

FACEY CONNECT

LEADING, INSPIRING, SUPPORTING AND CHALLENGING
OUR LOCAL FARMING COMMUNITY



March-April 2023

**Upcoming
Events for
2023**

**Mouse
Surveillance
Project Update**

**SW WA
Drought Hub
Update**

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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

Well, the season certainly snuck up on us quickly, didn't it? I hope you're all having a successful seeding (and not getting bogged).

This year we have 21 projects at the Facey Group, keeping our two new AGREC's very busy. We have an exciting year ahead and look forward to sharing our trial sites.

Last week our CSIRO deep sowing long coleoptile wheat trial was sown and we will have numerous field days at that site. We are running a few in-house trials this year. We have a soft wheat comparison and thank AGT and Intergrain for supplying the seed. The varieties we are trialling are not commercially available yet. We've also got an N trial with Summit and chemical trials with new sponsor BASF. We have also established a soil amelioration comparison with the treatments being, no soil amelioration, Discorden On-Pass Finisher, K-Line Speedtiller, and Clay application at 250t/ha and incorporated with a speedtiller.



Dr Kelly Pearce, Facey Group Chief Executive Officer

We will be having numerous field walks this year as we found that worked very well last year. Our first field walk is at Tom Wittwer's to view his Confinement Feeding pens on Wed 3rd May at 7:30am .

Over the months of June, July and August, we will be hosting a series of Succession Planning workshops with Bailiwick Legal. These workshops will cover the following topics:

- Session 1 - Transfer of Control
- Session 2 - Transfer of Assets
- Session 3 - Estate Planning

We also have an incredible Women in Agriculture event lined up for Wednesday, 19th July and tickets will go on sale soon.



Congratulations to Megan Henry who was our first winner in our 2023 Photo Competition with this image. Remember to submit your photo entries to comms@faceygroup.org.au!

There are monthly prizes up for grabs as well as a major prize of a COMPLIMENTARY Annual Facey Group Membership (worth \$440) for the Overall Best Photo.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2023

MAY

Confinement & Deferred Grazing Field Walk	Wednesday, 3rd May	Tom Wittwer's property 32°40'45.6"S 117°20'54.9"E
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JUNE

Bailiwick Legal Succession Workshop, Session 1	Wednesday, 28th June	Wickepin Community Centre
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JULY

Women in Agriculture Day	Wednesday, 19th July 9:30am - 3:30pm	Wickepin Community Centre
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Bailiwick Legal Succession Workshop, Session 2	Tuesday, 25th July	Wickepin Community Centre
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AUGUST

Bailiwick Legal Succession Workshop, Session 3	Thursday, 10th August	Wickepin Community Centre
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SEPTEMBER

GRDC Harvest Forum	Tuesday, 12th September	Esperance
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GRDC Harvest Forum	Wednesday, 13th September	Dunn Rock
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GRDC Harvest Forum	Thursday, 14th September	Nyabing
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GRDC Harvest Forum	Friday, 15th September	Wickepin/Yealering
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Facey Group AGM & Lamb & Larger Night	Friday, 15th September	Yealering Town Hall
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GRDC Harvest Forum	Friday, 22nd September	Cunderdin
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AgREC Update

2023 Project Update



By Kaitlyn Anderson & Tina Astbury - Agricultural Project Coordinators

March and April have been busy for our small AgREC team here at Facey Group. We were chained to our desks finalising reports and the presentation for our Trial Review and Pre-Seeding Catch-Up evening. Then barely a week later the rain began, and we have been out in paddocks doing everything from spray efficiency and soil testing at Daniel Bird's as part of the GRDC Stubble Height Project to preg-scanning ewes at Tom Wittwer's for the MLA Confinement Feeding Project. Since the break in the season, the team has traveled 1168km, visiting 13 host farmers, collecting 80 samples and 462 data points. 2023 is going to be a busy year for Facey Group with many new projects starting and several continuing from previous years.

Our current projects include:

- [GRDC Grain Legume](#)
- [Soil CRC and Murdoch Plant-Based Solutions to Improved Soil Performance](#)
- Soil CRC Carbon Strategies Ecosystem processes in the enhancement of soil carbon
- CSIRO Long Coleoptile
- GGA and GRDC National Risk Management Initiative
- DRIPD Brome Grass
- DPIRD Rhizoctonia
- [Farmnco Mouse Surveillance](#)
- GRDC Stubble Height
- AGT Soft Wheat Trial
- [MLA Confinement Feeding and Deferred Grazing](#)
- Summit Nitrogen Trial
- BASF Herbicide Trial
- Facey Group Soil Amelioration and Nodulation
- [CSIRO Saltbush with novel understories](#)
- UWA Targeted Tillage

GRDC - Grain Legumes Project “When should I be sowing legumes?”

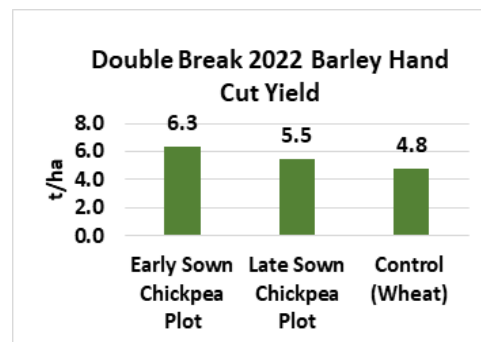
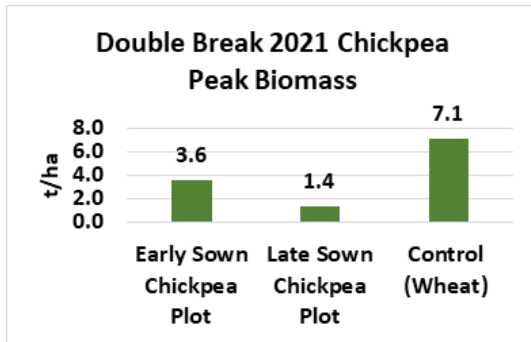
Key Takeaway

- An early sowing time should be considered if growing legumes for biomass production.
- Greater biomass in nitrogen-fixing legumes could be the key to increasing cereal yields in the following year.

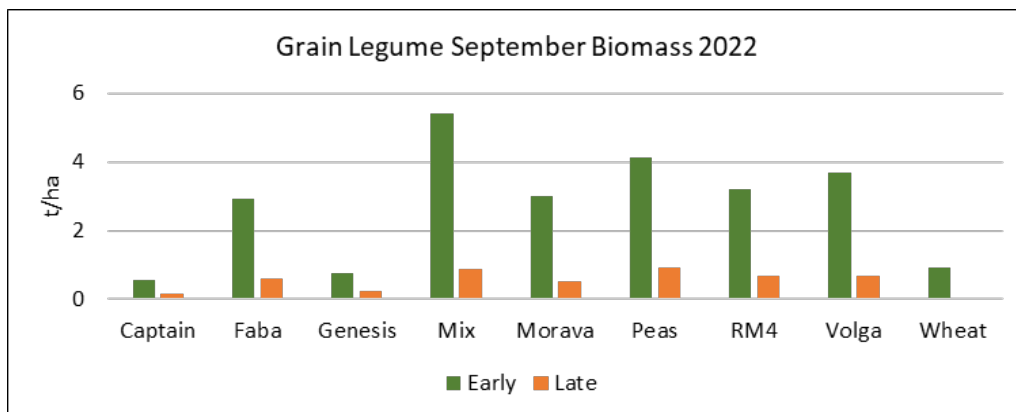
The Facey Group has been looking into sowing times of grain legumes over multiple projects. We were inspired by a project that wrapped up in 2021 that saw early sown chickpeas having great success with biomass. This led to the Double Break Project that wrapped up after the 2022 growing season.

