

FACEY CONNECT

LEADING, INSPIRING, SUPPORTING AND CHALLENGING
OUR LOCAL FARMING COMMUNITY



March/April 2022



**Summer
Cover
Cropping
Trials Review**

**Trial
Seeder
Upgrade**

**Boots Off
Log On!
Podcast
Collaboration**

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Major Sponsors



The Facey Group would like to acknowledge and thank our valued sponsors Advanta Seeds, Agrimaster, Australian Grain Technologies, Bailiwick Legal, CSBP, Elders Insurance, Elders Wickepin, Ewen Rural Supplies, Farm Weekly, FMC, Grain Growers, Planfarm, and Tincurrin Rural Services.

A Note from the CEO

Hi Everyone,

The Facey Group hopes your seeding program is kicking off and going well.

The Facey Group is also in the depths of putting our trial program in. We have a number of new projects this year we look forward to sharing with you. This year, the committee and management will roll out more morning field walks (complete with a bacon and egg roll) to showcase our trials.

Two of our new trials this year include the GRDC Grain Legume project. There are two parts to this project: the trial plots where we showcase a number of legume varieties across two sowing times and a farmer demo of Faba beans. Thanks to Clint Hemley and Skye Moxham for hosting. We have a GRDC Long Season Wheat trial hosted by Brenton and Justine Tyson. In this farmer demo, we compare Illabo and Denison and the impact of grazing on final yield. We are also putting in an in-house funded Pasture NVT on the Shire block. We also have several other trials carrying over from last year, such as the GRDC Stubble Height project, GRDC Double Break and others. We have also recently successfully obtained a number of new projects for next year.

You may have seen video footage of our new refurbished trial seeder on social media. Thanks to Alec, our Agtech Coordinator who has painstakingly upgraded the unit. We will commission the unit with our Pasture NVT this year. We plan to allow members access to the machine and our new in-house soil sampling unit and are currently working out details.

Our Origo project is progressing well with a number of producers signing on to be part of a weather station and soil moisture network. It's not too late to sign up and we hope the network will continue to grow. Get in touch with us when you are ready!



Dr Kelly Pearce, Facey Group Chief Executive Officer

In this newsletter, Amy has done a great write-up with pictures of our Summer Cover Cropping project held at Birds Property. The survival of the species over the summer with no rain was remarkable. We will continue to measure soil health and moisture and measure this year's yield. We hope to continue this project next summer. If you are interested in hosting- please let us know.

I would like to welcome and thank our newest sponsors who have joined the Facey Group. Welcome to Bailiwick Legal, Advanta Seeds and FMC. Thank you also to our ongoing sponsors who are continuing to support us this year. Our group thrives because of your support and we look forward to working with you all.

Kelly

Facey Findings

What Next?

By Helen Wyatt - Elders Agronomist & Facey Group Secretary

Well it is that mad time of year again, everyone rushing to try and beat the calendar, as well as get good weed control, get paddocks/chaff dumps/windrows burnt and establish a magnificent crop for the year to come. I wish you all a seeding with minimal breakdowns, good lambing percentages and timely rainfall.

It is also a time of year that many questions come up –
How early/late is too early or late to sow X/Y/Z?

Has anyone ever tried putting this herbicide in a different place/timing before (pre/pspe/post) or on a different crop?

Has anyone ever tried putting a certain tyre or disc setup on a certain bar?

How is everyone placing different liquid components/fertiliser components in their program?

How is everyone managing logistics of fertiliser, seed and liquids from shed to paddock/bar?

And because seeding itself isn't enough to keep you busy there is also:

Am I maximising my lambing timing?

How can I minimise lambing losses?

Is my ewe nutrition up to scratch?

Has anyone ever tried doing X while lambing?

There is a lot of information available at your fingertips but what about the things you can't really find an answer for and just leave to ponder for another day. The things which aren't urgent, that decision has already been made, but what about next year?

Let's face it we often forget and then don't find the time to really follow up and research it a bit further – it gets shoved to back of mind and we carry on the doing it the same way because it worked well last year and we are comfortable with that. But maybe you are onto something great?!

We would love to hear your questions, so if you've got 2 minutes while you're going up and back or waiting for the truck, send them through – that's what we are here for.

We probably can't answer them right now either, but if you're asking the question it is likely other growers want to know too, and we are here to help get it trialled so you can find an answer. We now have even greater capacity with the newly refurbished trial seeder and a great team who can help set up a project or any on-farm trial/demonstration you might want to attempt, it also gives us direction for which projects you want next year. We can help collect data off any type of on-farm trial (cough *stuff ups*), to help try and quantify a bit more scientifically how much of a difference it has made – which can then aid in making better, more economically based decisions in the future – and that really is the power of our great group! Learning from each other, sharing our questions/solutions and stuff ups so we all learn just a little bit more each year.



AgREC Update

Summer Cover Cropping Trials Review

By Amy Bowden - Agricultural Research & Extension Coordinator

Seeding is underway for our 2022 trials season, with a number of trials already in the ground and the remainder to follow over the next few weeks. I think we all have our fingers crossed for more rain to arrive soon. We have been fortunate enough to have had the opportunity to investigate various summer cover cropping species over the 2021/22 summer, coming off the back of such a wet season. The survival and growth of various species over the entire summer period on minimal rainfall was really impressive.



