



SCF FOCUS

Event for your Calendar

Thursday 12th February 2015

SCF Management Committee Meeting at Kamballup Hall - 1.00pm

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Jottings from the Chair

Stuffin' horrible harvest...No notes.

Cheers John



**Wishing all our Members,
Sponsors and Agency Partners
a Merry Christmas,
a safe and happy New Year
and a prosperous 2015**



We would like to thank our Tier 1 Sponsors



Preliminary Results: John Howard's Barley Trial

John Blake SCF R&D Coordinator

Mobile: 0438 761950

The trial conducted by John Howard is a follow-up on the broad-scale trial he conducted in 2013 involving 6 varieties. Yields in last year's trial were even higher despite 2013 being a higher disease year. This year's trial was focused on testing fungicide responses however in 2014 foliar diseases in this locality were minimal. Yield measurements were made using a weigh trailer on 150m plot lengths. The full plot lengths are 800m with six replications for the two varieties! Full analysis of John's yield maps will be reported at the Stirlings to Coast Farmers Crop Updates.



Barley Yields in the trial: Average across the trial:

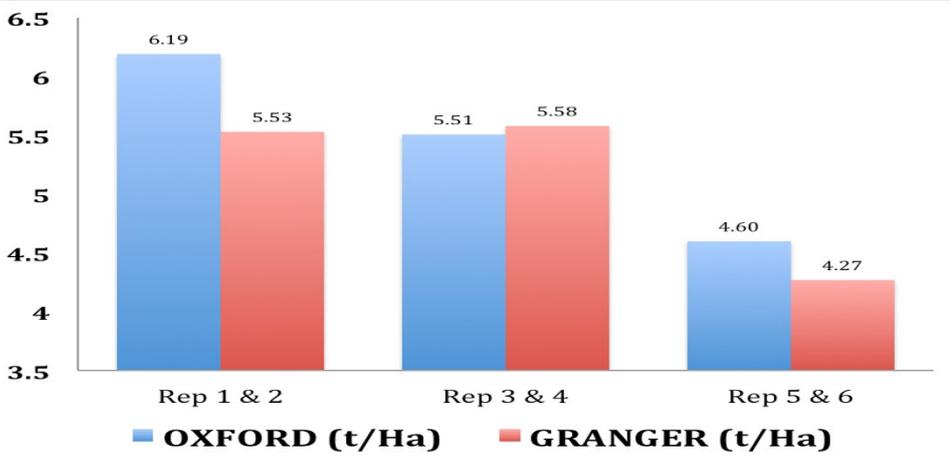


Fig 1: Barley Yield by replication for Oxford and GrangeR.

- Oxford 5.38 t/Ha
- GrangeR 5.08 t/Ha

Variety performance

The Oxford in rep 3&4 had slightly more frost symptoms although differences were minimal. The GrangeR yielded well despite a 38% reduction in establishment rates (seed viability issue) compared to the Oxford (see photo). The GrangeR tillered exceptionally well and was able to compensate for lower plant numbers. What John did notice however was that weed levels although exceptionally low overall were higher in the GrangeR as the crop competition was lower in the period up to August. John also observed more lodging in the GrangeR. Head loss was minimal in all plots.

Grain Quality: samples have been taken and will be reported on in trial reports. Grain brightness remains the challenge for GrangeR to make malting grade.

Fig 2; John Howard's paddock scale trial plots (six replications) – Oxford in LHS plot and GrangeR in RHS plot showing reduced establishment of GrangeR in June 2014



Thank You To Our Agency Partners



Barley Variety Update



It is at this time of year many growers are keen to understand which barley varieties CBH group foresee will be in demand for the following season, so they are able to make an informed decision to either retain or deliver their seed.

As the largest exporter of Australian barley, we are happy to provide insights on this topic based on feedback from our extensive customers base and market knowledge.

It is important to say first up that producing large volumes of a lower number of grain varieties delivers huge benefits for growers, the storage and handling provider and the trade through improving logistics, reducing freight costs and promoting stronger competition from the trade, ultimately resulting in higher prices bid to the grower.

So to that end, CBH are encouraging Western Australian growers to target three main varieties of barley in 2015 – **Bass, Scope and Hindmarsh.**

CBH Group is receiving strong demand for each of these varieties and are confident they are already well established in every zone across WA.

In addition to this, CBH will be targeting limited volumes of **Baudin and Commander** varieties within the Kwinana Zone only, to fulfil specific demand.

Buloke, whilst still having strong demand, will be replaced with the agronomically superior Scope variety.

Vlamingh and Gairdner will not be targeted by the CBH Group in 2015, as volumes of both of these varieties have now fallen below the critical levels required to warrant their continued production.

CBH group are currently performing market evaluations for Granger, LaTrobe and Flinders - however it is too early to promote any of these varieties for large 2015 production. Growers should not expect strong demand or superior premiums for these varieties in 2015, as the market acceptance and demand is yet to be established.

If you would like to discuss any of this advice further we would encourage you to speak to your local Business Relationship Manager, John Shephard, on 9890 2314 or 0438 982870.