The GRDC Double Break Project saw chickpeas sown early, following a canola crop, did have considerably more biomass than later sown chickpeas in 2021. Past research indicates that an increase in biomass with nitrogen-fixing legumes has a positive effect on cereal varieties grown in the following years. The Double Break project saw similar effects on the barley crop that was sown in 2022.

AgREC Update Cont.



The grain legume project that commenced in the 2022 growing season also showed similar results with biomass yield measured in September. Nearly all varieties that were sown earlier showed significantly more biomass production, than varieties sown later.



With the Grain Legume Project being sown over with a cereal crop this year, the Facey Group team are excited to see if we can expect the same high yields in plots that had early sown legumes as we did in the Double Break Project. The past and current legume trials that have been run at the Facey Group show that farmers looking at producing biomass for pasture or green manuring and nitrogen-fixing with varieties such as vetch should be sowing early.

A full trial report will be sent out to Facey Group members in the coming months that will include a full data analysis including yield results from the legumes.

For further information, click the links below:

- [Economic benefits of nitrogen fixation from legumes in subsequent season crops](#)
- [Facey Group Double Break Project](#)
- [Facey Group Grain Legume Project](#)

Stubble Height Project

Facey Group has clarified with Liebe Group the plan going forward with the Stubble Height Project. We have completed sampling prior to seeding the trial to Canola.

- Facey Group commenced the second year of the Stubble Height Project by collecting soil and stubble samples across the treatment trial.
- When host farmer, Daniel Bird, was doing his pre-emergent spraying, we conducted a spray efficacy test.

AgREC Update Cont.

- We have placed temperature and humidity gauges in the paddock, above and below the soil, to compare the conditions between treatment types.
- Over the next few weeks we will monitor soil moisture.
- During the year we will test plant tissue samples, conduct weed counts, and assess in-crop diseases.



Picture: Spray Efficacy Testing at various heights among the stubble.

DPIRD Rhizoctonia Project

With help from local farmers and the Facey Group, the Department of Primary Industries and Rural Development is looking to better understand the mechanisms and triggers of Rhizoctonia and how it can be efficiently managed in the region. We are starting trials this year.

Rhizoctonia is a fungal disease that causes root rot in cereal crops. The fungus thrives in light soils, growing in crop residues and soil organic matter. The fungus is well adapted to dry conditions and low fertile sandy soils, it affects plant establishment and yield.

So how do you know if Rhizoctonia is affecting your paddock?

Rhizoctonia can be misdiagnosed as crop damage because the fungus can produce symptoms that look similar to many other factors. This includes nutrient deficiency or nematode damage. The most common first sign of Rhizoctonia is distinct bare patches that can be sporadic throughout the paddock. It does not always form the perfect circle shape that producers may be looking for. The fungus can also produce uneven growth creating a wave effect throughout the paddock.

At a plant level, roots can show rotting, producing short root systems with brown spear tips. A black crust may also be found around the base of the stem. As some nematodes do thrive in a similar environment, it is not uncommon to see nematode damage at the same time. A Predicta B test is the best way to ensure accurate diagnoses in effected areas.

For further information, click the link below:

- [GRDC Tips and Tactics for Rhizoctonia](#)

AgREC Update Cont.

Confinement Feeding and Deferred Grazing Project

Farmers in the local area are very good at using precision technology when it comes to their cropping enterprises. Now, with the rollout of eID's coming into effect by 2025, farmers will be able to manage their sheep flocks with the same level of precision.

The Confinement Feeding and Deferred Grazing project, funded by MLA, will explore this precision management approach with pregnant ewes. The project looks at supplementary feeding pregnant ewes in confinement while deferring grazing of pastures until FOO and ewe nutritional requirements over the critical lambing period can be matched. This strategy allows farmers to precisely manage their pasture resource allocation and ewe nutrition to help improve ewe and lamb survival.

Tom Wittwer started his confinement feeding program at the start of April with 4,047 ewes going into confinement after preg-scanning. This was timed with the sowing of a pasture mix of barley, wheat, and clover that will be utilised for lambing by the pregnant ewes that are currently in confinement. Having the ewes in confinement before lambing allows Tom to establish more pasture and his cropping program to be undisturbed by grazing sheep.

For further information, click the links below:

- [Electronic identification for sheep and goats](#)
- [Electronic identification of sheep and goats - FAQ](#)
- [Facey Group, MLA Confinement Feeding Project](#)
- [MLA Confinement Feeding information](#)



Member NEWS

Facey Group 2022 Trials Review and Pre-Seeding Catch-Up

A great turn out of members and industry representatives attended the Facey Group 2022 Trials Review and Pre-Seeding Catch-Up on Thursday, 23rd March 2023. We started with a very informative presentation regarding financial planning from Matthew Yates, Director at Byfields Wealth Management. The idea of matching financial planning with end financial goals resonated. After this Kaitlyn and Tina shared the findings from the projects last year. We are still in the process of finalising the Trials Book for 2022 but were able to share many of our initial key findings on the Trials Review evening. It was fantastic to see so many in attendance to hear these results.



Andrew Heinrich, Technical Specialist - Canola WA, Pacific Seeds presented findings from the latest canola trial design, incorporating double and triple-stacked herbicide tolerant varieties. These trials compared yield and quality performance across different herbicide technologies. Andrew emphasised that the actual performance of the top 17 yielding varieties is not statistically different from each other. If you are unable to source a seed variety but can source seed from the same class, then the yield is going to be dependent on in-season inputs and the growing season.

Nathan Buegee, based in Bruce Rock and the Area Business Manager for FMC Australasia, presented current trials for Overwatch safety and efficacy use in Barley. These demonstrated effectiveness and safety in a wide range of conditions.

