

FACEY CONNECT

LEADING, INSPIRING, SUPPORTING AND CHALLENGING
OUR LOCAL FARMING COMMUNITY



January-February 2023



**2023
Trial Summary**

**Elders
Confinement
Feeding - Farm
Visit Highlights**

**Hyperlocal
Weather
Station
Project**

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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

Happy new year! We hope you had a lovely post-harvest break and ready for the year ahead.

We have certainly hit the ground running here at Facey Group. With everyone back in the office and new staff onboarded, we recently planned out our events calendar for the year and its going to be a big year! Lots of learning, social and community events coming your way.

I would like to welcome our three new staff to Facey Group. Rheannon Turton has started as our Events and Admin Coordinator. We now have two Agricultural Project Coordinators- Tina Astbury and Kaitlyn Anderson who have both moved to Wickepin to take on their new roles. We are thrilled with the new additions to the team and excited for the year ahead. We certainly do have a big project load this year and later in the report we have an outline of our new projects.

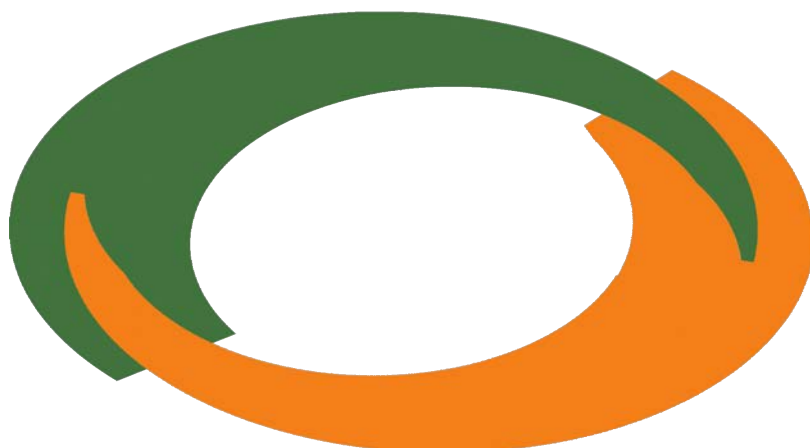


Dr Kelly Pearce, Facey Group Chief Executive Officer

Our Annual Trials Review and Pre-seeding Sundowner is on the 23rd of March at the Wickepin Community Centre starting at 4pm. We have made this a casual, come in your work clothes and have a listen and a beer event and all welcome! We will outline some results from last year and have a few guest speakers. We hope you can make it to our first event of the year.

All the best getting ready for seeding.

FACEY GROUP

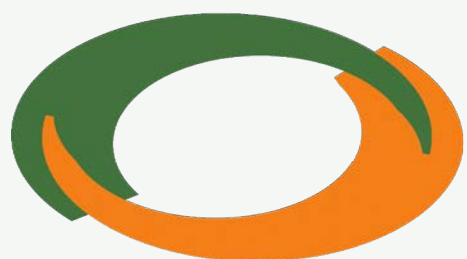


Shaping the Future

Trials Review & Pre-Seeding Catch Up

**THURSDAY
23 MARCH 2023
4:00pm
Registrations @ 3:45pm**

FACEY GROUP



Shaping the Future

Join us for ...

**2022 Facey Group Trial Results Presentation
Information Session on 2023 Facey Group Trials
Industry Guest Speakers
2022 Frost Tour Q&A Panel
Sundowner & Cocktail Dinner**

Bookings via: www.trybooking.com/CGDIM

A photograph of a woman and a child, both smiling, holding small chicks in their hands. They are standing in front of a wire mesh fence, with a farm landscape in the background. The woman is on the left, and the child is on the right. The chicks are small and fluffy, one is dark and the other is light. The background shows a grassy field and some trees under a clear sky.

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AgREC Update

Meet the new Agriculture Research and Extension Coordinators!

By Kaitlyn Anderson & Tina Astbury - Agricultural Project Coordinators

We would like to introduce our new AGREC team Kaitlyn Anderson and Tina Astbury.



Growing up in the Goldfields, Kaitlyn was far from any golden crops or lush green pastures. While completing her studies in Agricultural Science at Murdoch University, she developed a strong passion for the Agricultural community and helping farmers gain access to and understanding of the latest research to better their enterprises.

Enlisting her impressive time management skills, being the President of the Murdoch Agricultural Student Association in 2022 while working at Linley Valley Pork and handling a full-time study load, Kaitlyn is excited to keep busy learning the challenges and opportunities the Facey Group members have on-farm and is ready to get hands-on with the research projects going forward.

Tina grew up near Harrismith and went to high school locally. She left many years ago to study and travel. Now she is looking forward to returning to Wickepin, spending more time with her parents, and becoming involved in the community. She has two adult sons.

Tina has always been interested in life sciences and gained a Bachelor of Science (Biology) at Murdoch. She has utilised her studies in a range of fields from plant nutrition, soils and growing media as the Quality Manager at Baileys Fertilisers to supporting clients with personal health and nutrition. She is looking forward to better understanding the challenges that farm businesses are facing in these rapidly changing times and to getting out in the field with various research projects.



A Summary of our 2023 Projects

MLA Confinement Feeding and Deferred Grazing Management System

This project looks at how livestock production systems can be successfully adapted to changing climate while continuing to improve pasture availability during dry seasons.

This MLA project will support growers interested in confinement feeding their ewes before lambing. The Facey Group will look follow two producers who have implemented a confinement-feeding system and collect data on how confinement-feeding ewes affects pasture availability, lamb survival, ewe health, and weaning weight.

AgREC Update Cont.

Drought Hub and CSIRO Drought Resilient Landscapes with Profitable Native Shrubs and Legume Systems

The aim of this project is to help farmers to improve the profitability of low-producing paddocks and regenerate salinity-prone landscapes. With the combination of Anameka Saltbush, and self-regenerating annual legumes, the project will look at novel forage systems that can mitigate the impact of drought and increase dry matter during annual feed gaps. Early research indicates that establishing a legume-dominant understory in a saltbush system can improve biomass production and stocking capabilities, but there is still much to learn about pasture species selection, effective establishment, and the long-term persistence and environmental benefits.

The team joined Hayley Norman, Matt Wilmont, and Sarah Rich from the CSIRO to visit our new trial sites at Troy and Carly Smiths and Shaun and Hilary Wittwers.



Team at Troy and Carly Smith's property discussing how Saltbush can utilise water and turn a low-production paddock into a highly profitable livestock system.

What is Anameka?

Anameka Saltbush was developed by Hayley Norman, CSIRO and many others. A national survey and cultivation program of saltbushes was conducted and the most digestible and nutritious varieties were selected. Results indicates that Anameka can offer up to 20% higher economic returns compared to other saltbush varieties.



Troy and Carly Smith established saltbush site.

AgREC Update Cont.

Ecosystems Processes in Enhancement of Soil Carbon

Facey Group has teamed up with Griffith University and the Soil CRC to better understand how ecosystem processes drought and compaction affect soil carbon quality and quantity as well the effect on soil resilience and environmental stressors. With this information, the project hopes to develop assessment protocols for improvement of soil carbon stocks and help farmers determine practices that would most likely improve soil performance and productivity.

Plant Based Solutions to Improve Soil Performance Through Rhizosphere Modification

Continuing into 2023 is the Soil CRC-Murdoch project held at Bullaring hosted by Alan Manton and Kelly Pearce, and at Harrismith hosted by David Quartermaine. There were visual differences at the Harrismith site this year where a cereal crop was sown over a terminated 4 year old Lebeckia stand in 2022. Early results indicate plots that had Lebeckia established in prior years performing well with an average yield of 3.9t/ha compared to plots with no Lebeckia establishment yielding on average 2.08t/ha.



Harrismith Lebeckia Site. Right of the photo is the plot with established Lebeckia, with the left side of the photograph is the plot with no Lebeckia Planted

What is Lebeckia?

Lebeckia is a short-term perennial legume from South Africa that was found in low rainfall and poor fertility soil environments that match the Wheatbelt region of Western Australia. This makes it a promising variety to increase nitrogen availability in challenging environments and conditions that are found in the region. At this point, Lebeckia is not commercially available but with insights into results and benefits it has produced during this trial, it will be a plant to keep an eye on.

Other Exciting Projects Coming Up and Continuing into 2023

- Impact of stubble height on cropping systems in the Western Region- GRDC and Liebe Group
- Closing the Economic Yield Gap for Grain Legumes in WA- GRDC and GGA

'That's A Wrap'

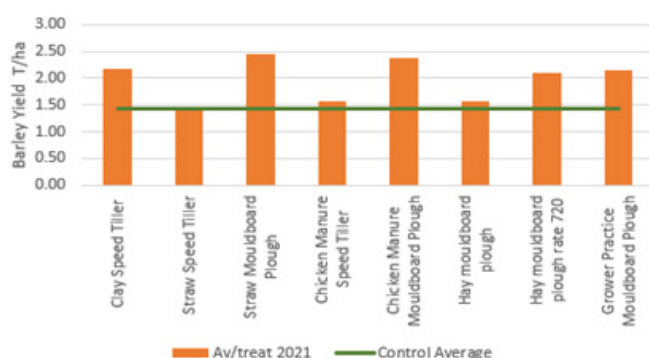
With some projects ending, the AgREC team is looking forward to sharing results at this year's Trials Review Event that will be held at 4:00pm on Thursday 23rd of March. With a late start to harvest, Kaitlyn and Tina are still working hard to gather results from the 2022 growing season but early evaluations have given some interesting insights into the 2022 projects.

AgREC Update Cont.

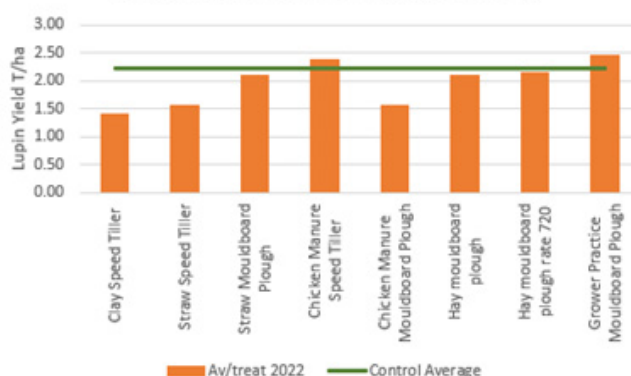
GRDC Incorporation of organic soil ameliorants to boost productivity of sandy soils in the medium to high rainfall zones of the Wheatbelt of Western Australia

The soils amelioration project with GRDC and Corrigin Farm Improvement Group has come to an end. The project ran over two growing seasons and has given some interesting insights into organic soil amelioration treatments. The project aimed to increase crop productivity on sandy soils that can be inherently infertile, contain low organic matter levels, low water holding capacity, and have water repellence and compaction issues. A combination of soil amelioration methods and organic amendments to increase grain yield and profitability were applied.

