

# Wingham Chronicle

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## Locals develop new concept for drought feeding

*By Lesley Penfold*

A Bobin Creek farmer has had no problems keeping his stock alive and healthy throughout the drought, despite having no feed on the ground.

Peter Ryan has been feeding his 135 deer, 12 goats and 12 head cattle on fodder he produces hydroponically in eight days from germination of the seed to harvest about 25cm height.

The same feed grown in the paddock, if there was enough water for irrigation would take up to 12 weeks from germination to feed out.

And the feed Peter is growing is yielding 350 kilograms per day for less

than \$40 per tonne to produce, using only 400 litres of water a day.

The concept of a fodder shed to grow hydroponic feed is the brainchild of Peter and Wingham engineer Garry Brown.

The prototype was assembled at Peter's Bobin property and for 18 months they have been perfecting the shed while feeding Peter's animals.

"There were a few bugs to iron out," Peter said. "Last summer was so hot we had to fine tune the cooling system.

Three attempts later and by the use of exhaust fans in the ceiling we were able to control the sealed environment." (Cont. on page 5)