The final presentation of the evening was the Frost Panel Discussion based on last years tour in South Australia and Victoria. Key attendees were happy to share their insights and findings as well as a few funny stories from the tour. I won't name anyone, but Mad Monday in Adelaide and certain navigational challenges were mentioned. The key findings regarding frost were that some areas learn to live with it, some do brown manure in the rotation, such as vetch, and other farmers cycled lentils and have back-up plans to turn crops into hay. Members of the panel thought more work could be done on grain legume breeding and

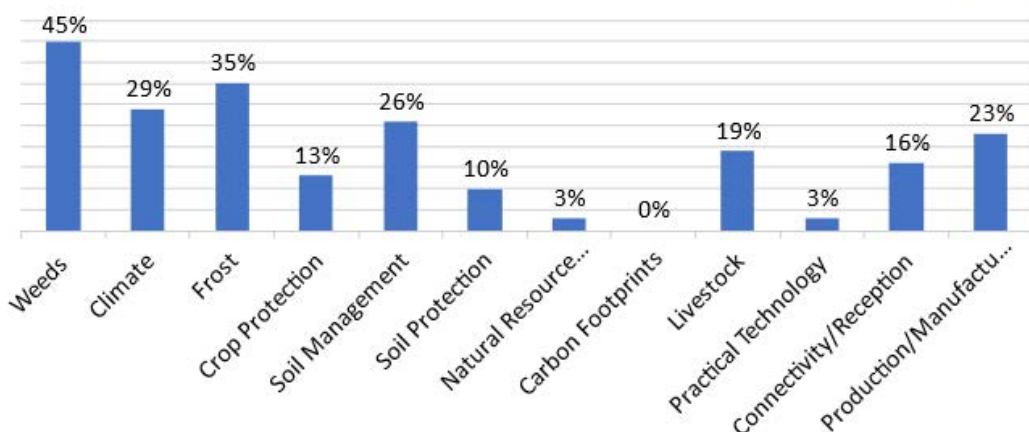
Facey Group 2022 Trials Review and Pre-Seeding Catch-Up Cont.

ensuring business diversity to offset risk. It was interesting to think about frost as a certainty rather than a possibility and ensure the business has the mindset to cope with that.



At the conclusion of the event, a survey was conducted about the main challenges facing farming businesses. The range of responses across diverse topics demonstrates how complex it can be to make effective farming decisions. Thanks to Summit Fertilizers, all our other sponsors, and all who attended, we hope you gained some valuable information from the evening.

What are the main challenges facing your enterprise?



Project Update

Mouse Surveillance 2023

An interesting project Facey Group is involved with in 2023 is supporting Farmanco, GRDC, and CSIRO to gain a better understanding of mouse populations during the year. We know good seasons can increase mouse numbers like they did in 2022. Having a good understanding of in-paddock mouse numbers across the state will assist growers in making prompt decisions when it comes to mouse control.

Facey Group identified 10 different paddocks distributed throughout our region where growers are happy to test for mice. We conducted a pre-seeding surveillance test on 11-13th April. Facey Group AGREC's came to the paddock, put out chew cards, marked mouse burrows and returned the next morning. Assessment of chew cards and burrow activity can give farmers feedback about when to act. This information is also used to assess mouse populations and how they are changing across the state.

Active burrows were in eight out of the 10 paddocks. Many farmers are also reporting to Facey Group, populations of mice in paddocks they are seeding. Clearly, this is an issue farmers should continue to monitor on their properties. Only one of the paddocks that we monitored currently had concerning mouse populations and the farmer in this situation is planning to bait the entire canola program this year.

The mice did not damage the chew cards in most paddocks and the Farmanco project advisor said this may occur when other feed is available. Our next mouse surveillance is scheduled to be conducted in May and we will let you know how the situation is developing.



Future Drought Fund - SW Drought HUB

By Maree Dougall - Facey Group Innovation Coordinator

Facey Group Regional Node Update



South-West WA
Drought Resilience Adoption
and Innovation Hub

The Narrogin/Wickepin Regional Node Lead is engaged through the Facey Group and supported by the South-West WA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub, through funding from the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund.

It has been a whirlwind couple of months for funding applications under the Future Drought Fund with the group submitting applications and providing support to external applications under both the Long-Term Trial of Drought Resilient Farming Practices Program and the Extension and Adoption of Drought Resilience Farming Practices Grants Program. A synopsis of some of the applications:

- Hyperlocal Weather Station Network.
- Management practices for the success of dry and early sown crops.
- Natural Capital Accounting and Natural Capital Management Practice to improve drought resilience.
- De-risking the seeding program: adoption of key management practices for the success of dry and early sown crops.
- Accelerating the adoption of agri-tech solutions by female farmers to transform production practices in response to a changing environment.

Science to Practice Forum 6-8th June



The Future Drought Fund's annual Science to Practice Forum brings together farmers, researchers, government, industry, and the community to explore the innovative tools and practices helping our regions prepare for future drought.

Award-winning television journalist and presenter of ABC TV's Landline, Pip Courtney, will host this year's online forum and facilitate engaging conversations on drought preparedness.

Facey Group Regional Node Update Cont.

The Forum is a three-day, online event that is free to attend, with each day focusing on a particular theme:

- Tuesday 6 June – Research and Development
- Wednesday 7 June – Farmers, Producers, and Agricultural Advisors
- Thursday 8 June – Community and Policy

Register now to attend and see how Australian agriculture is building drought resilience through collaboration.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2023-science-to-practice-forum-tickets-596424209867>

Nuffield Drought Resilience Scholarships

Applications are closing on the 9th of June 2023. Click [HERE](#) to apply.

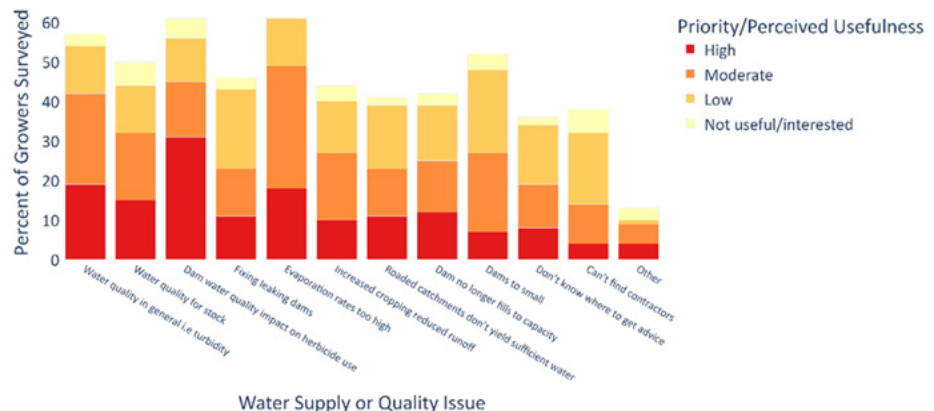
WaterSmart Dams Grower Survey Summary

WaterSmart Dams is a collaboration between the Grower Group Alliance (GGA), University of Western Australia’s Centre for Water and Spatial Sciences (CWSS), the Department of Primary Industries & Regional Development (DPIRD) and grower groups.

The key priorities/issues that came out of the survey were:

Key Farm Dam Issues

- Dam water quality
- Impact on herbicide use and effectiveness
- General Quality (i.e. water clarity)
- Quality for stock
- Dam water level / Dams that lose water quickly
- Reduced runoff from cropped paddocks
- Dam size is insufficient for farm needs



Source: <https://www.gga.org.au/water-smart-dams-update-2/>

Facey Group Regional Node Update Cont.