Organic Soil Amelioration Treatments from the 2021 Growing Season



Organic Soil Amelioration Treatments from the 2022 Growing Season



2021 showed promising results for this trial with nearly all treatments producing higher yields than the control treatment that had no treatment applied. In 2022 season the control performed better than most treatment types. The Facey Group is currently reviewing the results of the trial and are looking forward to getting a better understanding of how the trial affected soil quality, soil nutrition, and on farm economics. Thank you to Gary and Sue Lang for being the host farmers for the site.

Long Season Wheat Trial with Stirling to Coast and Farmers GRDC

The trial explored the performance of two varieties of long-season wheat by AGT, Illabo and Denison, to utilise soil moisture from summer rainfall events. Sheep were grazed on the crop and the impact on yield assessed. Kaitlyn and Tina were lucky enough to view the farmer demonstration site just prior to harvest in December 2022 and assist in removing the grazing cages. These grazing cages protected a small portion of the wheat from grazing so harvest yields could be estimated without the impact of grazing.

Denison was sown on 02/05/22 and Illabo was sown on 15/04/22. 554 Merino ewe hoggets lightly grazed the paddock for 8 days (8.5 DSE/ha) in June. Three sections in each trial plot were protected from grazing. The biomass amount at the time of sowing was lower for the later sown Denison than for Illabo. At harvest, Denison outperformed Illabo in spite of the later start and dry conditions during seeding. Brenton's harvester recorded approximately 2.5 t/ha for the Denison and only 2.2 t/ha for Illabo. Our hand-cut lab sample results also demonstrated improved yield for Denison. The hand-cuts taken within the cages protected from grazing indicate a negative impact of grazing on yield but further work is needed to determine optimal grazing time of these long-season wheats. More on this at our Trials Review Night.

This paddock experienced waterlogged conditions with this year's higher rainfall, so while yields were modest Brenton thought most wheat would have struggled with the conditions.

AgREC Update Cont.

Summit Vigour Fertiliser Trial

During 2022, Alan Manton and Kelly Pearce ran a comparison trial for 3 different rates of Summit's Vigour® fertiliser product when applied at seeding of Vixen Wheat. Vigour® is a fully granulated Muriate of Potash based NPK fertiliser with Copper (0.10%) and Zinc (0.20%). In-season measures of plant tissue and NDVI did not indicate much difference between the fertiliser rates during establishment. It was a good growing season and a solid performance at harvest for the Vixen wheat.

Application of Summit Vigour	Average yield across 4 plots of 1.5 ha each	Average gross income per ha after Summit Vigour costs
120 kg/ha	5.22 T/ha	\$1670
100 kg/ha	4.83 T/ha	\$1560
80 kg/ha	4.76 T/ha	\$1564

There was variation across the paddock that caused some differences in yield and response to the rates of fertiliser. Overall, the 120 kg/ha application of Vigour showed an improvement in response. At the lower two rates of fertiliser there was no significant improvement.

Barley Variety Trial

A range of common barley varieties were compared to evaluate growth and performance within the Yealering/Bullaring region. Suitable rainfall and a good growing season led to exceptional conditions. Cyclops had the highest establishment count but also had the most erect growth habit thereby having the lowest NDVI and less shading to inhibit weed growth. The yield was calculated from the harvester data and the average yield across the three plots for each variety was Beast 5.91 T/ha, Cyclops 5.38 T/ha, Commodus 5.30 T/ha, Minitour 4.97 T/ha and Scope 4.49 T/ha. Beast was a high performer. The grain quality results are interesting, and we will review them on trials night.

Firestik Frost Field Trial

The product Firestik 4™ produced by Field Systems has gained plenty of local interest with its claims to support wheat and other grain crops to be more frost tolerant. Firestik 4™ is made via the vapour phase separation of wood smoke components resulting in a food-grade smoke extract containing plant phenols, karrikinolides and butenolides, furans, pyran and organics acids. Such compounds have been shown to have effects on plants and bacteria the mode and range of action is under investigation. Possible action of Firestik 4™ or other such products may involve improving plant stress tolerance or altering populations or capacities of the bacteria present on the plant in particular ice-nucleating *Pseudomonas* sp. Firestik 4™ was trialled in 3 paddocks that have traditionally been at risk of frost. We are still waiting on some further information and look forward to sharing the results at Trial's Night.

Other Trials also wrapping up this year.

- Increasing the profitability of the double break rotation in the **MRZ** of WA Wheatbelt through the incorporation of an early sown high-value pulse.
- Investigating the benefits of multispecies cover crops in low-rainfall mixed farming systems
- Closing the Economic Yield Gap for Grain Legumes in WA
- Pasture National Variety Trial

Elders Confinement Feeding & Animal Health Day

Farm Visit Highlights

Venue: Allan Hobley's Farm

Wiringa Park, Nyabing, WA

When: February 2023

Key Takeaway

- Contain to maintain.
- Keep it simple and consistent.
- "You're not buying pellets; you're buying green feed and nitrogen."

Visit Overview

A run of ordinary years at Wiringa Park put pressure on Allan Hobley to re-think his ewe and paddock management system. Not wanting to be dictated by the "weather gods" Allan invested in a permanent confinement feeding set-up to contain his ewes to maintain and increase his pasture establishment, nitrogen fixation and lambing survival rates.

With around 2,000 ewes moving to confinement feeding after shearing in April, staff at Wiringa Park can feed all ewes 750g/h/day within 15 minutes with a trailer auguring feed into bunks that run the length of the set-up. They have found the design easy and reduces the need to enter pens. Ewes are contained for 10-12 weeks returning to pasture 10 days before lambing, allowing Allan to match his pasture availability to ewe nutritional requirements.

The key to Allan's success is having well-prepared ewes going into confinement and utilising the time the ewes spend in the yards during shearing to feed them hay and straw has reduced the amount of gauging when coming into confinement. Pairing this with a high protein pellet instead of a lupin/cereal mix has reduced ewe losses considerably with only 2 ewe losses in 2022.

Although Allan admits that he feeds a considerable amount to maintain his ewes before lambing, the system gives him peace of mind when it comes to budgeting for feed, gaining the ability to increase lambing percentage to 113% and to silage vetch to feed during the feed gap if there is left over pasture.



Pen setup

50x50 pens with well drained bunks holding 400 ewes per pen. Feed out with feeding trailer and auger.

Things Allan Would Change

- Addition of matting to the flooring along feed bunks to reduce compaction and maintain water run-off.
- White boundary/sight wire not needed, could be replaced with strainer wire through ring lock to maintain fence structure.
- Smaller ring lock to hold lambs. Allan found lambs get their head stuck in the current type.
- Pellet feeding resulted in a lower loss of ewes than the lupin and grain mix.
- Larger Pens 50x100m.

Things To Consider

- Location and slope of pens to ensure efficient water run-off.
- Small water troughs to reduce water wastage as they do need cleaning daily to every second day.
- Set up does require daily feeding. If you can't make a day or bad weather is due an additional feed per day may be required.
- Allow enough bunk space to reduce shy feeders.

For further information: Kaitlyn Anderson, Facey Group T 08 9888 1223 M 0409 868 514

E agec@faceygroup.org.au

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Agrifutures - Hyperlocal Weather Station Project

By Maree Dougall - Facey Group Innovation Manager

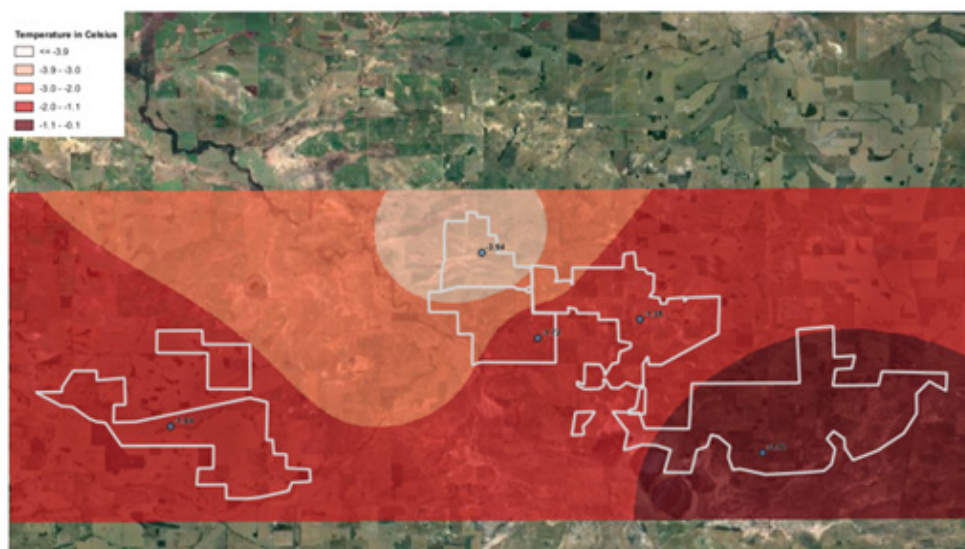
The Facey Group are seeking more members to install weather stations!

As we conclude this project funded by AgriFutures a workshop session was held with Annie Brox from Origo for our growers who have installed the technology on farm to delve into the applications of the data.

Currently the installed technology covers rainfall, temperature, windspeed and direction plus also tank monitoring also. The company is now in the process of investigating the ability to roll out live weather forecasting for all weather stations so this will be an added value to the technology.



A key project outcome was to turn high resolution local and landscape-scale climate, rainfall and soil moisture data quality into practical and relevant insights to support farm input and crop /pasture rotation decision making. From this projects success we are looking to continue the roll out of the technology to expand the hypernetwork of weather stations so if you would like to be part of this exciting opportunity please get in contact with Maree – 0448103747 innovation@faceygroup.org.au



October 2022 Min Temp Yealering Cluster Distribution Map

SW WA Drought Hub - Facey Group Update

By Maree Dougall - Regional Node Lead

The beginning of 2023 has seen the Regional Node Lead group come together to discuss all the year ahead activity and opportunities where we all aim to link the Hub to end users by gathering and sharing knowledge, coordinating local activities and supporting hub activities. A new exciting change is the appointment of Julianne Hill as the manager of the SW WA Node Network for the remainder of the project.