As part of this cover cropping project, funded by Regenerative Agricultural Alliance and partnering with Southern Cross University, three trial sites were established in September/October and monitored over the summer. The aim of the project is to determine the impact of single species and multispecies cover crops on soil health and moisture, compared to chemical fallow. This year all sites are being sown to a winter crop to determine the impact on subsequent crop growth and grain yield. Species included in the project have included sudan grass, astro forage sorghum, millet, cow pea, lab-lab, sun hemp and mixed pastures containing a range of additional species such as sunflower, buckwheat, tillage radish, brassica and chicory.

Observations I noticed over the summer included that millet was initially quicker to establish and grow compared to the sudan grass and sorghum, however the millet died off in the small plot trial by February/March, while the sudan grass continued to produce large quantities of biomass throughout summer and into autumn. Cowpea, lab-lab and sun hemp were quite slow growing in spring and early summer, however started to grow rapidly towards the end of summer. Sunflower grew well and produced a large amount of biomass. The pasture mixes performed well at each site, with the brassica component still holding on well into April.

Due to the lack of greenery in the landscape in early summer, some of the sites were attacked by Diamond Back Moth, however all species bounced back quickly following spraying. Other than this, we did not experience any major pest/bird/rabbit etc damage to the sites.

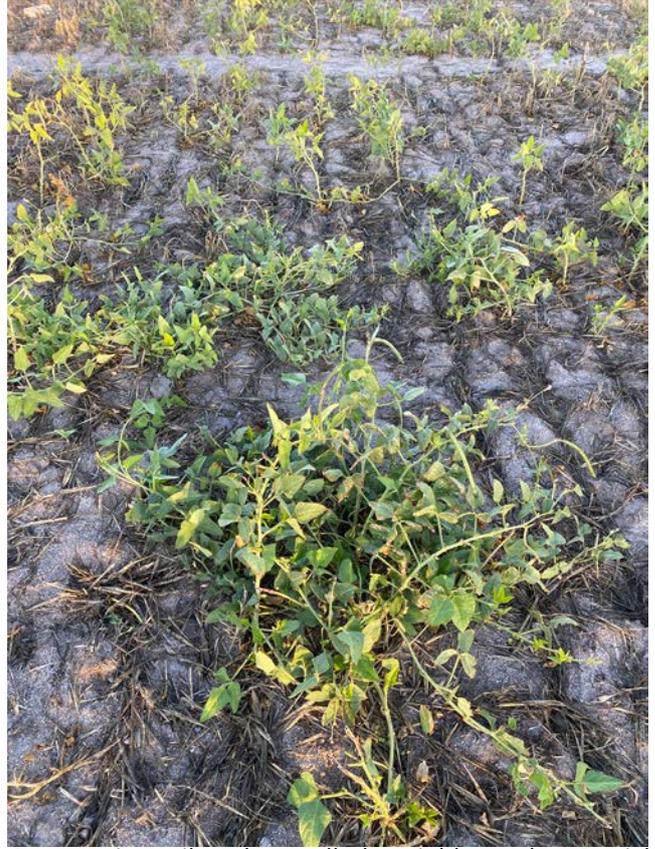
Overall, the cover cropping phase of this project has indicated so far that a range of species are suited to the local environment. Prior to seeding the sites to the cover crops, we collected soil nutrient, moisture and soil health samples. I am currently in the process once again of taking these samples prior to winter crop seeding, to quantify the changes in soil nutrients, moisture and health for each species, compared to chemical fallow. We are also looking forward to investigating the subsequent benefits to this years crops. If you have any experience with summer cover cropping in the local region we would love to hear from you!

We wish everyone all the best over the seeding period.

AgREC Update Cont.



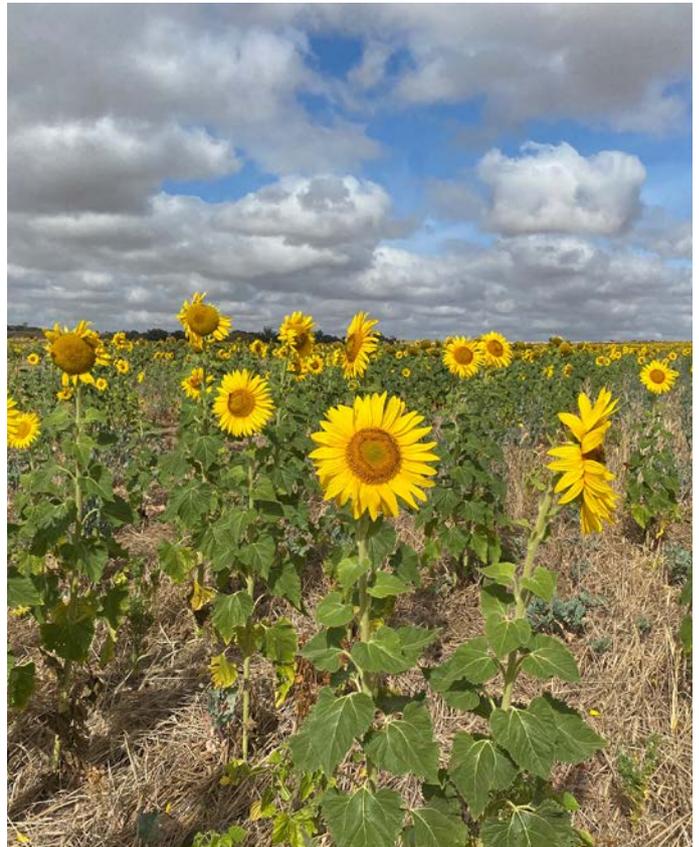
Winifred Brassica in April at the small plot trial located on Daniel Bird's property.



Cow pea in April at the small plot trial located on Daniel Bird's property.



Flowering lab lab in April at the small plot trial located on Daniel Bird's property.