Origo Weather Station Roll Out Extended – Expression of Interest Shout Out

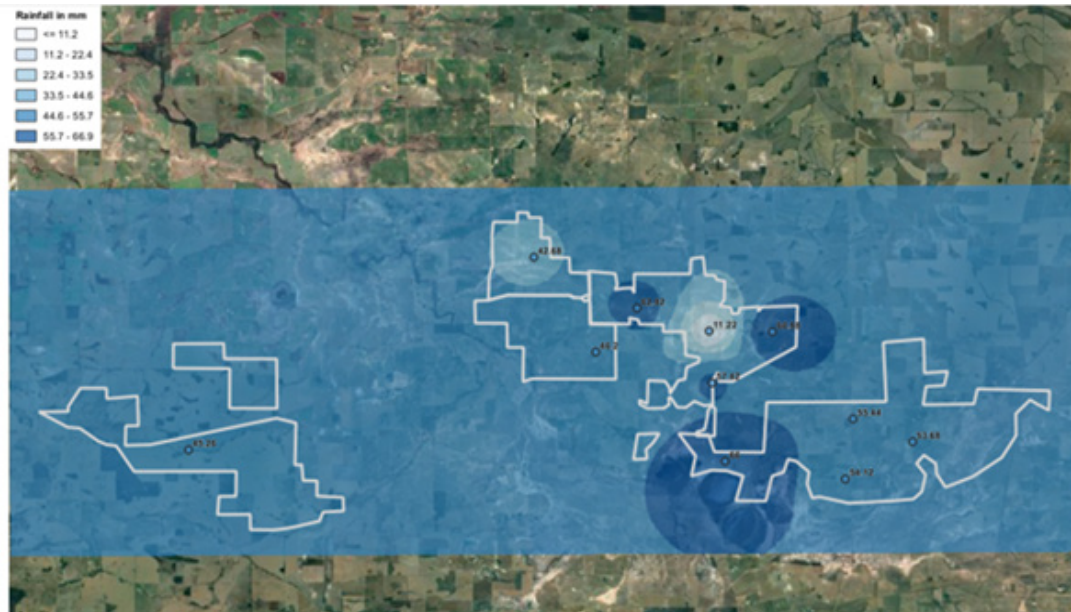


Figure 1. April 2023 Yealering weather station cluster total rainfall to date

Following the successful rollout of the weather station hyper network around Yealering, the Facey Group is extending this hyper network and coverage with the support of our preferred supplier Origo.

Having real-time local data to assist in the on farm decision making is key within our variable climate plus also the option of add on technology for remote tank monitoring, pump control, etc. This technology also opens up the ability for local wind speed and direction to assist with tasks like spraying and burning.

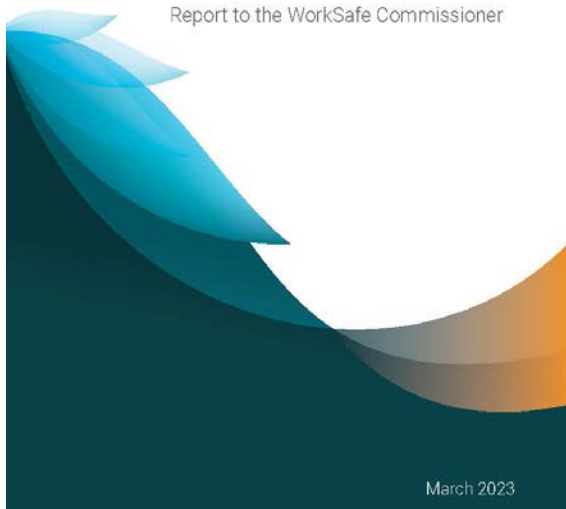
To get involved please contact Maree 0448103747 innovation@faceygroup.org.au



Industry NEWS



Inquiry into the
**agricultural industry in
Western Australia**
Report to the WorkSafe Commissioner



Inquiry into Agricultural Industry report released

The report on the WorkSafe Commissioner's independent Inquiry into the Agricultural Industry has been released, with most of its recommendations supported and currently under consideration.

The Commissioner has indicated his support for the majority of the recommendations, however two have been noted as they will require further work or consultation if the State Government wishes to progress them.

The recommendations include:

- That a specialist Agricultural team of inspectors and liaison officers and an advisory service be established to conduct inspections, attend industry events and develop advisory material for the industry;
- That steps be taken to raise industry awareness of safety with the participation of industry groups, including specific Agricultural industry web pages and utilisation of public events to educate farmers;
- That a suite of codes of practice and guidance notes directed to the Agricultural industry be developed, written as simple "how-to" and "how-not-to" documents; and
- That timely information be given to the industry about the causes of fatalities and serious injuries.

[Read the full media release HERE.](#)

[Click the image above to read full Inquiry Report.](#)

New Research a Game Changer for Rural Industries Workforce

An Australian first study has found that changing how community members view a career in agriculture, fisheries or forestry, could hold the key to securing a reliable and dynamic rural industries workforce for the future.

The research, undertaken by data science company Voconiq as part of AgriFutures Australia's Community Perceptions and Worker Experiences Research Program, involved surveying more than 5,000 people to understand the key drivers of workforce retention and attraction across rural industries.

AgriFutures Australia Managing Director, John Harvey said the research is a game changer for the agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors.

"We now have data on what workers want from a career in rural industries, why people have left the workforce and what will attract more workers from other sectors," Mr Harvey said. [Read full article HERE](#)

New App to help combat salinity in WA

WESTERN Australian farmers have a new online tool to help rehabilitate salt-affected land.

The Saltland Genie web-based App brings together eight decision support tools to help landholders implement solutions on salt-affected land.

Dryland salinity affects about 1.75 million hectares of public and private land in the south-west of WA, resulting in lost agricultural productivity.

When using the tool, farmers and landholders can enter their water and soil salinity measurements to help find practical solutions, access information about on-site implementation and estimate the return on planned rehabilitation investment.

[Read full article HERE](#)

Three ways to capitalise on your natural assets for better grazing

Managing the natural resources on a livestock property is critical to the long-term productivity and sustainability of an enterprise.

There's never a better time than now to start paying attention to your property's natural assets and how they can be managed for long-term profitability and sustainability, according to Southern Farming Systems' Manager – Soils, Pasture and Livestock, Lisa Miller.

[Read full article HERE](#)

Industry NEWS Cont.

WA growers urged to be alert for mice activity

WESTERN Australian grain growers are encouraged to be vigilant in monitoring mouse numbers in the lead up to seeding as growing regions across the state face continued pressure from the pests.

With a record 2022 harvest including a 26 million tonne grain crop in WA, an abundance of food available in paddocks may contribute to further mouse pressures in 2023.

CSIRO rodent expert, Steve Henry, who is one of the lead researchers on the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC)-supported investment into mouse management, says that conditions were ripe for mouse breeding this time of year.

Henry encouraged growers to monitor their paddocks throughout autumn, taking steps to reduce sources of available food.

