

Proposed release of OVERSEER® Nutrient Budgets version 5.5

We are currently working on a new release of OVERSEER® Nutrient Budgets. The proposed release date is February 2010, depending on completion of a successful testing phase.

We have previously announced the changes that will be incorporated into the next release, including:

- Integration of cropping/fruit models into the pastoral model
- Additional block types
- Cut and carry – facility to remove >50% pasture production from a block as supplement (including a new dedicated cut and carry block)
- Moving towards a monthly N model, which requires monthly data for fertiliser inputs
- Differential blocks – allows differential grazing and effluent applications between blocks as an advanced option
- Maintaining backwards compatibility with previous .ovp, .ovh and .ovc files

These new features have, of course, led to some changes to the model and the purpose of this short note is to notify you that some changes to the User Interface (UI) will occur with the next release.

We have posted a short PowerPoint presentation on the website to show some of the changes and to explain the reasoning for them. However, the key points are:

- There is no fundamental change to the overall look and feel of OVERSEER® Nutrient Budgets
- Input screens have been modified so
 - Data entry on a single screen is easier to follow
 - There is scope for more explanation to be provided on the screen around complex issues
- Scope to enter more detailed timing of fertiliser inputs

These changes are a necessary precursor to the exciting year ahead for OVERSEER® Nutrient Budgets, when the model will be completely redesigned (proposed release date December 2010), including a more consultative phase for the design and testing of a new User Interface.

Other planned developments in 2010 include:

- Redesigned website with more supporting information
- Release of a User Manual
- Keynote paper at the FLRC workshop (February) on OVERSEER® Nutrient Budgets
- Embarking on reviews of some of the science underpinning the model

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