Sunflowers in January at Caen Taylor's farmer demonstration trial site.

Members NEWS

Blazeaid Are In Town!

Blazeaid Coordinators, Rob and Broni Edwards, arrived in Wickepin three weeks ago to set up the Blazeaid base camp at the Wickepin Community Centre.

Rob and Broni hail from Adelaide and had been on the East Coast assisting with the flood recovery when they got the call to come to Wickepin and assist the growers affected by the Wickepin/East Narrogin fire back in February.

Rob and Broni packed up their caravan and headed home to Adelaide where they had a few days to catch up with their children before starting the trek to Wickepin.

Arriving in Wickepin in late March, Rob and Broni set up the base camp making sure everything that is needed was in place before the camp was opened to volunteers on Thursday, 7th April.

For those who don't know the work that Blazeaid do; Blazeaid is a volunteer-based organisation that works with families and individuals in rural Australia after natural disasters such as fires and floods. Working alongside the rural families, the volunteers help to rebuild fences and other structures that have been damaged or destroyed.

BlazeAid volunteers travel from all over Australia to help where needed. Volunteers usually come in their caravans and stay at the base camp for several weeks or months at a time, going out in teams to work with the property owners to repair the damage caused by fire, flood or cyclones. During their time in Wickepin the volunteers will replace several hundreds of kilometres of fencing destroyed by the fire.

While the volunteers may come and go in the time the Wickepin camp is operational, Rob and Broni will stay for the whole time the camp is open to give consistency to the running of the camp and the volunteers. Rob coordinates the fencing teams while Broni leads her band of helpers in the kitchen. The Wickepin camp is expected to be operating for up to four months.

Blazeaid ask local community/sporting/service/church/social groups etc to become involved where possible to help with catering to ease the burden of feeding the hungry workers. Donations of cakes, slices and 'one pot wonders' for evening meals are gratefully accepted. There is also a donation box at Ewen Rural Supplies where those who wish to help can make donations of grocery items (there is a list of suitable items on the box).

Thank you to all those who have already donated their time or items of food for these wonderful volunteers.



BlazeAid
**Helping Communities Rebuild
After Natural Disasters**



HON STEVE MARTIN MLC

MEMBER FOR AGRICULTURAL REGION
SHADOW MINISTER FOR HOUSING; FORESTRY



20 April 2022

Dear FACEY Group member,

At the request of multiple local residents, I endeavoured to arrange a face-to-face meeting between the Wickepin and Narrogin community and the helicopter and fixed-wing pilots who assisted with the firefighting efforts on 6 February 2022.

Unfortunately, I was unable to arrange such a meeting due to COVID restrictions and the fact that the pilots are deployed around the State during bushfire season.

However, I did participate in an online meeting organised by Hon Stephen Dawson MLC, Minister for Emergency Services, with the pilots and senior Fire and Emergency Services personnel on 13 April 2022 and had the opportunity to thank them on behalf of the Wickepin and Narrogin communities.

Many Wickepin and Narrogin residents have told me of first-hand experiences during the fire when aerial fire-fighting support prevented further loss of homes, farm buildings and livestock and I relayed your thanks to those involved.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office if I can assist you with any State Government matter, or if you would like to raise any issues with me.

Kind regards,

Hon Steve Martin MLC
Member for the Agricultural Region

Trial Seeder Upgrade

The donated trial seeder from DPIRD underwent a considerable “face lift” ready for trial site sowing!



A huge thank you to Alec Wiles, AgTech Coordinator, for all his hard work converting this machine from a clunky old beast into a modern working machine ready to get to work sowing our pasture NVT very soon!!

Animal Health Update

Lifting Lamb Survival Potential into Product



A unique program designed to help you –

- Develop strategies to improve lamb survival and reduce ewe wastage
- Implement best practice management for lambing
- Better allocate resources through planning your lambing paddocks
- Increase the kilograms of wool and/or lamb you produce/ha.

Includes one on one on-farm coaching.

Cost: \$1260 + GST for first person in a business. Significant discounts for additional participants from that business.

A special course targeted at Facey Group and Women In Farming members.

WHEN Session 1 - Setting up the Lambing Plan – 9am to 4pm
Session 2 - Half day coaching on each participant's farm – By appointment
Session 3 - Fine-tuning the lambing plan – 10am to 3pm - Date TBC
Session 4 - Reviewing the 2022 lambing – 9am to 3pm - Date TBC

Course highlights include –

- Practical & on-farm
- Targeted ewe nutrition
- Feed budgeting
- Lamb autopsy session
- Great record keeping

Giving you greater control of your lambing success!



Registration is essential as places are limited

For more information or to register contact your local deliverer:

Ken Hart

Ph 0458 812 160

ewetopia@westnet.com.au



NEWS from Our Partners

High global prices, regardless of Russia

Global grains and oilseeds markets exploded following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. In the initial two weeks, Rabobank's senior commodities analyst Cheryl Kalisch Gordon said the CBOT wheat lifted 79 per cent.

“With some of the risks of the crisis digested, at least for now, CBOT wheat has moved back just below 1,100USc/bu (as at 15/3/22), but is still 40 per cent above pre-crisis trading and 100 per cent above the five-year average,” Dr Kalisch Gordon said.

“Other major grains and oilseeds have followed to varying degrees and the outlook is for this elevated, and particularly volatile, pricing to remain at least until June,” she said.

“For pricing in the second half of the year, we're watching three main factors: Ukraine's new crop supply, who trades with Russia and whether La Nina loses its grip on 'the Americas'.