“It is imperative growers get out of their vehicles, walk into their paddocks and get a good feel for what is going on in respect to current mouse numbers and activity,” he said. [Read full article HERE](#)



What should be considered for effective inductions?

Inductions are an important information sharing session that helps to familiarise people with the locations, equipment, materials, processes and tasks they may encounter while working at or visiting a site for the first time.

To achieve the best results, inductions need to be tailored and targeted. They should accommodate all workers (i.e. employees, contractors, trainees).

The topics covered typically include:

- hazards and associated risks
- safe work procedures and practices
- communication protocols
- emergency procedures
- workplace facilities.

[Read full article HERE](#)

Lamb yardings tipped to rise

MORE than 50 per cent of Australia’s lamb producers are expected to sell more lambs for the first half of the year compared with 2022.

The latest results from the Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) and Australian Wool Innovation (AWI) February 2023 Sheep Producer Intentions - PULSE survey show 55 per cent of producers expecting to sell more lambs in the first half of 2023 across most states and all farm sizes.

This translates to an increase of 3.27 million lambs to be sold on top of the estimates from the October MLA and AWI survey, or a total of 13.44 million head, in the first half of 2023. [Read full article HERE.](#)

New online hub a one-stop-shop for grazing land management resources

Red meat and livestock producers have access to a new hub of grazing land management resources on the Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) website.

The Grazing Land Management (GLM) hub brings together a range of grazing land management information and tools into a one-stop-shop.

MLA Program Manager, Adoption, Sally Leigo, said that the hub contained the tools, resources and training opportunities to help red meat producers measure available pasture against animal demand, explore improved pasture options, or identify and manage weeds for grazing businesses across Australia. [Read full article HERE](#)

Farmers in crisis: Depression and anxiety rife among Aussie farmers

New research shines a light on Australian farmer mental health with saddening statistics around self-harm and suicide, sparking calls for government support and industry-wide collaboration to create farmer-to-farmer support networks across the country.

New research released in March 2023 paints a saddening picture of the mental health of Australia’s hard-working farmers with close to a third (30%) reporting a decline in their mental health over the past few years. [Read full article HERE](#)

Industry NEWS Cont.

CBH opens Kwinana Fertiliser Facility

WESTERN Australia's CBH Group has opened its new Kwinana Fertiliser Facility, which is expected to deliver significant benefits to WA grain growers.

The facility was officially opened by the WA Minister for Agriculture and Food Jackie Jarvis, Federal Minister for Resources Madeleine King, and CBH chair Simon Stead.

This project marks the start of CBH's liquid fertiliser business and expands its granular fertiliser capacity by 15,000 tonnes. [Read full article HERE](#)

WoolProducers gets \$800,000 grant for wool processing study

PEAK grower body WoolProducers Australia has won an \$800,000 grant to undertake the second phase in its study into developing domestic and early-stage wool processing.

Together with industry co-investment and the recently announced strategic partnership with AusHub, the total value of the project is almost \$1.1million, WoolProducers said.

The grant funding allows further exploration of the findings and recommendations of the earlier report, "Ensuring a sustainable future for Australia's wool supply chain" (Phase 1 report), that quantified the commercial feasibility and risk mitigation benefits associated with domestic and diversified early-stage processing of Australian wool. [Read full article HERE](#)

Australia hits breakthrough on barley to China

THE Australian Government has reached an agreement with China that creates a pathway towards resolving the dispute over Australian barley. Since 2020, China's 80.5 percent duties on Australian barley have effectively blocked exports to that market, worth about \$916 million in 2018-19.

Following recent dialogue, China has agreed to undertake an expedited review of the duties over a three-month period, which may extend to a fourth if required.

This dialogue has taken place in parallel to Australia continuing to prosecute its national interests through the World Trade Organization.

[Read full article HERE.](#)

Electronic Identification of Sheep & Goats - Frequently asked questions

See below a useful document for understanding the new Electronic Tag requirements for sheep. For full information click the image below.



Protect
Grow
Innovate

Electronic identification of sheep and goats Frequently asked questions

What is electronic identification?

Electronic identification (eID) devices, also called 'eID tags' allow individual identification of animals. These devices contain a Radio Frequency Identifier (RFID) microchip that can be read via a handheld scanning wand or panel reader.

Each device has a unique internal serial number linked to an external code (NLISID) to provide the unique identifier associated with the animal that is tagged.

- The RFID is like the VIN of a car and the external NLISID like the numberplate – they both identify and can be used to trace the owner of the one vehicle.
- eID for livestock includes:
 - ear tags (sheep, goats, cattle),
 - hock bands (some goats only), and
 - rumen boluses (cattle only).

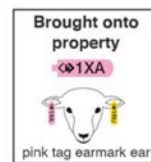
RFID/eID technology has been used successfully for many years in livestock such as cattle and companion animals such as dogs and cats.

Visual tags versus electronic tags

Visual tag system

Currently in Western Australia (WA), a visual tag is applied to a lamb or kid at marking. Each tag is stamped with a brand or property identification code (PIC) to identify the breeder and location of the animal.

A transaction tag, or pink post-breeder tag, is applied by every subsequent owner after the animal comes onto their property, also with the brand or PIC of the new property stamped on it. The animal is said to have visual, mob-based traceability and requires multiple tags per animal.



Visual NLIS tags

Tracing visually tagged stock relies on animals being present at the time to see their life history from the tags applied to them; or needing to trace animals in every mob moved on and off properties of interest, involving many more animals than may be necessary.

World's first oral sheep lousicide registered in Australia

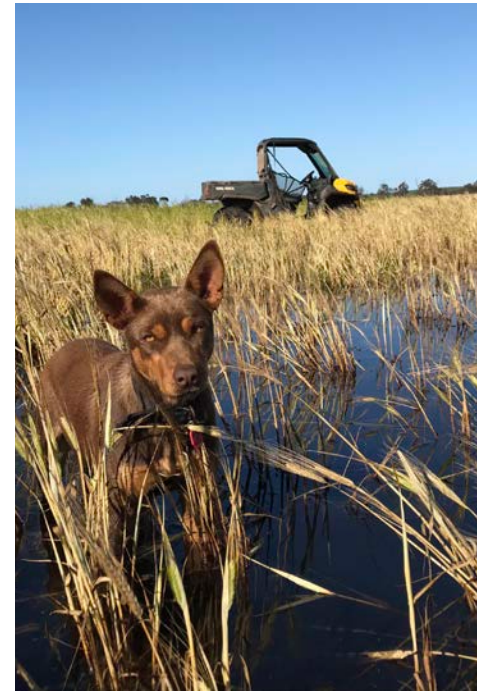
AUSTRALIA'S veterinary medicines authority has registered the world's first oral product for managing lice in sheep.

In a LinkedIn post, Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority chief executive officer Nicole Hinder said the world-first registration was good news for Australian wool growers.

"The #APVMA has just completed another world-first registration – and I cannot help but shout it from ... the woolsheds!, Ms Hinder wrote.