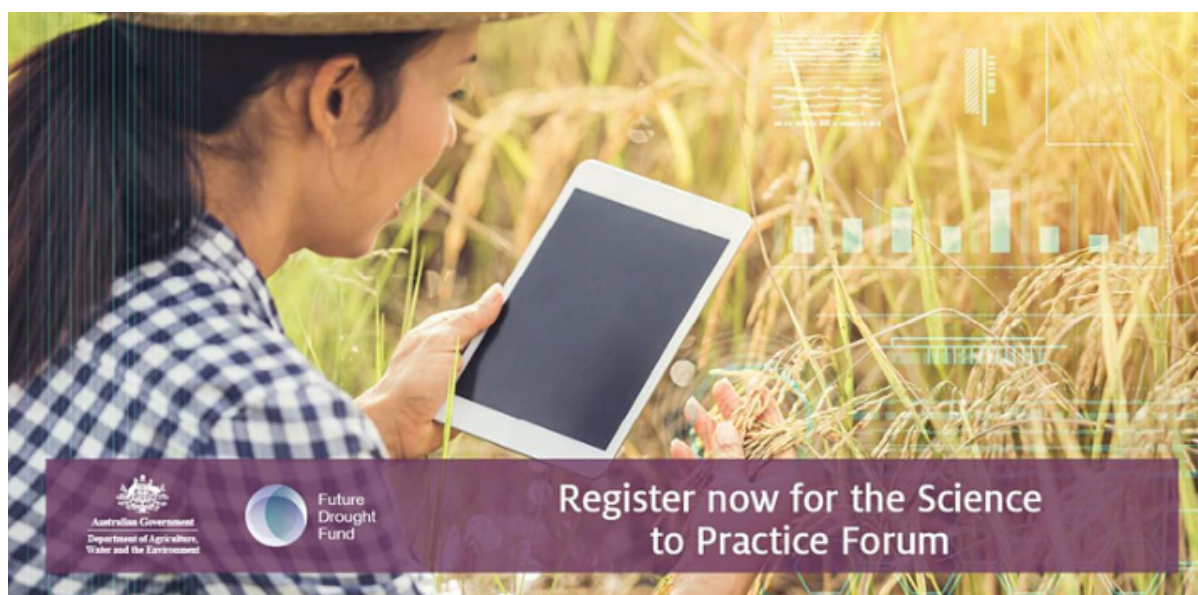
Funding Rounds

This has been a busy period with a number of submissions being entered under the below funding opportunities with the Facey Group both leading and also partnering in a number of applications. It was great to see the excellent collaboration opportunities that these funding round has fostered so all are hopeful on the outcomes and on ground activity following:

- Adoption and Extension
- Long-term Trials of Drought Resilient Farming Practices Grants Program

Upcoming Events:

2023 Future Drought Fund Science to Practice Forum – June 6 & 8 2023



Online Climate Tools – Updates:

Climate Services for Agriculture (CSA) gives seasonal forecasts, future climate projections and historical climate data at a 5km² resolution right across Australia. Users can now change thresholds and date ranges to better match their location and farming system. There are also new commodities available to choose from and a new Temperature Humidity Index (THI) for beef dairy and sheep.

<https://climateservicesforag.indraweb.io/>

SW WA Drought Hub - Facey Group

Update CONT ...

DR.SAT updated to help more farmers and growers

The Future Drought Fund's Drought Resilience Self-Assessment Tool (DR.SAT) has been updated with new functionality after consultation across Australia's agricultural regions.

Improvements to the free tool include easier farm boundary mapping, access to practical examples of tried and tested drought resilience strategies to help tailor your own farm business solutions without needing to log into the tool, and environmental resilience content that covers more commodities and regions.

Access commodity and region coverage maps here: <https://bit.ly/3BkGoz0>

DR.SAT users can access:

- Farm-specific satellite imagery and remote sensing data covering past and current landscape conditions. The latest updates include 'vegetation cover' (fractional cover) data and 3D terrain view modelling.
- Climate projections for their farm for 2030 and 2050.
- Self-assessments for whole-of-farm strategic planning, including environmental, financial, and personal and social signals.
- Links to more resources to help prepare for and adapt to a more volatile climate.

Assess your farm's resilience at: drsat.com.au

Want to help shape the future of the tool? Register now to take part in focus groups in early 2023: help@drsat.com.au



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry



Future
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Industry NEWS

Livestock partnership delivers new code of practice for managing effluent

The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) has registered a new national code of practice developed in partnership with the Australian Livestock and Rural Transporters Association (ALRTA) to reduce the hazards and risks associated with effluent spillage during the transport of livestock.

NHVR CEO Sal Petrocchio said the Managing Effluent in the Livestock Supply Chain Code of Practice had been specifically developed by industry for industry, but would have far-reaching benefits for all road users and communities. [Read full article HERE](#)

Rumin8 secures multi-million dollar Phase 2 seed funding

Australian climate technology company Rumin8 has closed Phase 2 of its seed funding round, securing US\$12 million.

The seed funding was led by the Bill Gates-founded Breakthrough Energy Ventures (BEV) with participation from Andrew and Nicola Forrest's agri-food business Harvest Road Group.

Rumin8 designs solutions to reduce methane emissions in agriculture. The company identifies naturally occurring compounds that have anti-methanogenic properties and says it reproduces them in an efficient, low-cost, scalable, and high-quality process to feed to livestock to reduce their emissions. [Read full article HERE](#)

Study finds increased risk of nitrogen losses when applying sulphate of ammonia to dry, limed soils

Applying the fertiliser sulphate of ammonia onto a paddock that has recently been limed may increase soil nitrogen losses through volatilisation – meaning less nutrients for crops and potentially higher input costs for growers – new research shows.

Led by the University of Western Australia (UWA), the research is part of a GRDC investment that aims to help growers with their fertiliser decisions to increase crop productivity and improve nitrogen fertiliser use efficiency. [Read full article HERE](#)

Did you miss the public lecture from Prof. Frank Mitloehner on New methane accounting for agriculture?

Click [HERE](#) to watch his full presentation at UWA on 8th February 2023 at an event hosted by DPIRD & WARLC.

US right to repair for farm machinery will disadvantage Aussie growers

The National Farmers' Federation says an agreement struck in the US allowing farmers the right to repair their own farm equipment will place Aussie farmers at a disadvantage unless similar steps are taken here.

The right to repair allows farmers to take their equipment to a dealer of their choice to fix a problem or repair the machine themselves.

"For years we've been calling for Australian farmers to have the right to repair their agricultural machinery," NFF President Fiona Simson said.

"Farmers are small business owners who should have the same right as anyone else to have their machinery repaired by their preferred repairer or make small repairs on farm without fear of voiding warranties and travelling long distances to access authorised repairs and then being burdened by their supply restrictions.

"This change would significantly reduce repair work delays, getting farmers and their machinery back in the paddocks much quicker." [Read full article HERE](#)

NFF has some concerns with ACCUs review

The National Farmers' Federation (NFF) has welcomed the findings of the review into Australia's carbon credit framework but has highlighted concerns about missing farmer representation and support.

Minister for Climate Change and Energy, Chris Bowen, released the final report of the Independent Review of Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs) this week, with the Government accepting, in principle, all 16 recommendations by the review panel, led by former Chief Scientist, Professor Ian Chubb AC.

[Read full article HERE](#)

Australia to phase out live sheep export amid opposition from peak farmers body

The Australian government has begun the process of phasing out live sheep export in a move welcomed by animal welfare organisations.

But the National Farmers' Federation is opposing ending live export and will not participate in consultation about the best way to phase out the trade.

[Read full article HERE](#)

Industry NEWS Cont.

Scientists crack one of broadacre cropping's most sought genetic secrets

30 years of research at The University of Queensland and the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) has culminated in gene discoveries that allow breeders to better protect cereal crops from water scarcity.

The discoveries culminated in key findings made by the Australian Research Council (ARC) funded project Cereal blueprints for a water-limited world, led by Professor Andrew Borrell in collaboration with researchers from the Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation (QAAFI) and DAF.

Researchers spent decades investigating a trait known as stay-green, where some sorghum lines maintained green leaves for longer under dry conditions, leading to higher grain yield.

[Read full article HERE](#)

New carbon management modules on 'The Toolbox'

Two new carbon management modules are now available on MLA's free eLearning platform, 'The Toolbox'.

Packed with practical advice, the training modules focus on the key concepts of carbon accounting and the actions producers can take on-farm to support their emissions reduction and carbon sequestration journey. [Read more HERE](#)

GPA survey reflects challenges of high input costs

HIGH input costs and extreme weather events headed the list of challenges growers faced in producing the near-record crop of 2022-23, according to 2023 survey results released by Grain Producers Australia. [Read more HERE](#)

Agsafe to deliver bagMUSTER agricultural plastics recycling program

Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Seed Federation, Katherine Delbridge, said: "Plastic packaging has an important role to play in Australian agriculture by protecting inputs like seed during transport and storage.

"Input industries therefore have an important role to play in ensuring the resulting plastic waste is recycled in an environmentally and socially responsible way."

[Read more HERE](#)

Grains Research Updates 2023: Wheat sowing depth tested on sandplain soils

Long coleoptile wheat can help ensure good crop establishment and productivity if seed ends up sown deeper than intended on ameliorated sandplain soils, a Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) experiment has shown.

Grower interest in long coleoptile wheat has increased with greater use of sowing deep to chase moisture and extend the seeding window, or with seeding soft soils following amelioration using strategic deep tillage.

A field experiment in 2022 assessed the role of the long coleoptile trait in wheat to improve crop establishment, vigour and yield, and mitigate the risk of poor establishment from sowing too deep on ameliorated and non-ameliorated soil.

[Read full media release HERE](#)

Record WA grain harvest exceeds 26 million tonnes

Western Australia has recorded a record breaking 26.1 million tonne winter harvest following an excellent growing season.

The February Grain Industry Association of Western Australia (GIWA) Crop Report says the record harvest is eight per cent higher than 2021 and 31 per cent higher than 2016, the previous record (prior to 2021). WA has produced just over 50 million tonnes of grain in the last two years compared to about 60 million tonnes in the previous four years.

[Read full article HERE](#)

New alliance calls for emergency road funding

A NEWLY-FORMED Rural Road Alliance is calling for an emergency funding package totalling nearly \$5.5 billion in the upcoming Federal Budget.

The Alliance - which represents stakeholders from across regional Australia including farmers, transporters and local councils - has been formed in response to the critical challenges facing Australia's rural road network in the wake of recent flooding and high rainfall.

The Alliance includes GrainGrowers, the National Farmers' Federation (NFF), the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) and the Australian Livestock and Rural Transporters Association (ALRTA). [Read full article HERE.](#)

Upcoming Opportunities



Applications are now open for Nuffield Australia's 2024 Scholarship program, which for the first time includes scholarships aimed at drought resilience study topics.

The Future Drought Fund (FDF) is investing \$1.6 million dollars through Nuffield over the next two years to help farmers increase their knowledge of drought resilience and better prepare themselves and their communities for a changing climate.

Scholars will have the opportunity to travel overseas to study drought resilience and learn from international leaders in the field.

Each scholarship is valued at \$35,000 and farmers and others working in food and fibre production aged between 28 and 45 should apply now. Applications close 9 June 2023.

Find out more about the Nuffield Drought Resilience Scholarships and apply at: nuffield.com.au/how-to-apply



Join AWI Chairman, Jock Laurie in Katanning this March.

Woolgrowers and industry alike are invited to come along and meet AWI Chairman Jock Laurie for some light refreshments and food.