“Most Ukrainian wheat and canola are winter varieties, about to emerge post-dormancy. However, Ukraine's spring wheat, barley, corn and sunflower planting window starts now. With high input costs and widespread uncertainty, whether these crops will be planted is unclear. And whether crops – spring or winter – are harvested, is also uncertain.”

Dr Kalish Gordon said failure to plant Ukrainian spring crops would put a 60 million-tonne hole in the 2022/23 global grain supply, and that could rise to almost 90 million tonnes if both winter and spring crops cannot be harvested.

“While it's unlikely that no Ukrainian spring crops will be planted, or that none will be harvested, the longer the conflict continues, the lower new crop supply we can expect. This supply uncertainty will keep risk priced into markets towards, and into, the second half of 2022,” she said.

“For Russia – with no conflict-related impediments to planting or harvesting and ready availability of key inputs – new crop supply is not the concern, but rather if it will be available on world markets and who will buy it.

“Russian wheat is finding its way to the MENA (Middle East and North Africa) region and – with prices so high, the rouble so devalued and food security a troubling concern across that region – we know some supply will continue to make its way there in some way.”

Dr Kalish Gordon said the big question is whether China will take sizable volumes from Russia – something



Dr Kalisch Gordon, Rabobank Australia

NEWS from Our Partners

High global prices, regardless of Russia cont.

it could easily accommodate, notwithstanding freight challenges. “This would be at the expense of imports from Australia, the US and South America and would take pressure out of global grains markets in the second half of 2022.”

Dr Kalish Gordon also noted there is the still-active La Nina. “While indicators show it has passed its peak, and all except one global model shows a dissipation of the La Nina climate pattern by this July, dry conditions are reducing crop prospects in Argentina, parts of Brazil and across southern USA. If La Nina loosens its grip, we could see some pressure taken out of markets in the second half of the year, but, if not, more upward pricing pressure.”

These three factors have the potential to materially alter the trajectory of grains and oilseeds prices later this year said Dr Kalisch Gordon. “But even before Russia invaded Ukraine, COVID-related supply chain challenges, crop failures, additional demand and low stocks had grain markets trading in ranges not often encountered. So, whatever happens with Ukraine’s next crop, China’s buying and La Nina in the ‘Americas’, we expect global grain prices to trade at least 45 per cent above the five-year average in the second half of 2022,” she said.

To find out more about other Rabobank research, contact Rabobank Narrogin on (08) 9890 0600 or subscribe to RaboResearch Food & Agribusiness Australia & New Zealand on your podcast app.



Rabobank

NEWS from Our Partners

Summit Welcomes David Hull as New Local Area Manager

We are delighted welcome David Hull as the new Area Manager for Narrogin. David replaces Brett Coxon who has decided to embark on a new challenge and switched regions to now cover the Lake Grace area for Summit.



After graduating from The Western Australian College of Agriculture – Morawa and gaining on-farm experience David worked in the Rural Merchandise industry for 24 years in various roles and built up a wealth of agricultural knowledge. His most recent position prior to his current role was as Branch Manager for Elders in Pingelly.

David enjoys working alongside growers helping to improve their farming practices and productivity and is familiar with the area having lived in Pingelly for the past 6 years.

David covers the shires of Beverley, Brookton, Pingelly, Wickepin, Kulin (West), Narrogin, Cuballing and Wandering.

Speak to David today to discuss your fertilizer requirements and for more information on our technical services, including inSITE Soil & Plant analysis and Nutrient Fuel Gauges.

David Hull - Area Manager, Narrogin
Mobile: 0477 923 684
Email: dhull@summitfertz.com.au





agrimaster[®]

Agribusiness accounting software

BOOTS OFF LOG ON!

Podcast Collaboration With The Facey Group

Launching May 4, 2022



**David Egerton-
Warburton**



Kelly Pearce

We will focus on all things agribusiness, from finance to management, compliance, innovations, heartwarming personal stories and triumphs of all that have been where you are. We aim to bring insights advice, tips, tricks and wisdom from the leaders in the industry.

Listen & subscribe to us on [Apple Podcast](#), [Google Podcast](#) & [Spotify](#).

NEWS from Our Partners

Are you interested in driving for CBH?

CBH is seeking interested growers to support our outloading program and please consider using your truck or driver/s for one of three current opportunities.

1. Subcontract to an existing CBH road transporter
2. Grain Forward Haul
3. Directly contract to CBH and cart grain for select routes

With a 21.3 million tonne harvest delivered and strong export demand, we would like to be able to provide the WA grain industry with further capacity to meet this market demand.

However, with tight transport resources in WA and the ever-present threat of COVID-19 disruptions to our supply chain, we need more trucks than ever to get your grain to port.

We understand that you may not be able to participate in the outloading program until after seeding, but we encourage you to register your interest now.

For more information, please visit our website:

<https://www.cbh.com.au/storage-and-handling/grower-trucks>



Rural Aid ...

CBH is working with Rural Aid to provide financial aid, confidential counselling and water infrastructure to growers impacted by the recent fires in Wickepin, Corrigin, Bruce Rock, Quairading, Narrogin, Jerramungup and Bridgetown.

To register please visit <https://faa.ruralaid.org.au>



NEWS from Our Partners

BailiwickLegal.



HELLO FROM THE TEAM

Bailiwick Legal is a law firm providing a suite of specialised legal services to both businesses and individuals across WA, with a focus on agribusiness and rural law. Bailiwick is comprised of people who are genuinely passionate about and have deep connections to rural and regional WA.