"It is with great pleasure, and a big nod to the APVMA team, that I can announce that the APVMA has approved a first-of-its-kind oral product containing #Fluralaner for lice control in sheep.

[Read full article HERE.](#)



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



This Working Life Podcast

The personal costs of unreasonable work hours

There's been a lot of talk lately about reasonable and unreasonable work hours, thanks to a certain high profile legal case.

Research has found Australians are working some of the longest hours in the world. It's costing us tens of billions of dollars in unpaid wages, with experts calling it 'time theft'.

So when is it ok for your boss to ask you to work overtime? And what is overwork doing to our brains and bodies? Listen [HERE](#)



Farms Advice Podcast

Episode - Blokes - BBQ - Bonfire - Beers - Bonding - B***t with Bradley Millstead**

This is a special episode and a timely reminder for the blokes working in the industry that we're able to open up and there will be someone else out there who is going through or has gone through what you're experiencing.

All guests are invited to come on and be transparent as possible not only about successes but what's been bloody hard for them to. For listeners to sit back and hear someone else going through what they are or feel the pain that they have can bring us closer together.

[Listen HERE](#)

GENERATION **AG**

Generation Ag Podcast

Rebekah Ash: Society, Carbon, and Study

Rebekah Ash is a young career graduate with a passion for international development, sustainability & education in the agriculture industry.

Rebekah has been a key youth leader in agriculture over the past 5 years presenting at major events as a plenary speaker including EvokeAg and Global Food Table where she sat on a panel with US Secretary of State John F. Kerry. She is an AgriFutures Horizon Scholar, Crawford Fund Scholar, Westpac Future Leaders Scholar & recipient of prestigious scholarships and awards at The University of Queensland including the 2021 UQ Agriculture Valedictorian. [Listen HERE](#)

NEWS from Our Partners

“Rock hard” demand for WA farmland – Rabobank Report

Demand for farmland in Western Australia has been “rock hard”, with the state’s average agricultural land price rising by 22.5 per cent in 2022, agribusiness banking specialist Rabobank says in its newly-released annual Australian Agricultural Land Price Outlook.

The report, supported by farmland sales data from DAS (Digital Agricultural Services), says record demand for land – following three consecutive good seasons for the state’s farm sector – has seen the median price per hectare of WA agricultural land rise to just over AUD 6,000/hectare.

Arable farmland prices in WA increased 29.7 per cent year on year (to AUD 4,295/hectare), while the Bunbury area retained its lead as the region with the most valuable ag land, with an average price of just over AUD 19,000/hectare.



RaboResearch Agriculture Analyst - Vitor Pistoia

Report author, RaboResearch agriculture analyst Vitor Pistoia said looking back over the past four years, lower rainfall regions in the state were comparatively shown to have experienced the highest percentage increases in value.

“The Mid West has seen a 133 per cent rise in median ag land prices since 2019, followed by the Northern Wheatbelt with 131 per cent growth and the Southern Wheatbelt with 111 per,” he said.

Nationally, the bank’s analysis – of the DAS data set which comprises genuine rural sales and excludes lifestyle and non-market transactions – found agricultural land prices across the country rose by 29 per cent (median price per hectare) in 2022, with cropping land increasing by 29 per cent, livestock grazing land by 26 per cent and dairy by 29 per cent.

Agricultural land prices were found to have recorded double digit percentage growth on the previous year in all states, with South Australian farmland prices rising the most – at 34 per cent.

The distribution of farm sales (in number of deals) across Australia remained stable year on year, with 16 per cent in Western Australia in 2022.

And good financial performance for Australia’s farm sector – driven by high commodity prices and good weather conditions for the majority of the country – is set to once again fuel “double digit” percentage growth in agricultural land prices for the year ahead, Rabobank says, albeit easing from the record near-30 per cent increases seen in both 2022 and 2021.

Mr Pistoia said agricultural land prices across the country had soared again in 2022, with the “macro settings” having been favourable for land purchases and farming profits in Australia.

NEWS from Our Partners

“Rock hard” demand for WA farmland – Rabobank Report Cont.

“Prices for most major commodities reached record highs, widespread rainfall supported agricultural yields – which also surpassed historical records in some regions – and interest rates were at historical lows for almost half the year,” he said.

While a decline in agricultural land prices is not forecast, the bank cautions that – after the estimated double digit percentage price increase this year, a significant slowdown in the “pace” of price growth – which had been “massive” in recent years – is expected from 2024 potentially through to 2028.

Mr Pistoia said “farmland sale prices in early 2023 are still setting new records”, with prices in 2023 expected to continue to rise.

“Albeit to a lesser extent to the previous year as the combination of high property prices and increasing interest rates – along with the expected onset of El Nino, and potentially drier weather for many parts of Australia, which may hamper agricultural yields – will be impacting farmers’ appetite for buying land,” he said.

Mr Pistoia said the income outlook for Australian farmers in 2023/24 was, though, “solid and positive” with above-historical-average prices for agricultural commodities still granting good profitability and with recent high costs for farm inputs now easing.

However, looking out from 2024 to 2028, he said – with the record highs for agricultural yields and commodity prices seen in the past three years unlikely to be repeated – there are expectations of a slowing pace in the growth of land prices, although with no price declines expected.

“Commodity prices are likely to remain at good levels for farmers for the next one to two years. However, the drier forecast may result in lower yields and reduced margins, while rising interest rates will curtail long-term investment plans,” he said.

“Currently, cash already available in the system and stocks of grains and livestock ready to enter the market remain the key factors driving land price growth.”

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

Variety Update

When planning your 2023 seeding program, please consider the following information on varietal classification. If growers have any questions, please consult with your agronomist.



Wheat Classifications

When selecting a wheat variety to grow, the pay grade that can be achieved is often a key consideration for growers. Wheat Quality Australia joined Grains Australia in 2021 and are responsible for wheat classification. The Wheat Variety Classification Panel assesses new wheat varieties to determine their processing and end-product suitability (for qualities such as milling extraction, dough balance, baking performance and noodle colour and texture), to meet key market requirements. They also manage the Wheat Variety Master List which determines the grade that can be achieved by each variety. Classification for new varieties such as Brumby, Mohawk, LRPB Anvil and Stockade can be found here:

<https://grainsaustralia.com.au/industry-activities/classification/wheat-variety-master-list/>

Removals from the Wheat Master List

Calingiri has been removed from the Wheat Variety Master List. Calingiri can therefore only be delivered into feed stacks at CBH and Feed is the only paygrade available. This is the result of ongoing consultation with the key noodle markets.

Future removals from the Master List can be found at this link:

<https://grainsaustralia.com.au/industry-activities/classification/wheat-variety-master-list/#wheat-master-list/pending-removal/>

Key varieties grown in WA to be removed in 2024 include Carnamah, Impose CL plus, Justica CL Plus, EGA Eagle Rock, Stiletto, Spear and Halberd T/N.