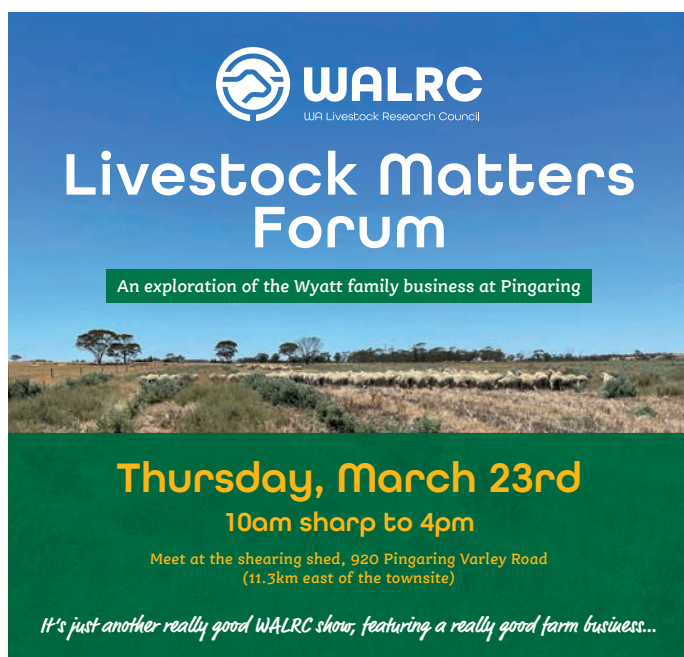
This is a great chance to hear about AWI's priorities and current projects including the Bio-Defleecing, Catch and Delivery Modules, and Marketing activities.

EVENT: AWI MEET THE CHAIRMAN
TIME: 4.30PM
DATE: MARCH 8TH, 2023
VENUE: THE OLD POWER STATION,
PREMIER MILL HOTEL,
KATANNING

REGISTER
HERE



Upcoming Opportunities



WALRC
WA Livestock Research Council

Livestock Matters Forum

An exploration of the Wyatt family business at Pingaring

Thursday, March 23rd
10am sharp to 4pm

Meet at the shearing shed, 920 Pingaring Varley Road
(11.3km east of the townsite)

It's just another really good WALRC show, featuring a really good farm business...

We look at shade, shelter, reproduction,
water, salt and succession!

And, we bring in a spot of outside perspective with Tottenham
NSW Farmer David Greig (Find him on Twitter @propFarmer)
drawing parallels between his system and Pingaring.

Full program [HERE](#) | Register to attend [HERE](#)

More information Esther Price: eo@walrc.com.au or 0418 931 938



meatup
FORUM

REGISTER NOW
Albany | 28 March 2023

mla.com.au/meatup

mla
MEAT & LIVESTOCK AUSTRALIA

KONDININ GROUP'S **Farming Ahead** INDEPENDENT INFORMATION FOR AGRICULTURE

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST:

Facey Group are seeking Expressions of Interest from our members who may benefit from a discounted membership to the Farming Ahead Website and Publications.

Please email comms@faceygroup.org.au if you would like more information on this offer.



NATIONAL
8 March 2023
Online event

GRDC FARM BUSINESS UPDATES

GRDC
GRAINS RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Join the next GRDC Farm Business National
livestream looking into Practical Strategies to
Manage Growth

Presenter: Carmen Quade, AgriFocused
Date: Wednesday 8 March 2023
Time: 1:00pm-2:00pm AEDT
Venue: Online
Cost: Free

The livestream will explore the business changes that occur as family farms evolve through simple structures such as sole proprietors and partnerships, right through to corporate family farms with multiple stakeholders. How management at the various stages adapts to manage the roles and responsibilities relative to the business.

For more information and to register for this online event, [CLICK HERE](#)

Upcoming Opportunities



T90 Field Day @ Wagin, WA

Thursday 30th of March @ 1:30pm



ANDREW THOMPSON
Murdoch University



MARK FERGUSON
neXtgen Agri



ANDREW KENNEDY
Thrive Agri Services



TIM LEEMING
Paradoo Prime



CLAYTON SOUTH

CJ South and Co

To RSVP:

1. Scan the QR code, or
2. Call 03 5571 9001

What you will get:

- EID's - setup and benefits
- Joining ewe lambs
- Precision lambing in different enterprises
- Containment feeding - setup and benefits



AMY LOCKWOOD

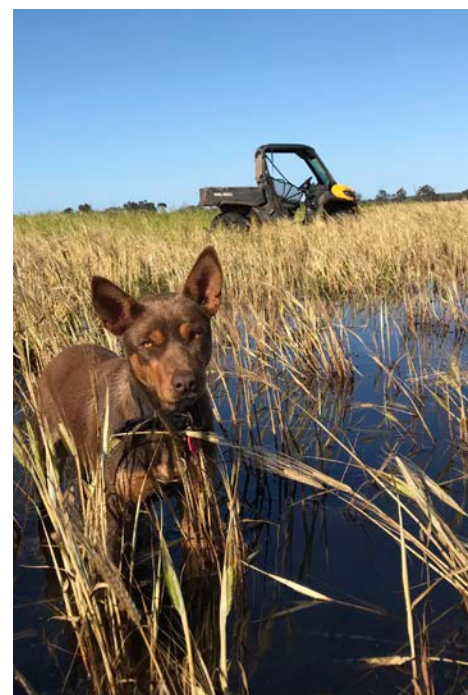
Murdoch University



Join us for a sundowner at the end of the day!

RSVP's are essential, please do so by the 23rd of March. Entry is free!





Images entered in 2021 photo comp (from Top L: G Haddrick, H Hill, D James, H Wyatt, H Hill.

FACEY GROUP



Shaping the Future

2023 PHOTO COMPETITION

THE RULES

FARMING & FAMILY

MONTHLY WINNERS

recieve a \$25 Coles/Myer Voucher & will feature in our 2024 calendar.

- Photos are to be submitted via email to: comms@faceygroup.org.au
- 2 photos per month may be entered into the competition per person.
- Judging will be completed by a member of the Facey Group Committee and a Facey Group staff member.
- Entry into the competition includes permission for the Facey Group to use images in future publications and media.
- **Competition will run from 1st Dec 22 till 30th Nov 23**
- Camera, mobile phone and drone images all welcome.
- Winners will be announced monthly via social media.

ENTRIES CLOSE LAST DAY OF EACH MONTH

Podcasts of the Month



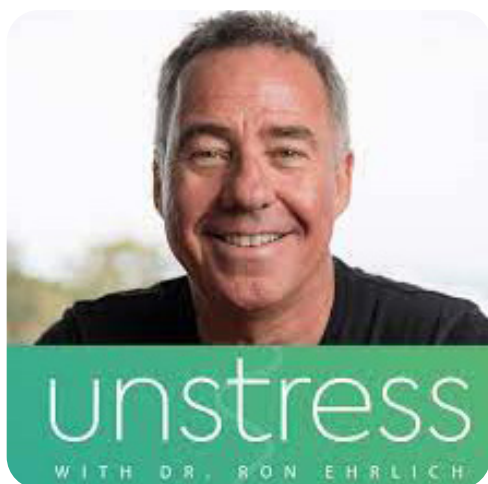
head noise

Episode - What Have I Done to My Brain?

Football superstar James Graham begins a gripping journey to confront sport's hottest issue: concussion. In this series, we'll meet the stars of AFL, Olympic sports and rugby union as they face the truth about head trauma.

Graham, one of rugby league's greatest ever hard men, reveals the day he feared he was losing his mind, even as he was fulfilling the dream of stardom born in his Liverpool childhood. And we meet league stars including Immortal Wally Lewis, who reveals a shocking secret.

[Listen HERE](#)



Unstress with Dr. Ron Ehrlich

Episode - Prof Fred Provenza:

Nourishment: Rediscovering Our Nutritional Wisdom

Fred is currently a Professor Emeritus of Behavioral Ecology at Utah State University. For the last 30 years, Fred and his research group have produced groundbreaking research that has laid the foundations for what is now known as Behavior-based Management of Landscapes.

That work has inspired researchers in many diverse disciplines, including ecology, human and animal nutrition and biopsychology, animal welfare, landscape restoration, sociology, eco-development, and much more. [Listen HERE.](#)



ExpansE: Pink Diamond Heist

ABC Podcast

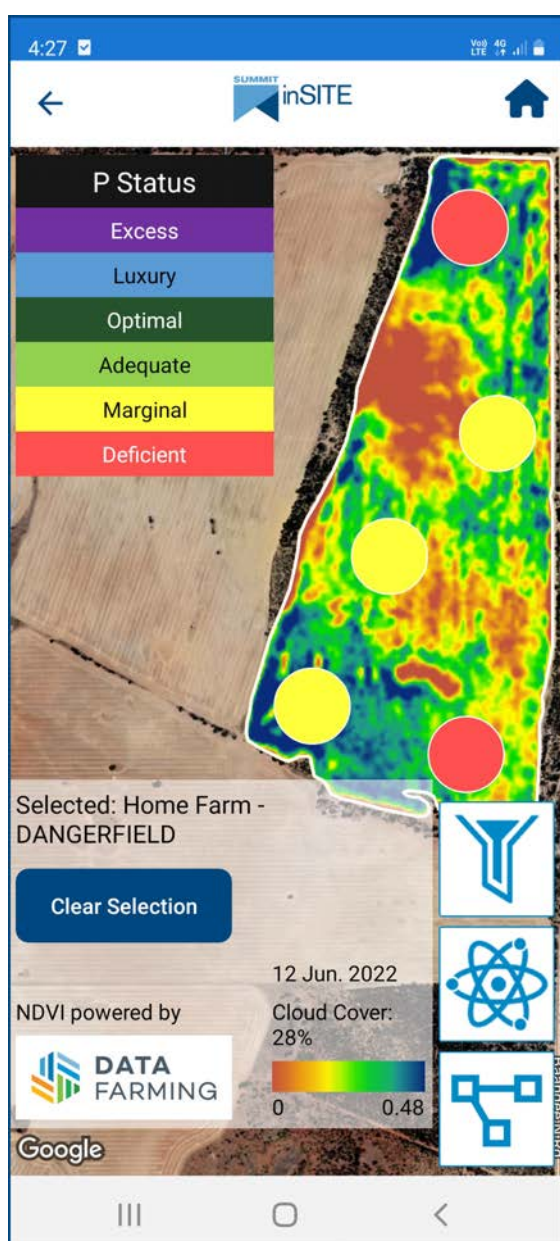
It's a heist of grand proportions, and a story straight out of a Hollywood blockbuster. Millions of dollars of diamonds smuggled out of the remote Kimberley, in Western Australia then around the world. But the diamonds weren't lost to the eighties when this heist happened, the stolen gems are back in circulation. On Pink Diamond Heist: how did no-one notice diamonds were being smuggled out of the world's most secure mine? Who were the culprits behind this multi-million dollar heist? And where are the stolen diamonds now? [Listen HERE](#)

NEWS from Our Partners

Share Your Soil & Plant Test Data with Our Updated App

We've been busy improving our Summit Fertilizers App, to help make doing business with us even easier.

Our latest update allows customers to share their SummitConnect and inSITE data with third parties. All soil and plant test results in inSITE are owned by customers, and our new functionality makes it easier to securely share this data with your business partners such as agronomists, agricultural consultants and accountants.



We've designed the app for optimal viewing of SummitConnect on mobile and tablet devices, and the user-friendly interface allows the app to be easily navigable, with everything you need to know about your business with Summit in one place.