We have been supporters of WAFarmers, CWA, Shearing Association and RRR Network for many years, as well as country sport's teams and other associations. We are continuing to grow our support in the regions by partnering with Facey Group.

This year we also launched our Regional Legal Hot Desk initiative where we will be working remotely from regional towns across WA, giving you the opportunity to meet face-to-face with one of the team. You can currently find us out and about at Beverley, Cunderdin, Dowerin, Merredin, Moora, Northam and York.

Through our partnership with Facey Group, we will be delivering information directly to you on legal matters that will impact your farming business.

All Facey Group members have access to a free 20-minute consultation with one of the team. Please contact us and mention your membership to make arrangements. We look forward to meeting you all!

email office@bailiwicklegal.com.au or call (08) 9321 5451

www.bailiwicklegal.com.au

NEWS from Our Partners

Growers Gain Insight through a New Holistic approach of Canola Variety Trialling Performance

Pacific Seeds, who are one of the leaders in the Australian Canola Industry with their new uniquely designed Hyola Technical Development Innovation Systems Technology Trials has partnered with the Facey Group in 2022 to provide local growers with one of the 20 trial sites across Australia.



This canola trial, one of 10 to be conducted in Western Australia during 2022 is being co-located near Yealering whereby local growers, agronomists, consultants and members of the Facey group can visit during the season to view all the technologies and the unique nature of the new comparative design.

The results from the 2021 Hyola Innovation System Technology trials will be available soon, with results from these 2022 trials being available early in 2023 once a full analysis has been conducted.

Benefits to Australian Canola Growers

These advanced replicated trials demonstrate the latest in trial design for yield evaluations across all herbicide technology comparisons (Hybrids vs OP and GM vs non-GM) including detailed agronomic performance assessments of current vs select new germplasm prior to commercial release.

Using a range of popular varieties from right across the Australian canola industry, combined with double and triple herbicide-stacked herbicide statistical controls unique to Pacific Seeds, the yield analysis provides for each and all of the technologies and varieties can be compared accurately, unlike any other canola trials currently conducted in Australia.

The important benefits to Australian canola growers and advisors are more detailed information on relative varietal comparative performance across different herbicide technologies (Cross-Technology), single trait or stacked, based on both single site and multi-environment (MET) analysis.

Trial Locations, Design, Assessments & Treatments

Other WA Hyola Innovation Systems Technology Trial locations in 2022 include Binu, Dandaragan, Mingenew, Buntine, Corrigin, York, Gnowangerup, Cranbrook and Gibson.

Each trial has replicated RCB herbicide technology sections sown to target 25-35 plants per m² established and has the appropriate registered chemistry applied at standard timings/rates, with stacked variety blocks also having both chemistries applied.

Field assessments for all varieties include plant establishment in m², plant vigour scores, flowering maturity in days to 50% flower, windrowing maturity (3 to 6 scale), plant height (cm), grain yield (kg/ha) and grain oil%.

Each site is managed to the highest professional standards in the industry and high integrity around agronomy and trial management where standards are designed specific to the trial environments.

Cross-Technology MET Analysis Benefits for Growers over Single Site Analysis

Multi Environment Trial (MET) analysis is the currently the most powerful tool to compare the adaptability of varieties across a range of environments and seasons using all the available data.

NEWS from Our Partners

Growers Gain Insight through a New Holistic approach of Canola Variety Trialling Performance *Cont.*

MET analysis results provide increased reliability and accuracy from a bigger dataset than a Single Site Analysis. The 2021 MET analysis was conducted on a one-year dataset that includes 11 trials from a range of environmental conditions. In 2022, this expansion of the Hyola Innovation Systems Technology trials to 20 environmental sites will provide for a 2-year combined MET analysis with results data from 2021 and 2022 replicated trial sites.

This assists in enabling advisors and growers to select consistently higher performing adapted varieties across all major herbicide technologies including stacks. These Cross-Technology MET results can then be used in addition to or in combination with GRDC NVT Individual Technology MET results.

Use of Single site location results can be inaccurate and quite misleading for longer term varietal adaptability decisions. Single sites only show “One Trial, One season, One location, Once off” result and it is imperative that when used as part of the decision making process, that the individual site statistics (CV, LSD values) are reviewed accurately when interpreting the data for performance relating to specific varieties.

Contacts for more details

Justin Kudnig, National Canola Technical Manager 0408 408616, justin.kudnig@advantaseeds.com

Andrew Heinrich, WA Canola Technical Specialist 0473 520818, andrew.heinrich@advantaseeds.com



2021 Mokine WA Hyola Innovation Systems Technology Trial

NEWS from Our Partners

Early Bird Tickets on sale for Innovation Generation 2022

Farming is about long-term vision, challenging the status quo and building towards a brighter future.

Now in its 15th year, the Innovation Generation conference will give farmers, students and agriculture professionals the chance to collaborate and learn alongside likeminded individuals.

Award-winning speakers, innovators and industry professionals from across the sector will come together to reflect on this year's theme 'Emerging Ag'. It is a chance to be inspired, challenged and to build networks across the industry.

The three-day program will also include industry tours, as well as social functions in the evenings to network and have some fun!

Join us on 18-20 July in Sydney for Innovation Generation 2022. Grab your Early Bird ticket today or check out the conference program and speakers via the website.



EMERGING AG



18-20 July
Sydney



innovationgeneration.com.au



INNOVATION
GENERATION

NEWS from Our Partners

Nitrogen Supply Update

The CSBP team has been working hard to import, produce, and despatch the fertilisers required to support seeding in 2022, while closely managing the supply-chain risks relating to COVID-19 and the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Russia produces 16% of all fertiliser traded globally, including 13% of globally traded urea, 24% of ammonia, and 40% of ammonium nitrate products (including Flexi-N). So while the production and despatch of seeding fertiliser continues at pace, the team is also very focused on preparations to support customers with their in-season nitrogen (N) fertiliser requirements.