Contact details can also be found on the CBH Group website www.cbh.com.au.

Useful Links



If you are reading this after harvest and looking for an interesting hour learning about alternative farming systems, try the WeedSmart You Tube on tramline farming and chaff decks. "[Webinar 2 Diverting weed seed onto tramlines](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yX-raNz7ZY#t=84)" with Mark Wandel from the Esperance region.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yX-raNz7ZY#t=84>

Muresk and CBH Group Grain Industry Scholarship

Together with Charles Sturt University and Muresk Campus the CBH Group is offering second year students studying a Bachelor of Agricultural Business Management a \$5,000 one year scholarship in 2015.

Applications close 8 February 2015. For more information or to apply please click here;

<http://www.csu.edu.au/courses/fees-and-costs/help-with-costs/scholarships/foundation/continuing/cbh-group-grain-industry-scholarship>



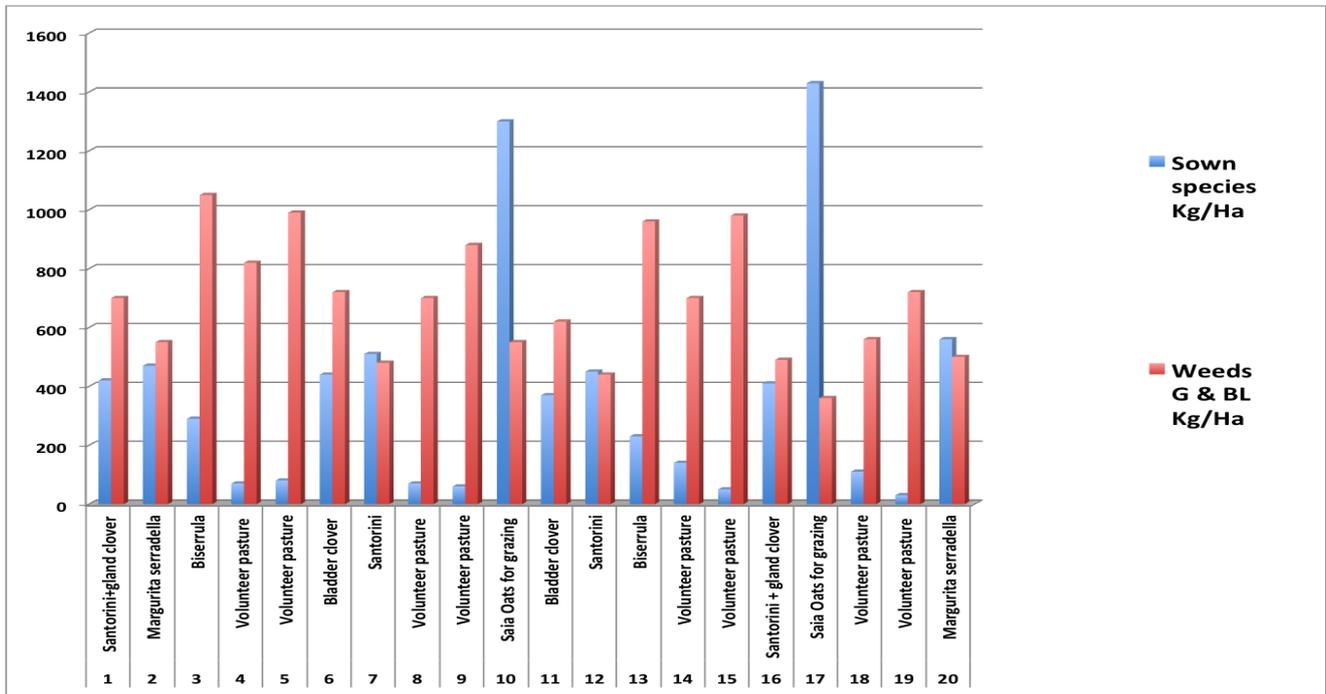
Members who would like copies of the Eastern or Western Area 2014 SCF Spring Field Day booklets please contact Heather.

RCSN (GRDC) Project: Rotation Renewal: Profitable Legume Phase Options – Update

Host: Jeff and Kate Stoney, Gnowellen

Measuring the nitrogen benefit of the new hard seeded legumes for Stirlings sandplain (non wetting, acidic with low water and nutrient holding). With less than a decile 1 start the dry seeding resulted in low plant numbers. This was reflected in the pasture dry weights at end of July. Because of staggered emergence of pasture species the spray applications (grass and broadleaf weeds) had to be delayed and only achieved suppression of capeweed etc. Weed biomass was high – see Fig 1.

Fig1: Plant dry weights at end of July (Pasture species, Saia Oats and weed species)



Following second grazing (cell grazing) in August further spraying was undertaken with 2,4DB plus Diuron for capeweed control and then a spraytop with paraquat. The Margurita Serradella was the species that tolerated this full on weed control which certainly stopped every other species. With the full on spray program plant growth was held back over Spring and the Margurita Serradella is now achieving high growth rates in November and into December. Next year plots will be cropped to measure Nitrogen response.