On the Summit Fertilizers App you can view your:

- Orders - see details of all your orders with Summit, including collection month and payment terms.
- Collections - keep on top of individual fertilizer collections and download loading and weight dockets.
- Transactions - review your payments, credit limit, monthly statements and download your tax invoices.
- inSITE Soil & Plant test history and recommendation reports.
- Summit trend maps - get a visual interpretation of soil test results across different depths and growing seasons, so you can see how your farm is tracking over time. We've also integrated freely available NDVI biomass satellite imagery through our partnership with DataFarming.

The Summit Fertilizers App also contains a range of useful tools and information, such as product analysis data, nitrogen and liquid fertilizer calculators and our liquid fertilizer and pesticide compatibility checker.

For further information on the Summit Fertilizers App, SummitConnect and Summit inSITE, get in touch with your local Area Manager;

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

NEWS from Our Partners

A strong family legacy underpins Chloe's Woolorama Rural Ambassador announcement

From Geoffrey Blight's popular petting zoo five decades ago, to Michael Blight's competitive prowess in the horse arena, Narrogin's Blight family has enjoyed a long association with the Wagin Woolorama.



Rabobank

And now, as the iconic agricultural show celebrates 50 years, it's fitting that a third generation is helping lead the celebrations, with 22-year-old Chloe Blight recently announced as the 2023 Woolorama Rural Ambassador.



Chloe, a relationship analyst in Rabobank's Narrogin branch, is proud to be following in the footsteps of her parents and grandparents before her, and has a lifetime of memories from the beloved community event.

"I've always been involved in the show, my grandfather had every animal you can imagine at his petting zoo, which was always a highlight, and I always competed in the horse events as a child," she said.

Sadly, Chloe's grandfather Geoffrey Blight passed away recently, and while he won't be able to see her on stage, she was grateful he lived a full and happy life, and that he had been thrilled to see her named the Woolorama Rural Ambassador.

2023 Woolorama Rural Ambassador Chloe Blight (centre) with Jack Stallard and Grace Adams. Photo courtesy of Wendy Gould, Farm Weekly.

From the small business trade stalls, the rodeo, agricultural competitions, sheep show and Sideshow Alley, Chloe said the event catered for the whole community.

"Wagin Woolorama provides a unique opportunity to bring the whole region together to ensure our businesses shine, and our local economy thrives," she said. "As such, it's a special honour to be named as the 2023 Woolorama Rural Ambassador, particularly during such a significant year."

Attracted to the chance to contribute locally and be involved in the running of a community event, Chloe said the rural ambassador program also provided a valuable opportunity for personal development.

"I'm looking forward to working on my public speaking and networking skills, and representing our community at the Perth Royal Show in September – it's a really exciting time, albeit a little nerve wracking!"

Chloe's long-standing commitment to community

However contribution to community is something Chloe has never shied from.

Growing up on a mixed grain and sheep farm 'Seymour Park' south of Narrogin, sport was always a major passion – hockey her family's activity of choice.

NEWS from Our Partners

From the local Narrogin hockey fields to international playing fields, in 2018 Chloe was selected in the state country team which played in Berri, South Australia before being chosen to compete in the Australian country U21 side, playing in Fiji.

“This was such an amazing opportunity and truly showcases the opportunities we still have available in rural Western Australia. Sport is so important, particularly in our rural communities, helping keep youth fit, healthy, and socially engaged in the community.”



Rabobank

Chloe also volunteers to coach and umpire junior and senior hockey teams, and said she thoroughly enjoys supporting young players develop and learn.

Like many small communities, fielding teams and local competitions is getting harder, but Chloe is proud to be helping inspire and encourage a new generation of hockey players in the Narrogin region.

She's also part of the Toolibin Tennis Club, a quintessential bush court 50km east of Narrogin and one of the last clay court clubs in Western Australia.

“We travel weekly to play different rural towns, anywhere from Newdegate to Katanning, and for the past three years I've been the bar manager for the club – it's very rewarding contributing to, and continuing the legacy of, such a long-standing tradition in our region.”

Role with Rabobank the perfect fit

Self-confessed 'mathematically minded over English', Chloe said she always aspired to work in finance or agriculture, and that her role with Rabobank now afforded her the opportunity to work in both.

“I worked briefly in retail banking, but it wasn't for me, so I jumped at the opportunity to work with Rabobank, which is focused solely on agribusiness clients.”

Chloe has been with the bank for eight months now, and said she genuinely loves her job.

“I've never been in such a supportive team, backed by colleagues not only in the branch but right across the bank – there's always someone to help and I've never felt afraid to ask questions.”

With Nat Purdy from the Narrogin Branch championing Chloe to apply for the Rural Ambassador program, she said the bank also strongly supported personal and professional development.

“It's heartening to work for an organisation that has such a strong focus on community – rural and regional communities in particular – and takes any opportunity it can to give back.”

While she laughs that she wasn't too fond of farming as a kid, much preferring the sporting field to the paddock, her appreciation grew over the years, and now she is excited to be helping support vital local farmers.

“Narrogin has such a strong farming culture, from sheep to grain, our region depends on agriculture and it's a really vibrant space to be working in, with so much opportunity.”

She's also grateful for the opportunity to continue helping out on her own family farm – moving sheep and shifting gear of a weekend – and, she laughs, her father is very pleased to have her doing all the business book keeping.

NEWS from Our Partners

“It’s nice to be in the office and then out on farm when I can, this role really is the best of both worlds.”

And Chloe’s commitment and dedication has not gone unnoticed, with this can-do local last year taking home the Rabobank Rising Star award at the Western Australia annual conference.

Nominated by colleagues, the Rising Star award is presented annually to an employee who displays future potential either in their current role or in their capacity to be promoted into other roles.

The rising star award applies to any role within WA and is named in honour of former employee Jenny Marchewka, with Chloe grateful and humbled to have received such a significant acknowledgment from her peers.

A local pathway to career success

A staunch supporter of Narrogin, Chloe completed all her studies locally.

Completing her secondary education at the Narrogin High School, Chloe graduated with multiple TAFE qualifications.

“In 2021 I was honoured to be invited to talk to high school students about my experience completing vocational education training courses rather than the alternative ATAR pathway.”

“It’s a topic I am very passionate about, as I believe the pressures put on young people to complete ATAR and know exactly what they want to do by Year 12 is not necessary for everyone - there are so many options and alternatives to suit individuals to get into university if that is the pathway you want to pursue.”

She said the opportunity to complete vocational training whilst at high school helped kick-start her career, and provided a handy ‘taster’ for university.

It also provided a viable option for rural students who want to remain in their communities whilst upskilling.

Rabobank is a proud supporter of Wagin Woolorama, which will be held on the 10th and 11th of March, 2023.

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



Rabobank

NEWS from Our Partners

Applications are open for CBH Growers' Advisory Council positions

The CBH Growers' Advisory Council (GAC) is calling for nominations for four new Councillors to join in July.

Made up of 16 grower Councillors who serve a single four-year term, the GAC provides a formal means for issues raised by growers to be fed back to CBH and its Board and management team.

The Council meets four times a year in Perth, spending time with CBH management to inform CBH of issues raised by growers, consider issues of a strategic nature to the Western



Australian grain industry and provide feedback on CBH initiatives that will impact growers.

On top of this, the GAC helps increase grower engagement and understanding of issues affecting the co-operative and the broader grains industry.

Due to the expiry of the terms of sitting Councillors, there are four vacant positions on the GAC available to Western Australian grain growers.

One position each is available in Districts Two, Four and Five, and due to the minimum number of Councillors expected to be met in each District, the remaining position may be filled from any District.

Joining the GAC also provides opportunities for professional development with training, education, and networking opportunities available to GAC members.

Growers interested in joining will need to address the selection criteria provided on CBH's website and provide five referees.

Applications close Friday, 24 March 2023.

Successful candidates are selected through an interview process, undertaken by a panel comprised of CBH Directors and representatives from the GAC and CBH Management.

For more information contact CBH's Manager - Government & Industry Relations Kellie Todman on (08) 9237 9694 or visit www.cbh.com.au/gac

Planning For a Tough 2023 Season

With David Egerton-Warburton,
Joint CEO at Agrimaster



Although the outlook for commodity prices remains strong at the time of writing, so do the prices for the most common farming inputs like fertiliser, chemicals, and fuel. These cost increases will be compounded by the increased cost of service debt due to rising interest rates. This combination of cost increases in 2023 will put a tight squeeze on gross margins, increasing the risk of financial losses in the event of a poor yield or production losses.

At this year's AAAC(WA) Outlook conference in November, a panel of farm business advisors assessed how these changes affect 2023 budgets.

They forecast that operating expenses as a percentage of gross farm income will go from 40% to 48% in 2022 to 75% to 90% in 2023!

This does not leave much margin to pay down debt or overhead costs.

Since the event, we have seen a softening of fertilizer prices, although they remain historically high. We have also seen a softening of grain prices.

What does this mean?

High rainfall areas are doing very well and look to do better in 2023, as they generally have a higher percentage of livestock in the enterprise mix. The margins for sheep, in particular, are holding up well.

Farms in the low-rainfall zone that have purchased additional land and incurred a lot of debt will find it harder to service their debt in 2023 and could suffer a reduction in net worth (equity) unless they get very high yields, very high prices, or both.

Farms in the medium rainfall areas that have purchased farms are at risk of making cash deficits in 2023

unless they get very high yields, very high prices, or both.

How should you plan for 2023?

To survive and even thrive in 2023, I encourage you to invest in detailed financial planning and constant review throughout the year.

You need to:

- Have explicit knowledge of your current position.
- Have a clear objective.
- Know what available resources you have (land, stock, machinery, labour, working capital, etc.).
- Know your controllable risks and your uncontrollable risks (or unknowns).

Based on all this information, you make detailed production plans and equally detailed financial plans (budgets) to “ground truth” your production plans, as all your wins and losses will be measured not in production but in dollars.

Like any plan, your plans will not survive first contact with your enemy (weather, markets, breakdowns, health, etc.). So, when planning for the battle at the beginning of this season, I strongly encourage you to think through and make many alternate plans based on possible

scenarios.

Firstly, I strongly suggest using budget modelling, not just a spreadsheet or a simple cash flow grid. These are OK for a one-off quick budget but need to be harder to adjust and change in response to changing seasons and markets.


Secondly, I suggest doing a minimum of five detailed cash flow budgets (make a very good one, then copy it).

1. **Baseline budget:** this is the most probable (the one you take to the bank) plus two scenarios.
 - a) *Bad year budget* – e.g., late or low growing season rainfall, low prices.
 - b) *Good year budget* – e.g., early rain, high prices, good Spring rain.

2. **Working budget:** this is a real-time monitor of your debit drawdown and your adjusted cash balances. It combines your baseline budget with your monthly actuals imported each month as they are reconciled. You will use this budget the most.

3. **Sand Box budget:** this is where you play with scenarios (so you don't stuff up your other plans).