Canola

GM canola is now widely grown across all Port Zones and it remains important for CBH to segregate separately from non-GM canola. This allows WA growers to maintain access to a greater number of markets and maintain market access. It is important for growers to take care when entering canola varieties into Paddock Planner and the CDF app to avoid contamination of non-GM canola in storage.

Roundup Ready and Truflex canola both exhibit tolerance to glyphosate herbicide. Both of these traits have been available for some time and growers are well accustomed to segregating from non-GM canola varieties.

Last year saw the commercial release of Liberty Link canola in the form of variety LT4530P. Liberty Link canola is resistant to the herbicide glufosinate and this resistance is conferred by genetic modification. As such it must be declared as a GM variety at the point of delivery.

Optigly Canola is another GM canola resistant to glyphosate due for commercial release in 2024. Optigly Varieties will also only be able to be delivered as GM (known as CAG).

Should growers have any queries about variety classification then they should consult their agronomist. The CBH Grower Service Centre can also help with grading questions.

Barley

Malt barley segregation recommendations in each port zone are made by GIWA. This information is accessible on the [GIWA website](#).

SUCCESSION PLANNING – TOP 10 TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

Succession planning is a hot topic, particularly given the significant increase in not only the expenses associated with farming activities, but also the value of farming land. Succession planning is far more than just making a Will to deal with your estate when you pass. It is not limited to death and also encapsulates transferring control during your lifetime.

So where to start? Succession planning can be a sensitive topic to bring up so we've put together our top 10 topics for discussion ahead of our workshops with Facey Group in 2023 to help get you started.

1. What are the assets?

It is important to know what the assets actually are. This includes both on-farm and off-farm assets. Eg. plant and equipment, real property, shares, bank accounts, livestock etc.

2. Who owns the assets?

Not all assets will be held by the same entity, rather, it is common in farming enterprises for assets to be held separately. Often the entity that owns the land will differ to the entity that operates the business. It is important to know who owns each asset not only for tax purposes, but also for preparing your Will and your succession plan.

3. Is there formal agreements recording the entity structures?

If you operate as a partnership, company or trust, you will most likely have a written agreement documenting the setup of the entity and what is to happen in certain situations. It is important to know what agreements exist and have copies of these. This includes any variations made to original agreements. This will be key to assessing whether the arrangement still reflects current circumstances and what steps are required to be undertaken as part of your succession planning.

4. Who are the key personnel within the business/entities?

The key personnel are those parties that control the entity, as well as those parties that have a current or future interest in the business. The key personnel will differ between businesses and entities. For example, if you operate your business through a company it will include directors, secretaries and shareholders and if you operate your business through a trust it will include the trustee, appointor, guardian and beneficiaries.

5. What happens to the business if key personnel become incapacitated or die?

What happens when key personnel become incapacitated or die will again differ between businesses and entities. Eg. a trust deed may provide for a successive appointor/guardian in the event the current appointor/guardian is incapacitated or dies, or such person's Will may nominate a successor on death.

6. How is it intended to dispose of the assets?

Assets can be disposed of in a variety of ways on a variety of occasions. This can be prior to death by transferring assets or upon death through a person's Will. There are a number of different factors that need to be taken into account when determining when to dispose of assets and how, such as tax implications, financial stability and control.

7. What are the future needs?

You should account for any needs that you and your family/key personnel may have at present and/or in the future. This is not limited to health and finances and also includes dealing with estranged persons, persons with addictions, minors etc.

8. What are the tax implications?

It is important to consult with your accountant to discuss whether any tax implications may arise during succession. Knowing what imposts may arise and how these can be dealt with may affect how you decide to deal with your affairs.

9. Superannuation and life insurance policies

Super and life insurance policies do not automatically form part of your estate on death and are often kept separate and dealt with in a different manner. For this reason, you should ensure you have nominated a beneficiary to receive your entitlements upon death and that such nomination accurately reflects your wishes and is valid and binding on the policy fund. Not having a valid or adequate nomination could result in the benefit being distributed against your wishes.

10. Estate Planning

Estate planning is not limited to your Will. It also includes having in place an Enduring Power of Attorney, Enduring Power of Guardianship and Advance Health Directive as appropriate. This will help to ensure you are protected pre and post death.

Succession planning is not a destination but rather a journey. It is constantly evolving and changing as your business and needs change so it is important to have a succession plan in place that is reviewed regularly and updated as required.

We will be presenting more detailed information during our upcoming succession planning workshops together with the Facey Group in 2023, so make sure to keep an eye out in the Facey Group Newsletter. Otherwise if you have any queries in the meantime, please do not hesitate to get in contact with us on (08) 9321 5451 or at office@bailiwicklegal.com.au.

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.

NEWS from Our Partners

Join growers from around Australia for Innovation Generation 2023 – ‘Driving Forward’!

Now in its 16th year, Innovation Generation is GrainGrowers' conference for young growers, students and ag professionals.

#IG23 is happening on 16th-19th July in Adelaide SA and is a chance to join discussions on the future of grains, unpack hot topics such as carbon credits, ag tech and emerging trends, as well as network with growers from around Australia. Early Bird Grower tickets are less than \$350 and give you access to the full conference program, three networking functions, a site tour and a great opportunity to learn from the best and brightest in ag.



Find out more: <https://bit.ly/43xOtx3>

A promotional graphic for the "Driving Forward" event. The graphic is a vertical rectangle with a teal-to-green gradient. It contains the text "Join us for DRIVING FORWARD" in white and yellow, a calendar icon, the dates "16-19 July 2023", and the location "National Wine Centre of Australia, Adelaide, South Australia". At the bottom left is the "INNOVATION GENERATION" logo. To the right of the graphic is a photograph of a young man with long brown hair, wearing a black cap with "MERRETT CONTRACTING" on it, a black polo shirt, and a conference badge. He is holding a microphone in his right hand and a small electronic device in his left hand.



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PARTNER WITH PLANFARM

So, who's powering agriculture?

Planfarm Landline Article

April 2023



Cameron Weeks
Farm Business Consultant
0427 006 944

As a sponsor of the recently held Rural Edge 'Inspire 2023' conference I was given the chance to represent Planfarm at a speaker and sponsor cocktail party the night before the conference kicked off. The room was full of people of serious standing in agriculture.

In two hours I chatted, amongst others, to a farm owner/manager who was all over crop agronomy and animal genetics, a farm owner/councilor/community advocate who is oh so inspiring, the managing director of the major HR & WHS consultancy in the state, an up and coming and extraordinarily passionate researcher juggling a pure research role with offering a consultancy service to farmers, plus the chair of Rural Edge who's worked for the likes

of KPMG, PWC and AWB in management roles before settling into a farm business.

Wow! The little old (yep 55 next month!) farm consultant had to be at his best to not look and feel intimidated.

As I drove home, I was reflecting on the experience of the past two hours, and it dawned on me that I am privileged in my role to work with so many amazing women (yes, all the above were women) in all aspects of agriculture and especially within farming businesses. I get to see the best and worst of people and I do know that without women in a farm business they are oh so significantly weaker.