CSBP recommends that customers contact their Account Manager to discuss options to commit to forecasted and/or top-up N requirements.

With a challenging global supply environment and high inventory costs requiring large working capital commitments, we are leveraging our strong relationships with suppliers and our local manufacturing infrastructure to ensure we have product available for our growers.

Customer commitments to in-season N demand will allow us to plan our manufacturing and import activities with greater certainty, giving customers the confidence of product availability when they need it.

An update on CSBP's local fertiliser production is available on our "CSBP Insights" blog: <https://csbp-fertilisers.com.au/insights/blog-article/2022/03/16/local-manufacturing-update-with-nic-patrick>

Plant Test to Better Understand Fertiliser Requirements

By James Easton, CSBP Senior Agronomist

Crop requirements for nitrogen (N) and potassium (K) are much higher than that for other nutrients, and hay crops can remove a lot of K. Last year, a trial on a sandy gravel at Wickopin investigated the need for both these nutrients in Bannister oats.

There were five rates of N (up to 140 kg N/ha) and four rates of K (up to 60 kg K/ha).

Wheat was grown in 2020 and soil tests indicated that the site might have been expected to be highly responsive to N in a good season (organic carbon 1.2% at 0-10cm; 50-60% gravel). Potassium levels would be considered marginal (66 mg/kg) and worth keeping an eye on.

Trials around the state in 2021 indicated that mineralisation of N from organic reserves were much higher than we've been accustomed to and some high yields were produced with only moderate N inputs.

While this trial at Wickopin showed some visual responses to N, there were no significant responses when cuts were taken to estimate hay yields (14 t/ha trial average) nor when the grain was harvested (6.7 t/ha average). There was no response to K.



NEWS from Our Partners

Plant Test to Better Understand Fertiliser Requirements

Cont.

While the trial showed no significant hay or grain production responses, these results were not unexpected given the results from plant testing.

When plant tested at early-mid tillering, the results showed good N levels with 100 L/ha Flexi-N banded and little requirement for top-up N. Potassium was above critical levels without application.

Obviously, some N and K fertiliser gives some insurance against deficiencies limiting returns in these situations, but this trial does highlight the value of plant testing as a guide to limit investment in high inputs in situations where they are unlikely to be profitable.

Given the price of fertiliser inputs this year, there will be more value in plant testing this year to get the best returns and reduce risk.

Detail of the trial discussed in this article can be found at the CSBP Research + Agronomy website: <https://csbpresults.com.au/trials/nitrogen-and-potassium-strategies-on-hay-and-oats>

For more information on nitrogen supply or plant testing, contact Trent Pettit (Account Manager – Nutrition & Sales) on 0419 923 512



Testing N & K strategies on oaten hay in Wickepin (photo July 2021)

Upcoming Opportunities



AGT BREEDERS SEED GIVEAWAY

Thanks to AGT,
Facey Group Members have the opportunity to access
3 x 1 tonne lots of barley variety "Minotaur"
to trial against the current barley varieties you have
on farm. This variety is an alternative to Planet.

Also available is **1 tonne of Denison**
courtesy of Roger Newman
if anyone would like to try this variety
this growing season

This is first in best dressed so if you are interested in
trialing either of these varieties please
Contact Amy on 0409 868 514

Upcoming Opportunities

Optimal supplementary feeding strategies for lamb survival - Murdoch University Project

Optimising ewe nutrition during pregnancy and lactation is key for increasing lamb survival. Supplementary feeding is often required to meet the nutritional demands of ewes lambing in autumn and when feed-on-offer is limited when lambing in winter or even early spring. The project will involve two components;

1. Research sites on at least 28 farms nationally to compare the survival of single and twin lambs born to ewes that are supplementary fed during lambing with self-feeders or a trail feeder
2. Detailed behavioural work using remote technologies to understand the impacts of supplementary feeding during lambing via self-feeders or trail feeding on ewe behaviour

Full details of this project can be found [HERE](#)

National Agricultural Leadership Program

The National Agricultural Leadership Program is a 9 month leadership and capability development program for Australian agriculture. It leverages the NFF's position as the peak body for Australian agriculture to provide targeted activities and unique experiences in policy development, advocacy, governance, and communications and media. For more information click [HERE](#)

Share your two cents to win one in five \$100 Mastercard Gift Cards - Community Drought Resilience Forum for the Southern Wheatbelt

Whether your a farmer, a business or a community member drought is a common occurrence that has impacts across Western Australian communities. A new consultation project under the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund will draw out the Southern Wheatbelt's needs and priorities to help inform future investments. Survey closes 30th April ... Click [HERE](#) to read more

Personal Support Services

Have you been impacted by the Shackleton Complex and Narrogin East bushfires? There are personal support services available to you.



| | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <p>Local Police</p> <p>In the event of an emergency</p> <p>000 Narrogin: (08) 9852 1300 Merredin: (08) 9030 0175</p> | <p>Rural Link</p> <p>24-hour phone line for people experiencing a mental health crisis</p> <p>1800 552 002 https://www.mhc.wa.gov.au/</p> | <p>Regional Men's Health</p> <p>Men's wellbeing and health in regional, rural, and remote WA</p> <p>(08) 9690 2277 https://regionalmenshealth.com.au/</p> | <p>24-hour Mental Health Services</p> <p>Lifeline Anyone experiencing a personal crisis 13 11 14</p> <p>Beyond Blue Anyone feeling anxious or depressed 1300 22 4636</p> <p>Kids Helpline Counselling for people ages 5 to 25 1800 55 1800</p> <p>MensLine Australia Men with emotional concerns 1300 78 99 78</p> <p>Mental Health Emergency Response Line Mental health emergencies 1300 555 788</p> <p>Suicide Call Back Service Anyone with concerns involving suicide 1300 659 467</p> <p>Open Arms Veterans and families counselling 1800 011 046</p> <p>DV Assist: 1800 080 083</p> |
| <p>Minds Online</p> <p>Telehealth appointments for anyone needing support (NDIS supported and Medicare rebates available)</p> <p>(08) 6102 1337</p> | <p>Holyoak</p> <p>Counselling and, Wheatbelt Community Alcohol and Drug Service</p> <p>(08) 9622 1029 https://holyoake.org.au/</p> | <p>Central Agcare</p> <p>Family counselling services</p> <p>(08) 9063 2037</p> | |
| <p>Key</p> <p> » Emergency Contact</p> <p> » Mental Health</p> <p> » Food Assistance</p> | <p>Telehealth Psychology</p> <p>Arrange and appointment with a counsellor (Medicare rebates available)</p> <p>(08) 6361 3235</p> | <p>Headspace</p> <p>Support for young People up to 25</p> <p>(08) 9621 5000 https://headspace.org.au/</p> | |

Industry NEWS

Research to prevent farmers' profits going up in flames

A Charles Sturt University collaboration could soon provide Australian farmers with a more accurate and efficient way to understand haystack degradation on their properties.

A new research project between Food Agility CRC, Charles Sturt University, IAG and Myriota will review what data is most essential to understanding haystack degradation as a precursor to fires.

According to the Country Fire Authority (CFA), spontaneous ignition is the leading cause of haystack fires in Victoria. These preventable fires put crops, machinery, and fencing at risk, as well as impacting the livelihood and mental health of those impacted.

Read full article [HERE](#)

Progress made on farm safety in 2021, but far more work to be done – Report finds

Farmsafe Australia's Safer Farms Report 2021 has revealed the number of fatalities on Australian farms in the first six months of 2021 has decreased to 20, compared to 33 in 2020. But serious farm-related injuries remained alarmingly consistent reaching 70 reported incidents, proving injury trends have remained flat in the last three years.

The annual report produced by Farmsafe Australia – a not-for-profit body working with farmers to improve their awareness of hazards while educating them on best practice ways to mitigate risks – found there were clear misconceptions underpinning farmer safety, health, and well-being.

Read full article [HERE](#)

Optimising glyphosate in summer spraying

Mark Congreve from ICAN presented a 90 minute webinar on 'Optimising glyphosate for summer applications'.

The webinar goes into the factors influencing glyphosate performance; what can we do to maximise performance; and what 'bad habits' should we try to avoid when making spray decisions.

The webinar was part of the GRDC investment "Herbicide Behaviour Workshops for the Australian Grains Industry."

Watch [HERE](#)

Aspermont/Kondinin Group to deliver \$2.3million drought resilience program

Aspermont is to receive \$2.3 million to roll out the Kondinin Group Drought Resilience for Agriculture Research Extension and Adoption program over three years.

The project will see Kondinin Group deliver a comprehensive farmer-focused extension and adoption program aimed at seeking out the most successful drought-related techniques, strategies and technologies being used by farmers and agribusinesses around the country.

Read full article [HERE](#)

CSIRO tours address mouse control in WA's regions

Western Australia growers across the state's mouse-troubled regions were visited by leading CSIRO rodent management scientists last week as part of a GRDC investment addressing increased mouse activity.

The 'Mouse Roadshows' travelled to 21 locations in the mid west and great southern across four days, from Northampton through to Dalwallinu in the north and Esperance across to Wagin in the south, with 245 growers and advisers attending the small group sessions.

Each workshop delivered regionally specific information ahead of anticipated mouse control issues throughout 2022.

Read full article [HERE](#)

Value Add Investment Grants are building food security for Western Australia

Western Australian agrifood and beverage businesses have been given a boost with \$7 million available from Round Two of the State Government's successful Value Add Investment Grants program to build resilience, growth and diversification in the sector.

The transformational program is stimulating investment in local food and beverage manufacturing and value adding opportunities, while also building resilience to overcome supply chain vulnerabilities and reduce reliance on imported and interstate processed products.

Read full media statement [HERE](#)

Industry NEWS Cont.

Deep ripping the right soil can pay off this season, despite fuel prices

High fuel prices are not necessarily a reason to hold off deep ripping, according to analysis by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD).

DPIRD research scientist Bindi Isbister said with recent diesel price hikes and hard soils from a dry summer increasing draft and fuel use, many growers were asking whether it was still worth deep ripping. “Despite the high cost of fuel, if you are deep ripping a soil type that typically has a good yield response then it is still economically worthwhile,” Ms Isbister said.

Read full article [HERE](#)

Pasture Seed Industry Delivers \$3 Billion Annually to Australian Agriculture

In an Australian-first, data released Feb. 28 demonstrates the immense value of the pasture seed industry to Australian agriculture.

Osman Mewett, Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Seed Federation (ASF), the peak national association for Australia’s seed for sowing sector said, “Australian seed companies supply 40,000 to 45,000 tonnes of pasture seed annually to livestock industries (dairy, beef, sheep meat and wool). In terms of farm gate value-creation, this annually sown pasture seed delivers a total of \$2.98 billion or 8% of the \$35.3 billion farm gate value from the major livestock industries each year.