The importance of this extra planning before this season starts properly is



that your mind is clear, and you will make better decisions. In the heat of battle (e.g., seeding, harvest, shearing, etc.), your cortisol levels will be elevated, and as a result, your thinking will be slower and less effective. As a result, big mistakes can be made. A detailed cash flow model of your farm business is like a crystal ball, it gives you the ability to look into the future and plan for any eventuality, so when the time comes, you have a strategy and are ready.

Understand that “no plan survives first contact with the enemy,” so make lots of them, review them against your actual financial performance, the markets, and the weather conditions each month,

and update your plans as the conditions of the year change.

[Agrimaster](#) has been explicitly designed to help you plan and manage risk. Using a combination of a good setup, an up-to-date cashbook, and use of full budgets for planning, you can approach each season with the confidence that you have done everything to plan for success and have a system to manage change actively.

If you would like help getting setup with Agrimaster for maximum success and training in the effective use of cashbook or full budget, please get in touch with one of our friendly team at support@agrimaster.com, and we would love to help you.



Boots Off Log On! Podcast

Episode 19: What You Need to Know About Grain Marketing with Ten Tigers

[Listen HERE >](#)



David Egerton-Warburton from Agrimaster engages in a fascinating conversation with Chris Tonkin from Ten Tigers about the intricacies of grain marketing.

Together, they unravel the complexities of the global grain trade and explore how it can impact the prices received by farmers.

The discussion delves into various topics, including developing an effective grain marketing strategy, accounting for the basis in cash flow budgets, the crucial relationship between cash flow budgeting and tax strategy, and how shifts in global conditions and foreign policy can have a direct impact on prices.

Chris emphasizes the importance of taking emotions out of grain marketing decisions and instead using a strategy to support short-term production costs and long-term debt. Additionally, the conversation covers crucial dos and don'ts of grain marketing and why involving the whole family in the strategy is essential.



David Egerton-Warburton
Joint CEO
Agrimaster



Chris Tonkin
Director
Ten Tigers

THE IMPORTANCE OF DOCUMENTING WHAT YOU SAY

Contracts are an essential part of doing business. Their formation is one of the most common and essential practices in any commercial industry. As with other industries, contracts are crucial for agriculture, including for the sale of crops and stock and the purchase of machinery, employment, sub-contracting and land leases, amongst many others.

A contractual relationship is one of both simplicity and complexity. It can be formed with another verbally (such as over the telephone or directly in conversation), in writing (such as by text, email or a formal document), by implication/conduct or by a combination of these. But when does a contract become enforceable? How do you know what the terms of the contract are? And how can you be sure that a person who makes a promise to you is held accountable?

The relationship between growers and contractors is long standing, and although a firm handshake and country values are admirable, the weight they bear to the formation of a contract may be minimal. We hear of it often; a grower needing a contractor on short notice, giving a contractor they know a telephone call and arranging for the work to be carried out, all on an informal basis. It's a simple, efficient and in most cases effective method of getting work done. In formal terms, the discussion between grower and contractor is usually sufficient to form a verbal contract so long as it contains the required legal elements.

However, this is where the first problem usually arises. Absent any written communication, how does one prove that another person agreed to perform certain obligations and what the terms of any such agreement were? The verbal evidence promoted by one person against another gives rise to dispute and ambiguity and makes it difficult, and potentially costly, to establish with certainty the details of the contract. That's not to say that a verbal agreement cannot be legally binding, but the difficulty in establishing its existence is often the first hurdle when one person fails to fulfill their obligations.

The second common issue is the ambiguity that arises in everyday discussions. This is a natural part of ordinary discourse. The meaning of different words ranges broadly from person to person. Think about this example. A grower engages a shearing contractor and says "I need a couple hundred head of sheep crutched". What is "a couple hundred"; 200, 300, 500? The ambiguity posited by this situation presents itself as a catalyst for both parties alleging a breach by the other, simply because the extent of the job wasn't clear to both parties prior to the work being undertaken.

A simple means to alleviate these issues is to follow up on the oral conversation in writing. This could be by an email or text message or other written document prepared soon after the conversation and given to the other party before starting the job. What is then created between the parties is a part verbal, part written contract. Generally, this is what occurs when a verbal communication between parties can be substantiated by written documents such as emails, text messages or notes, whether signed or not. Supporting the verbal terms with a written account of those terms can greatly assist in determining the terms agreed as it doesn't rely on someone's memory of details and reduces the potential for disagreement at a later stage.

Whilst oral agreements remain quite common within agriculture, we recommend that growers take a more proactive approach to contracts and commit such agreements to writing as soon as possible. To do so is a simple risk management tool, which if utilised effectively, will greatly assist in preventing and reducing any future disputes.

The above information is a summary and overview of the matters discussed. This publication does not constitute legal advice and you should seek legal or other professional advice before acting or relying on any of the content.

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

NEWS from Our Partners

Your Thoughts Matter ...

GrainGrowers is asking growers across the country to have their say on the issues impacting their farm in the 2023 Annual Policy Survey. The Survey covers a range of topics including biosecurity and pests to RD&E and climate change.

Growers are at the heart of all the work GrainGrowers does and the Annual Survey helps ensure that what is happening on your farm is reflected in our efforts. The Survey results direct GrainGrowers' policy efforts and priorities over the year ahead. We take your opinions and insights to members of parliament and government decision makers, and use the Survey results to highlight the issues that matter to you.

In 2022, over 600 growers from across the country took part in GrainGrowers' Annual Policy Survey, sharing their views on the Australian grains industry and highlighting issues and opportunities that they see directly on their farms.

The 2023 Survey asks questions about the GRDC and its draft Research, Development and Extension Strategy. This Strategy is reviewed every 5 years, and through the Survey you can help GrainGrowers provide direct feedback to the GRDC.

The issue of "Input costs and availability" in the 2022 Survey cannot be understated, with growers indicating it was the biggest challenge facing their business. GrainGrowers continues to work to address this, and is holding an Input Roundtable in March with the Agriculture Minister and leaders in industry and science to develop tangible solutions to the issue.

Through your response to the Annual Policy Survey, you provide GrainGrowers with clear direction on the areas you believe would drive increased profitability and sustainability for your farming business. To have your say and for a chance to win one of two Mastercard Gift Cards worth \$1,000 each, you can access the survey [here](#).



Hyola Innovations Systems Technology Trial

Andrew Heinrich, Technical Specialist - Canola WA, Pacific Seeds.

Justin Kudnig, National Canola Technical Manager, Pacific Seeds.



Key Messages

- Using an Industry leading latest canola trial design¹, incorporating double and triple stacked herbicide tolerant statistical control varieties unique to Pacific Seeds, to compare yield and quality performance across different herbicide technologies.
- Valid Industry statistical comparisons between Hybrids v OP and GM v non-GM canola varieties including current major competitors to selected elite germplasm prior to commercial release.

Aim/s

To assess the performance of a range of leading commercial varieties of canola and elite pre-commercial germplasm in a single trial. These trials allow direct comparison of yield and quality irrespective of herbicide technology and production system, (OP v Hybrid, GM v non-GM) where the appropriate herbicide chemistry is applied at full label rates and timings to each technology group including multiple chemistries applied to stacked hybrids.

Background

Although this is a single site with multiple technologies, and the results are presented as a single site level, Pacific Seeds prefers the use of Multi-environment (MET) analysis results. Multiple sites across different regions and years with concurrent varieties that allows the MET analysis to be conducted. The MET analysis gives the most robust assessment of varietal performance across environments and seasons.

11 Hyola Innovation System Trials were conducted across Australia in 2021 and 20 trials in 2022. A further 20 trials are planned for 2023, developing a large, robust data set across environments, locations, and years, adding greater strength to the MET analysis. The full MET analysis, over 2 years and multiple environments, will be available in early 2023 by contacting Pacific Seeds for the full details.

Trial Details

Trial Location	Tim Fleay, Fleay Rd, Wickepin		
Plot size & replication	6 m x 1.8 m, 2 replicates in RCB Spatial design with Randomised controls		
Soil type	Sandy Gravel		
Paddock	2019	Not supplied	
rotation	2020	Not supplied	
	2021	Wheat	
Sowing date	21/04/2022		
Sowing rate	Variable targeting 40 plants/m ²		
Fertiliser	Urea	100 kg/h	27-Apr-22
	Macro-pro	120 kg/ha	27-Apr-22
	Flexi-N	192 l/ha	20-Jun-22
	Flexi-N	100 l/ha	02-Sep-22
Herbicides,	Zinc phosphide	1kg/ha	19-May-22
Insecticides &	Clopyralid 750	100g/ha	27-Apr-22
Fungicides	Rustler	1L/ha	27-Apr-22
	Bifenthrin	100 mL/ha	27-Apr-22
	Trifluralin	1.5L/ha	27-Apr-22
	Chlorpyrifos	1L/ha	27-Apr-22
	Roundup Ultramax	2L/ha	27-Apr-22
	Clethodim 360	330 mL/ha	06-Jun-22
	Flexi-N	192L/ha	20-Jun-22
	Transform	50g/ha	24-Jun-22
	Flexi-N	100L/ha	02-Sep-22
	Transform	50g/ha	27-Sep-22
	Prosaro	450mL/ha	27-Sep-22
	Affirm	300mL/ha	27-Sep-22
	Diquat	3L/ha	09-Nov-22
Harvest Date	20-Nov-22		

Herbicide treatments applied to each Technology Block.

Where specific adjuvants are not listed below with treatments then recommended adjuvant as per the label have been used.