Fast forward to this morning, as I write, and I was meeting with a husband and wife who own and run a very successful farm business to help them figure out their farm succession offering to their two sons. The husband is one of the hardest working, most driven and talented men I know with the ability to grow amazing crops and build anything you ask him to. The wife has had her own career,

worked in the usual female roles within the business (administration, accounts, finance) as well as being a mother and in recent years a carer to her husband's parents.

Oh, my goodness what a partnership. No wonder they have been successful and with two of them thinking together about farm succession bouncing ideas off each other, listening respectfully to each other's views, and communicating well I know they will get it right.

So, what is it that women bring to a family business that makes them so much stronger? I found this on the KPMG website, and I think it sums it up perfectly.

- The innate characteristics of women as nurturers and caregivers can translate to a role as "chief emotional officer", adding to the success and perpetuity of the family business. Their presence brings additional resources that the family business can capitalize on.
- Women have unique and transformational leadership styles and skill, judgment and

an outlook that makes them holistic managers and leaders.

- Women in family businesses are continuing to work on role conflicts to pave their own path in the business and the family and resist being designated only as the family caregiver.
- It is not possible to grow a family business with a leadership team that is made up exclusively of men or women.

Men, in closing, acknowledge the role

women in your business play, look for ways to promote them, encourage their insights, listen to their views, treat them as equals and most of all provide the same amount of respect that you would a male involved in the business. You are better off with them, just as they are you, so leverage off each other for greater success and of course happiness. Here's to women in agriculture. Long may there be more of them in the full spectrum of roles!



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The Nitrogen Sulphur Balance

In-season applications of nitrogen (N) are the single biggest management tool that a grower has, to make a positive effect on their bottom line. In the coming weeks, farmers across the state will be making important decisions on matching N inputs to their yield potential.

N is taken up by crops and pastures in the largest quantities of any nutrient. It's an essential part of many plant compounds such as amino acids and proteins and also has an essential role in the production of chlorophyll and is essential for photosynthesis.

N is required prior to tillering as this is when tiller numbers and florets/grains per head are determined (which are initially set up primarily by phosphorus application at seeding). Peak demand for N is during stem elongation, so adequate N needs to be in the system by then to ensure tiller and floret survival. N grows more biomass for photosynthesis which is important during the spring as the weather warms up and into grain fill. N is mobile in the plant and soil so it can be managed during the season depending on the conditions.

Sulphur (S), like N, is mobile in the soil; however, it's not readily mobile in the plant. This means that S supply needs to be considered all the way through the season, as the plant doesn't have the ability to store and translocate the nutrient as required,

S has a strong positive interaction with N and needs to be considered when planning any N applications. S is important in the synthesis of amino acids, its effect on the amount of protein produced and a wide range of other metabolic processes. It's involved in the production of amino acids in ruminant animals, and increased S levels have been associated with higher lamb survival, increased wool production, increased weight gain and stronger wool.

Aside from the actual crop S requirement, there have been many studies showing that S applied at the same time as N increases nitrogen use efficiency; therefore you are getting better 'bang-for-buck' out of your N spend.

Most in-season S is applied via a 'sulfate of ammonia' based product; the positive for this is that the N in those products isn't typically affected by leaching or volatilization upon application, therefore it reduces the risk of N loss if conditions aren't what is expected. Given the emphasis of 'carbon farming' in today's world, this will be a management practice that may help as this evolves.

Cereals exhibit an N:S of 15:1 (grain) but can run into S deficiency if the N:S ratio exceeds 18:1.

Canola N:S (grain) is commonly 7:1, but if the N:S ratio is above 13:1, then S deficiency can occur.

Plant testing during early-mid winter is an accurate way to measure these ratios and gives the grower time to manage N and S before the season finishes.

MAXamFLO an ideal N:S balance

Much of the liquid N fertilizer used in the WA market is UAN, however MAXamFLO from Summit Fertilizers offers a great alternative, especially for nitrogen applications on canola paddocks.

MAXamFLO contains 6.2% w/w sulphur (7.8% w/v) along with 22% w/w nitrogen (27.7% w/v), which makes it an excellent choice for those situations where S and N are both required.

MAXamFLO can replace UAN to supply N and S in pre or post-emergent applications or can be used as a liquid alternative to UreaPlus or sulphate of ammonia.

MAXamFLO is exceptionally well priced and has traditionally provided N at an equivalent cost per unit to UAN or other liquid nitrogen fertilizers. This has also meant the S component has been provided for no additional cost when MAXamFLO has been used.

For further information including herbicide and fungicide compatibility, please contact your local Area Manager or visit the Summit Fertilizers web page www.summitfertz.com.au.

Summit Fertilizers – N:S range

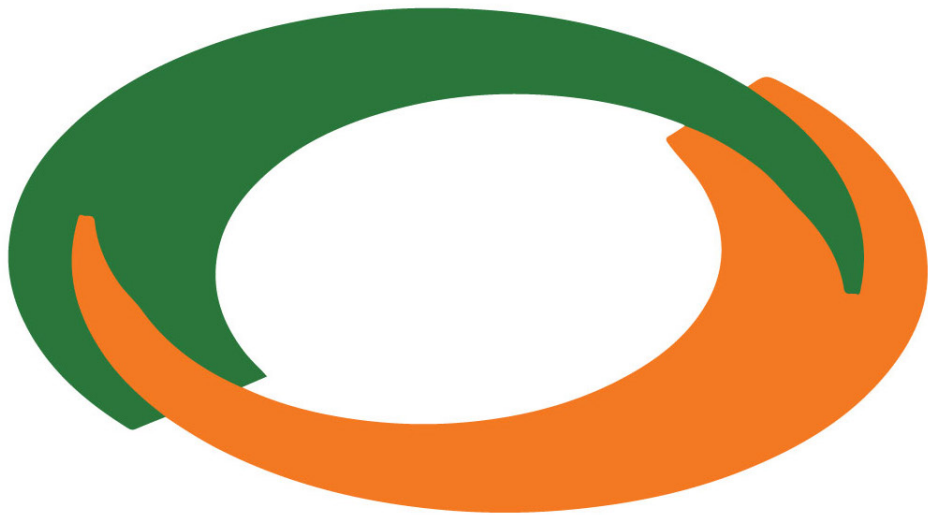


Product	N	K	S	BD
Amsul	21.0		24.0	0.95
MAXam	21.0		24.0	1.01
MAXamFLO	22.0		6.2	1.26
NitroMOP	23.0	25.0	0.4	0.93
NitroPlus	33.5		12.0	0.85
NKS21	28.8	12.5	5.7	0.88
NKS32	25.6	16.5	5.3	0.91
NKS Spring	22.0	14.0	10.7	0.94
Sulphate of Ammonia	21.0		24.0	1.07
UAN	32.0			1.32
Urea	46.0			0.75
UreaPlus	37.3		8.4	0.82
UreaS	41.6		4.2	0.79



For more information on the Summit Fertilizers range, please contact your local Area Manager, David Hull on 0477 923 684

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