

designed Fodder Factory.

The Fodder Factory was developed in 1989 by NSW deer farmer Peter Ryan as a result of droughts and poor growing seasons.

Mr and Mrs Spry decided to install the Fodder Factory on their Richmond property two years ago due to lack of feed, a result of drought, in their area.

Mr Spry said the area had 18 to 20 inches of rain on average, and in 1991 the farm had experienced drought and bushfire.

"I wanted to provide feed for cattle, sheep and horses without paying high prices for hay," he said.

After reading an article in the Town and Country Farmer magazine the couple decided to find out more about the Fodder Factory and wrote away for information.

Mr Spry travelled to NSW to look at the Fodder Factory developed by Peter Ryan and engineer Garry Brown.

After weighing up the costs and benefits the Spry's decided the Fodder Factory would be a viable alternative to fodder production on their Richmond property.



David Spry inside the fodder factory.

But the amount of production from the Fodder Factory is substantial and can easily facilitate the needs of the property.

"We are able to produce 720kg of green feed per day," Mr Spry said.

"This yields more than is needed on the farm.

"Our property is 350 acres and we can economically fatten stock using the Fodder Factory."

Mr Spry said the Fodder Factory was not labour intensive and only required one or two hours work each day to keep it running.

The Fodder Factory can be used to sprout and grow most of the grains

The system is based on hydroponics soilless production.

Mr Spry said the oat seeds were placed on the trays and the medium — water and nutrients — trickled over them.

"Germination is very rapid and may be as fast as 24 hours," he said.

Mr Spry said the system produced good high quality fodder in the space of a week to 10 days.

Fodder can grow to heights of 20 to 30 centimetres and is then fed direct to livestock.

Animals fed from the Fodder Factory need to be given at least 18% roughage in their diet to keep

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