Treatment	Treatment	Product			Application		Other	Other	Growth
Date	Active	Conc	Unit	Type	Rate	Unit	Rate(ai)	Rate Unit	Stage
	Roundup Ready Block (RR)								
14/6/22	Glyphosate	690	g/Kg	SG	0.9	kg/ha	621	g ai/ha	GS10-14
27/6/22	Glyphosate	690	g/Kg	SG	0.9	kg/ha	621	g ai/ha	GS14-18
	TruFlex Technology Block (XX)								
27/6/22	Glyphosate	540	g/L	SL	1.67	l/ha	902	g ai/ha	GS10-14
15/8/22	Glyphosate	540	g/L	SL	1.67	l/ha	902	g ai/ha	GS60-61
	TruFlex + Clearfield Block (XC)								
14/6/22	Intervix	48	g/L	SL	0.75	l/ha	36	g ai/ha	GS10-14
14/6/22	Hasten	900	g/l	OD	1	% v/v	900	g ai/ha	GS10-14
14/6/22	Glyphosate	540	g/L	SL	1.67	l/ha	902	g ai/ha	GS10-14
15/8/22	Glyphosate	540	g/L	SL	1.67	l/ha	902	g ai/ha	GS60-61
	Clearfield Block (CL)								
14/6/22	Intervix	48	g/L	SL	0.75	l/ha	36	g ai/ha	GS10-14
14/6/22	Hasten	900	g/L	OD	1	% v/v	900	g ai/ha	GS10-14
	Clearfield + Triazine Tolerant Block (CT)								
14/6/22	Intervix	48	g/L	SL	0.75	l/ha	36	g ai/ha	GS10-14
14/6/22	Atrazine	900	g/kg	WG	1.1	kg/ha	990	g ai/ha	GS10-14
14/6/22	Hasten	900	g/l	OD	1	% v/v	900	g ai/ha	GS10-14
	Triazine Tolerant Block (TT)								
14/6/22	Atrazine	900	g/kg	WG	2.2	kg/ha	1980	g ai/ha	GS10-14
14/6/22	Uptake	900	g/L	OD	1	% v/v	900	g ai/ha	GS10-14
27/6/22	Clethodim	240	g/L	EC	500	ml/ha	120	g ai/ha	GS14-18
27/6/22	Clopyralid	600	g/L	SC	150	ml/ha	90	g ai/ha	GS14-18
27/6/22	Uptake	822	g/L	OL	0.5	% v/v	411	g ai/ha	GS14-18

Soil Composition Test Results

Depth	Colour	Gravel	Texture	Ammonium Nitrogen	Nitrate Nitrogen	Phosphorus Colwell	Potassium Colwell	Sulphur	Organic Carbon	Conductivity	pH Level (CaCl2)	pH Level (H2O)
0-10 cm		%		mg/Kg	mg/Kg	mg/Kg	mg/Kg	mg/Kg	%	dS/m	pH	pH
	BRGR	5	2	4	6	35	248	3.6	0.97	0.05	5.6	7

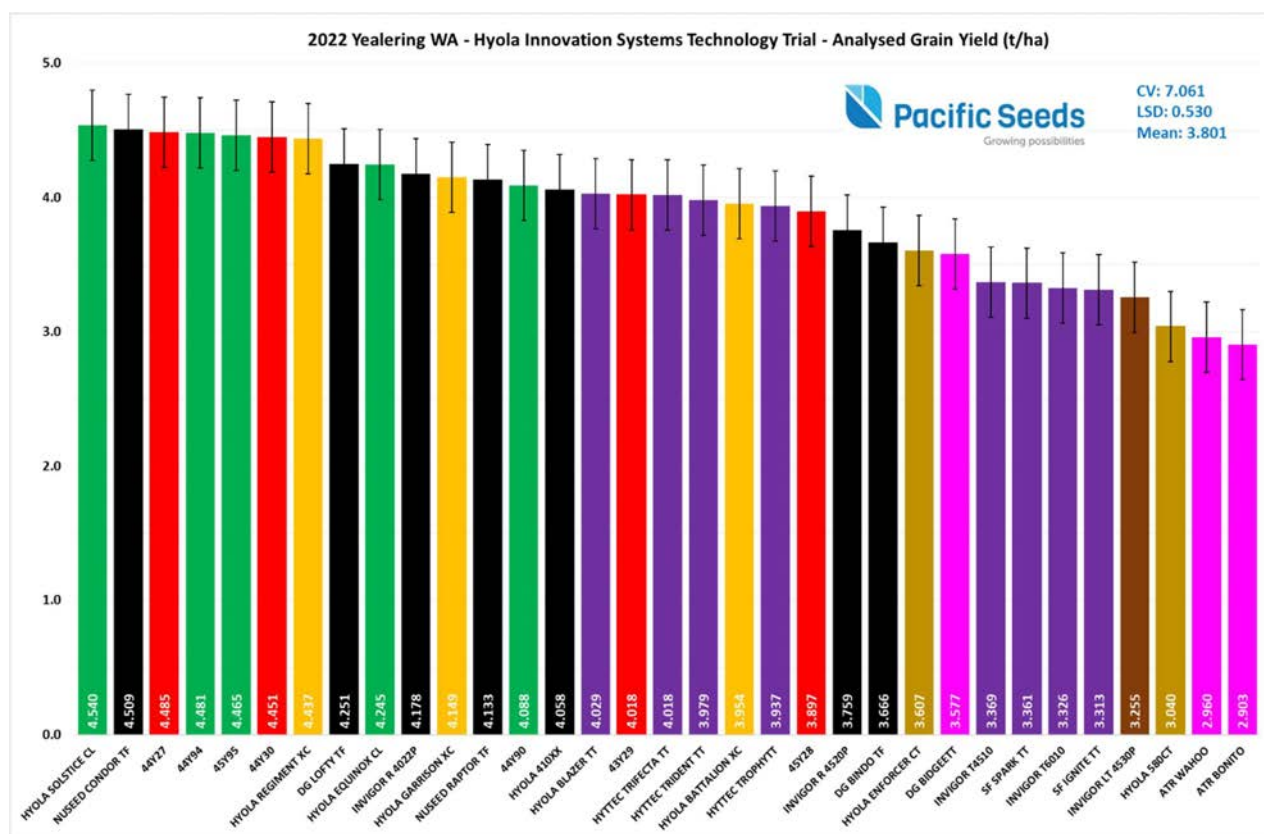


Fig1: 2022 Yealering WA – Hyola Innovation System Technology Trial analysed Grain Yield in t/ha of commercial varieties.

Results of any elite germplasm lines are not released until the hybrid is officially released into the market.

The oil content analysis is yet to be completed for these varieties. The oil content analysis results will be available early in 2023, by contacting Pacific Seeds for the full details.

Comments

The 2022 Yealering Hyola Innovation Systems Technology Trial was conducted as part of a series of trials (MET) over years and locations to assess the performance of a range of leading canola varieties across the industry and elite germplasm. This is a single site result and should be treated with caution, as it simply reflects the performance of each variety in this one location, one season, under this particular set of management options.

Each variety may be compared to another, keep in mind the LSD when deciding if the two particular varieties are “actually” different from each other for yield in this trial. These results, Fig 1, show that the 17 top yielding varieties are not significantly different from each other at this site and should be treated as though their yields are “equivalent”.

Use the MET analysis for your selection of varieties is the best way going forward. The 2022 MET analysis of this trial series (including the 2021 trials) will be available from Pacific Seeds in early 2023.

Based on the 2021 MET of this series ¹ and this trial result (with caution) indicate that the selection of the herbicide tolerance trait/s you require for your rotation will have a higher priority than a specific variety selection. The top yielding varieties are not significantly different to each other. Choosing a stacked variety increases your weed management options and risk management associated with soil herbicide carryover.



References

1: Hyola Innovation Systems Technology Trial Results 2021/22

<https://www.pacificseeds.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Pacific-Seeds-2021-22-Hyola-Innovation-Systems-Technology-Results-Technote.pdf>

Acknowledgements

Facey Group and Tim Fleay for hosting the trial

Living Farm for trial management

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Farmers are commonly now seriously wealthy – so what does this mean?

Planfarm Landline Article

February 2023



Cameron Weeks
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Do you know of many investments that are worth 300% of what they were at the end of 2017? Whilst I personally don't have such an investment (damn!) I do know of plenty, and they are all in the same investment class. Farming.

Yes, that is correct. Farming!

I have completed enough annual reviews already to see the clear trend that has emerged (of course with a northern bias because of where I work) and that is that 2022 has produced another staggering profit result which when combined with 2021 (for most) and significantly increased land values sees equity consistently 250-350% greater than what it was at the end of 2017. That's right – the \$5M business is now worth

\$15M, the \$15M business now worth \$45M and so on. All in just five years. Wow! As the title said farmers are now seriously wealthy! On top of this increase plenty effectively have no debt. The Planfarm Benchmarks 2021 showed 31% of businesses were 100% equity so after a bumper 2022 this will likely see 40-50% at 100% equity.

This truly is cause for celebration. Whilst there is certainly a lot of luck in the booming land values plus the good seasons there is no luck in the typically high-level management being applied which has driven large crop programs, high water use efficiency, high yields, and thus outstanding profit results. The two record crops received by CBH in 2021 and 2022 are clear evidence of this.

Of course, if you are keen to buy farmland, especially if you don't have scale behind you, then booming land values can be a constraint to your plans but capacity to buy aside I wonder if things were this good during the wool boom?

When times are booming one wonders when

the bust will occur and as 2023 budgets, just like the 2022 budgets of a year ago, highlight farmers don't want a poor production year now given the increase in the cost of doing business which is approximately 170% up in 5 years by my client records and that's before equipment costs! Record profits could very easily become record losses that is clear.

But a bust? For that to happen land values would need to come off sharply and for land values to come off sharply sales need to be forced and demand dry up. Given the exceptionally strong balance sheets out there most businesses have a substantial borrowing buffer up their sleeve so the capacity to ride through a poor run of seasons is great.

So back to the statement that is intended to be a bit provocative – 'farmers are commonly now seriously wealthy'. When I have said this to my clients, they have commonly replied that 'it's all tied up in land so is not real unless being sold' or 'we don't have piles of spare personal cash at our disposal' or 'we don't

feel wealthy' or something similar. Whilst these statements are quite likely true and certainly the average farmer doesn't spend in an overtly wealthy way like perhaps wealthy 'city folk' might the fact of the matter is that this is choice and a reality of successful wealth creation (i.e. have your equity tied up in growth assets like farmland).

For the family farm this scale of wealth puts some pressure back on the owners (parents mostly) to successfully manage. You don't want 'wealth' to create family issues after all do you and as we all know this does happen way too often.

To my mind some of the new challenges for you to consider and effectively manage include:

- Farm succession – is the traditional model of farmer(s) gets the farm and the non-farmers the off-farm assets anywhere near fair? If not how do you propose to manage?
- Estate planning – with or without farm succession how will you distribute your wealth via your wills or earlier?
- Bringing up children and young adults – how do you raise young people to still value hard work, strive to achieve, respect

the benefits that money brings and generally grow up to be quality people as most of you have done? After all, unless you give it away, they will one day receive the benefits of this boom period of wealth creation one day.

- Timing – when do you pass on some of this wealth with the above and other factors in mind (i.e. protection from divorce risk)?

Now I don't sit here proposing to have all the answers, but I do know that first the reality of your position needs to be accepted, then you need to plan, seek advice, communicate, and then look to implement effectively and when appropriate. This will require some different thinking to what has applied in the past and acceptance that some trade-offs will be required.

In a coming article I plan to talk about an alternative succession model that may be of some benefit to you.

But in the meantime enjoy this boom period, make sure you are fully capitalizing and put your thinking cap on with regards the future of your family of whom I am sure most of you want the same thing!



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PARTNER WITH PLANFARM

CBH Pools in Review

Planfarm Landline Article

February 2023



Nic Sewell
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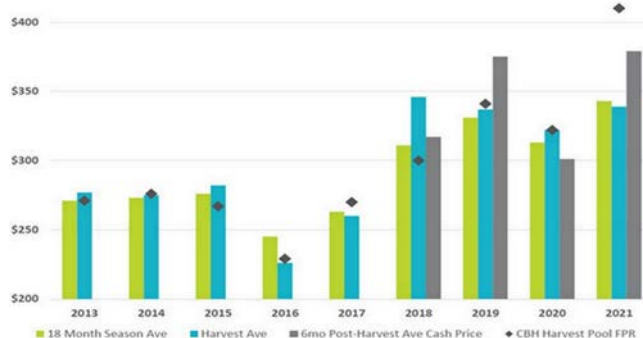
This week CBH finalised the 2021/22 Harvest Pools. This is of particular interest to us as the Pools were strongly promoted to and used by Planfarm Marketing clients. As outlined in several Newsletters pre and during harvest in 2021 ([November 11 2021](#) & [January 21 2022](#) to name a couple) we had three main reasons to promote these pools strongly, which were;

1. International grain prices were well above local cash prices, due to the massive local supply and huge international demand enabling our exporters holding shipping slots to generate huge profit margins.