“The value-add of this seed highlights its critical contribution to the red meat, dairy and wool industries in Australia.”

Read full article [HERE](#)

Australian sheepmeat producers among most profitable in the world

The 2021 Global agribenchmark report for sheepmeat has been released.

The report is available [here](#) and provides an analysis of the performance of Australian sheepmeat producers against 55% of the global sheep flock as well as the performance of other farms.

Read full article [HERE](#)

Lucerne pastures and rotational grazing lift soil carbon levels

Soil carbon testing as part of a MLA-funded project has found growing lucerne and rotational grazing can lift soil carbon levels above those found under adjoining heritage scrub.

Jo Williams said the results of soil testing carried out on her family’s property at Field in South Australia’s upper southeast was proof grazing enterprises can be run sustainably.

“The results show than human interference isn’t always negative – in fact, managing productive pastures can be good for soil carbon,” Jo said.

“Our family settled this property in 1948 and are strong believers in leaving the land in a better condition than we found it for future generations.

“Understanding our soils and how we can improve them is a key part of this.”

Read full article [HERE](#)

National flock numbers continue to grow

MLA and AWI’s sheepmeat and wool survey provides a representation of flock populations, demographics, producer intentions and breeds, allowing MLA to make projections around the sheepmeat industry.

The results of the February 2022 survey are now in, revealing the production activities and intentions of producers from MLA’s defined sheep producing regions (as depicted below).

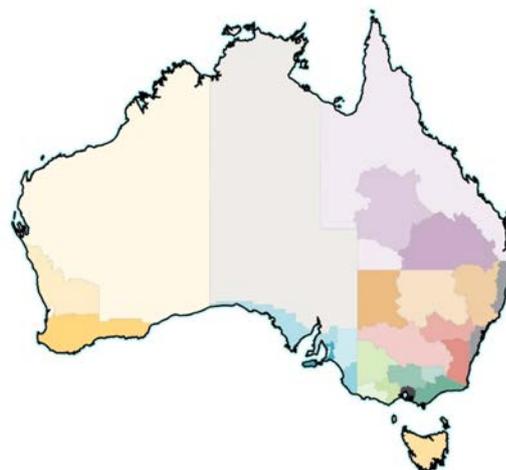
Read full article [HERE](#)

MLA Regions



kynetec
INCORPORATING
CLARK

1802174 - Sheep, MLA, Twitter



Podcasts of the Month



ABC All In The Mind Podcast

Episode - How our brain chemicals drive our behaviour

You've heard of adrenaline, oxytocin and cortisol, but what about glutamate and GABA?

And how much do you really know about the chemicals coursing through your brain?

On this All in the Mind episode, they take a whistle stop tour through your brain to learn how various chemicals influence our behaviour

[Listen HERE](#)



My Rain Gauge is Busted Podcast

Episode - The 101 of climate change science

In this episode we talk to Monash University's Emeritus Professor in the School of Earth and Atmosphere and Environment, Neville Nicholls about the science behind climate change.

There is a long history of research that has culminated in our understanding today, including work presented by John Tyndall in 1859 to the Royal Society.

[Listen HERE](#)



Your Farm Business Podcast

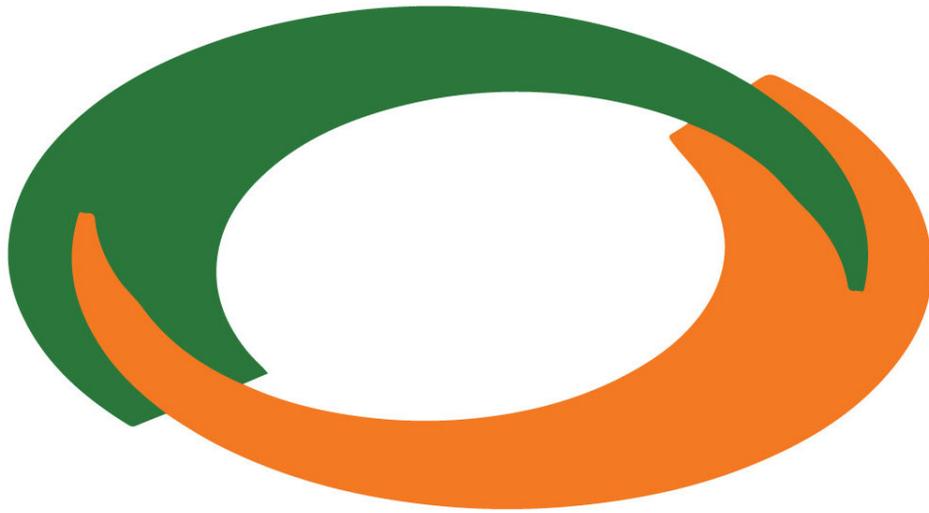
Episode - Ukraine & Omicron Impact on Farmers

This episode focuses on the impact of recent significant geo-political events in Ukraine, as well as the ongoing pandemic, on Australian farm businesses.

Darryl Gobbett, currently a Visiting Fellow at the SA Centre for Economic Studies at the University of Adelaide, shares his thoughts on these two significant developments, particularly their impact on commodity prices, input costs, interest rates, inflation, and the value of the Australian dollar.

[Listen HERE](#)

FACEY GROUP



Shaping the Future

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2022

Taking Care of Business
For early career farmers

** POSTPONED **

Wickepin Community Centre

Women in Agriculture Day

Wednesday, 20th July

Wickepin Community Centre