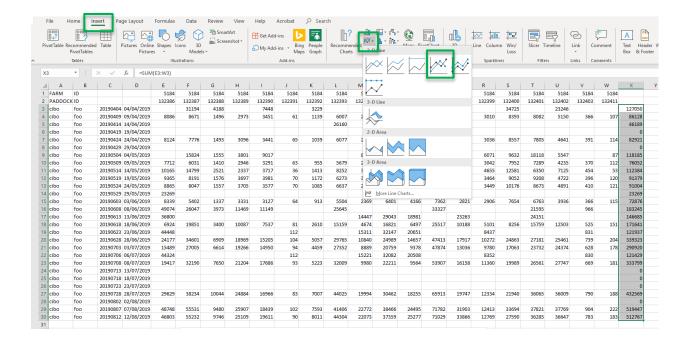
15. Total the Feed on offer for each day by entering the following formula in to cell X3

$$X3 = SUM(E3:W3)$$

- 16. Apply the same formula to the rest of Column X
- 17. Now graph the total feed on offer for the property

To graph, highlight data from X3 to X30.

Select the "Insert" tab and add insert a line graph, as shown below.

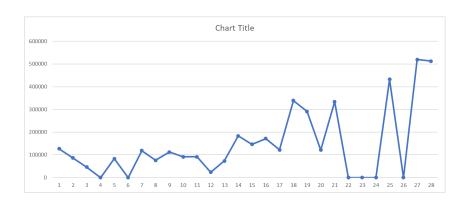








Your graph should look something like this.

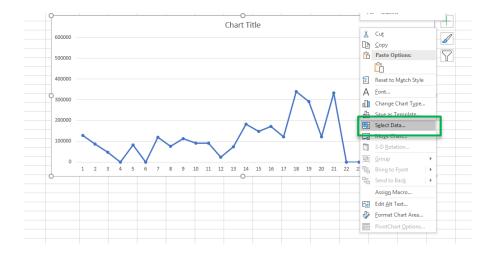


You will notice that the labels on the horizontal axis (x axis) are sequential numbers and not the date on which the data was collected.

You need to add the dates to the horizontal axis.

18. Add dates to horizontal axis

Click on your graph, right click and select "Select Data".

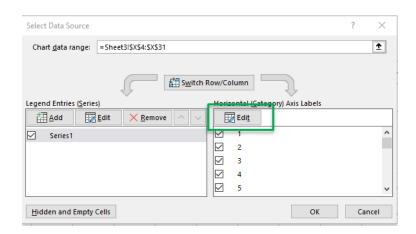








In the pop up window select "Edit"



You can then select your date labels from Column D, by first clicking cell D3 and selecting

"Shift + Ctrl + the down arrow" to include all values below.

Your "Axis label range" will read something similar to what is below. Click "OK" and then click "OK" again.



Your graph will now have a series of dates as the values on the horizontal axis.



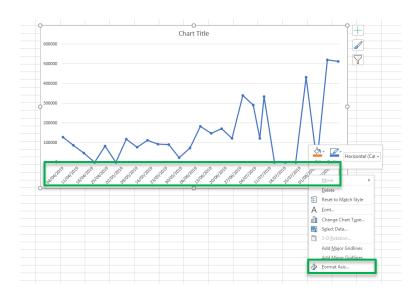




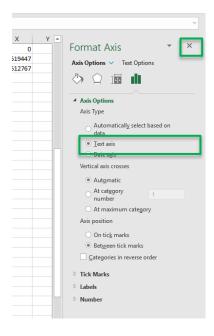


However, excel has automatically set the dates shown and some dates in column D may not be shown.

To make sure all dates are visible **right click** over your **horizontal axis**. Choose the **"Format Axis"** option.



A toolbar will pop up on the right-hand side. Select "Text axis" then close the toolbar.

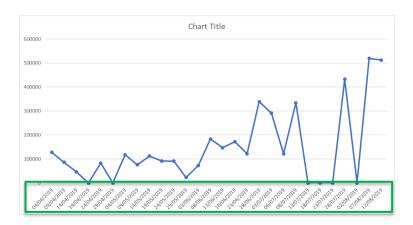






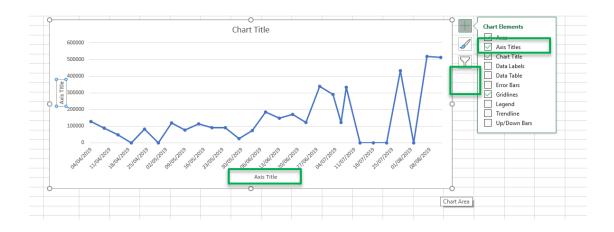


Your graph will now include all the dates in column D.



19. Add axis titles

Select your graph then select the green "+" at the top right and check "Axis Titles"



Double click the "Axis Title" for the horizontal axis and type in "Date".

Do the same for the "Axis Title" on the vertical axis but type in "Total feed on offer (kgs)".







Questions

- 1. What trend can you identify in the data?
- 2. What day has the highest total feed on offer recorded? And what is the amount of feed on offer for this day?
- 3. What is the difference between the total feed on offer at the start to the end of the data collection period?
- 4. Why do some days have a total feed on offer recording of zero?