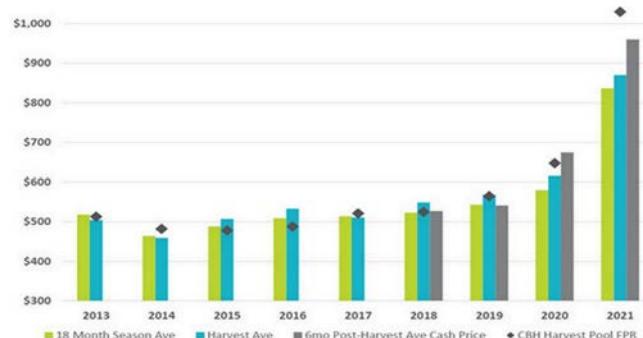
2. The Pool had access to a lot of shipping slots via CBH M&T's long term agreement which had to be shared between the Pool book and the Cash book.

3. CBH Pools are mandated to return all grain sales equity to participants, minus a fixed fee of about \$10/t. A lot less than the margins being made by cash traders.

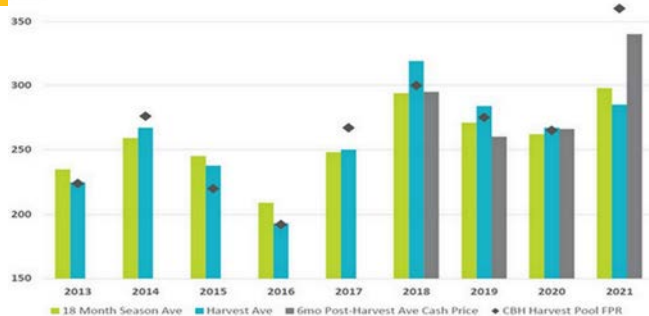
Graphs 1, 2 and 3 compares prices for ASW1, CAG1 and BFED1 in Kwinana for the last 9 seasons for CBH Pools (grey diamond) against cash prices for the three-month harvest period (blue), cash prices for the 18 month marketing period (green) and cash prices for the 6 month post-harvest period (grey). Most years the CBH Pool is similar to the cash price averages but last year the 2021 Pool significantly outperformed the cash averages.



Graph 1. ASW1 Kwinana price comparison from 2013 season to 2021 season

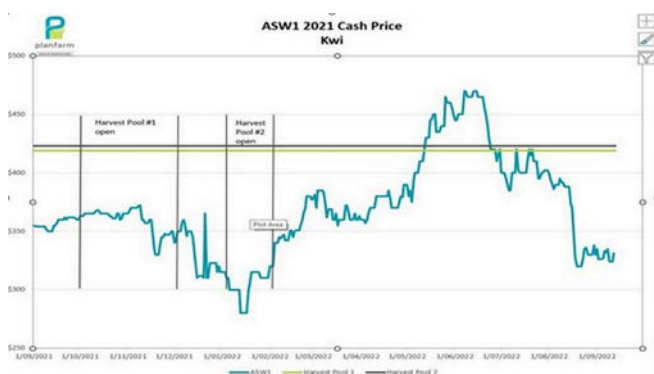


Graph 2. CAG1 Kwinana price comparison from 2013 season to 2021 season

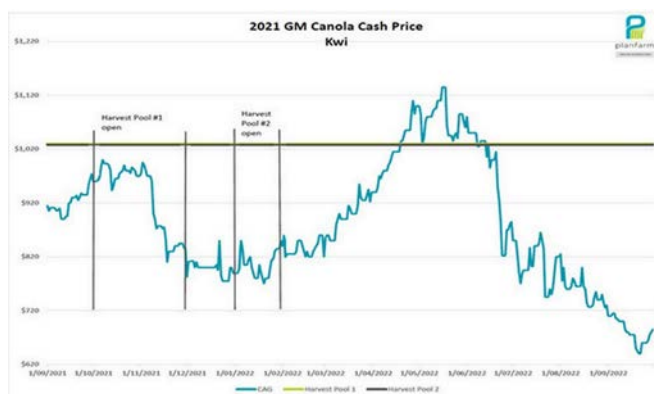


Graph 3. BFED1 Kwinana price comparison from 2013 season to 2021 season

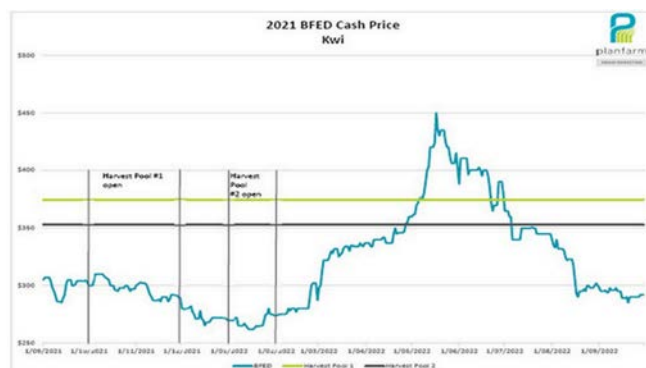
Graphs 4, 5 and 6 provide a similar analysis for wheat (ASW1), barley (BFED1) and canola (CAG1) in Kwinana. In these graphs the spot cash price is the blue line, the light green line is the No 1 Harvest Pool and the dark green line is the No 2 Harvest Pool.



Graph 4. ASW1 Kwinana cash prices and No 1 and No 2 Pool returns for Sept 2021 to Sept 2022



Graph 5. CAG1 Kwinana cash prices and No 1 and No 2 Pool returns for Sept 2021 to Sept 2022



Graph 6. BFED1 Kwinana cash prices and No 1 and No 2 Pool returns for Sept 2021 to Sept 2022

These graphs all clearly illustrate that both the No 1 and No 2 Harvest Pools far exceeded cash prices achievable for much of the 18 month pricing window. The only time a grower would have been able to outperform either of the pools was if they held grain through to May/June post harvest and sold then. This was during the height of the Russian invasion of Ukraine when international wheat futures exceeded \$A650 per tonne.

Note: Pool returns use estimates provided by CBH in August of each year with the exception of 2021 which uses the final pool return.

2022 Flexi Starter & Harvest Pools

Although it is a little bit too early to make a final judgement, the decision to use the CBH Flexi Starter Pool in early June for the 2022/23 crop is looking to have paid dividends for growers. Planfarm Marketing strongly encouraged clients to utilise this pool for much the same reasons as the 2021 Harvest Pools. However, it did have a couple more advantages than the ones mentioned above, such as:

- The pool had a very aggressive sales mandate where up to 50% could be hedged/sold immediately.
- Tonnages could be altered by 30% in either direction in September, allowing growers to alter tonnes based on how the season was playing out.
- Growers holding swaps needed an exit strategy that provided a better result than taking the cash basis.

Despite the very high cash prices many growers were reluctant to sell grain for a number of reasons:

- Dry June/July - Yes it's hard to remember but most of the state was looking below average in June.
- We hadn't entered the frost/heat stress window.
- International grain markets were incredibly volatile, all be it at above \$A600 levels for Chicago wheat.
- Cash prices were a long way below international prices (low basis and high trading margins).

For these reasons, the Flexi Starter Pool uptake was very strong across our client base, especially for wheat and barley.

For growers holding swaps we recommended the strategy of unwinding swaps in line with the Pools mandated sales. This strategy has played out well, as the average swap buy back prices are below the estimated Pool returns which means we have been able generate a positive basis on top of the swap entry levels. A significant improvement to exiting swaps mid year and selling for cash at extremely negative basis.

For canola, we were less inclined to use the Flexi Starter Pool due to the extremely high price and relatively better basis compared to wheat.

If you would like to see how other commodities and grades compared in the pool, please let us know.



Graph 7. ASW1 Kwinana cash price (blue line) compared to the CBH Flexi Starter Pool (light green line) and Harvest Pool (dark green line) for Jan 2022 to Jan 2023 period.



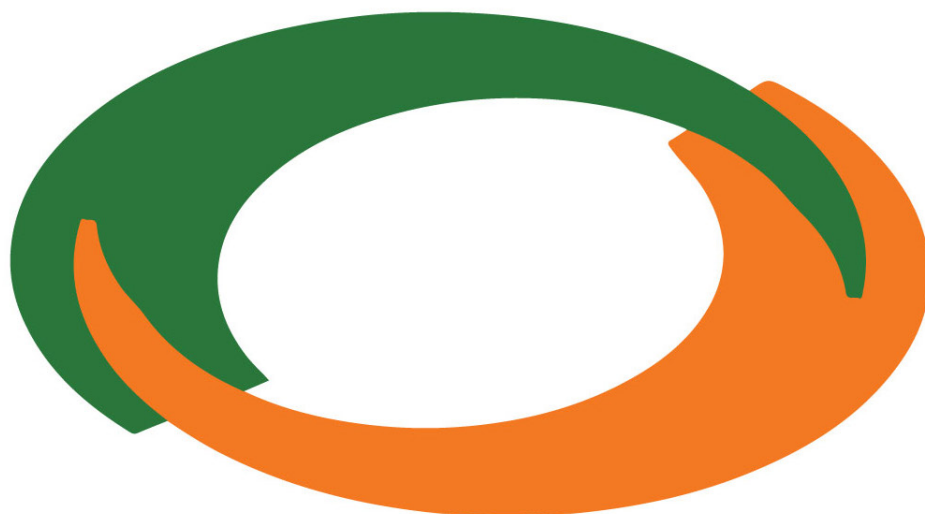
Graph 8. BFED1 Kwinana cash price (blue line) compared to the CBH Flexi Starter Pool (light green line) and Harvest Pool (dark green line) for Jan 2022 to Jan 2023 period.



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Shaping the Future

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2023

Trials Review & Pre-Seeding Catch Up	Thursday, 23rd March 4:00pm - 8:00pm	Wickepin Community Centre
Rural Edge Farm & Family Succession Planning W/shop	Thursday, 30th March 8:00am - 2:00pm	Wickepin Community Centre
Women in Agriculture Day	Wednesday, 19th July 9:30am - 3:30pm	Wickepin Community Centre
GRDC Harvest Forum	Tuesday, 12th September	Esperance
GRDC Harvest Forum	Wednesday, 13th September	Dunn Rock
GRDC Harvest Forum	Thursday, 14th September	Nyabing
GRDC Harvest Forum	Friday, 15th September	Wickepin/Yealering
Facey Group AGM & Lamb & Larger Night	Friday, 15th September	Yealering Town Hall
GRDC Harvest Forum	Friday, 22nd September	Cunderdin