Fig 2: Sheep grazing control plots next to a replication of the Margurita Serradella (5 Dec 2014)

Pasture Trials: Optimal Pasture Phases For Crop Based Rotations

MLA Trial Host and Growers: John and Ashton Hood

Results to date: Opening rainfall from sowing had limited effectiveness with only 6 mm on 27 April. The main rainfall event was 20 May with water repellence evident.

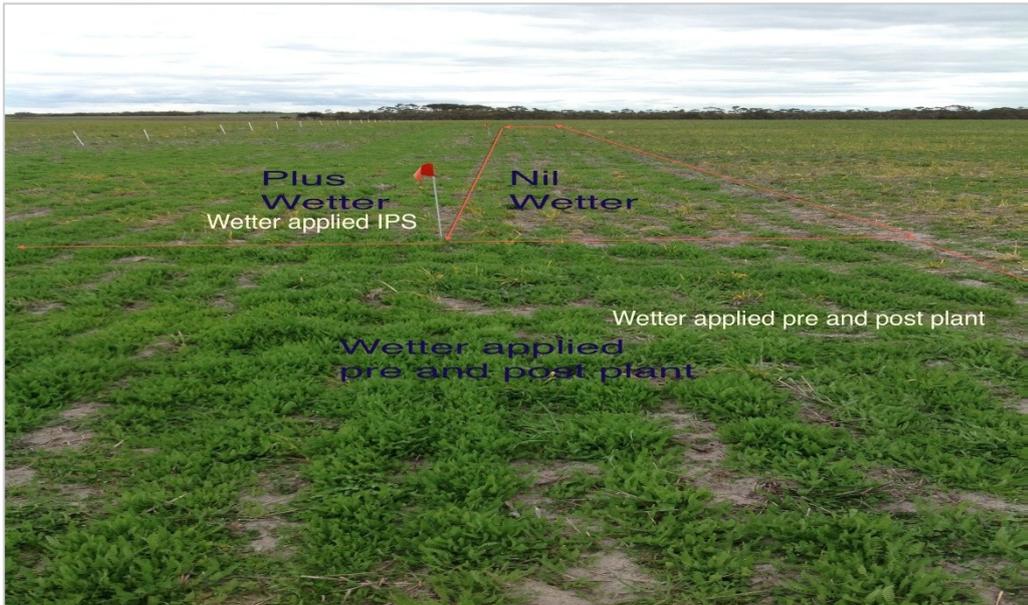


Fig1: Adverse start to 2014 season resulted in much higher plant densities in "wet" sowing

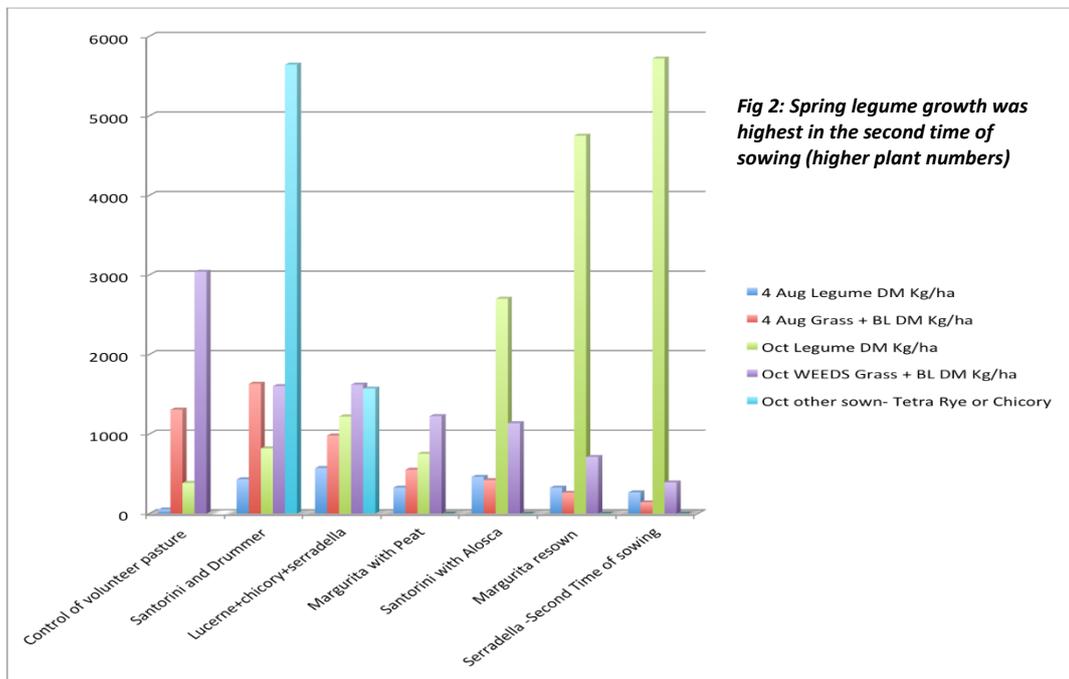


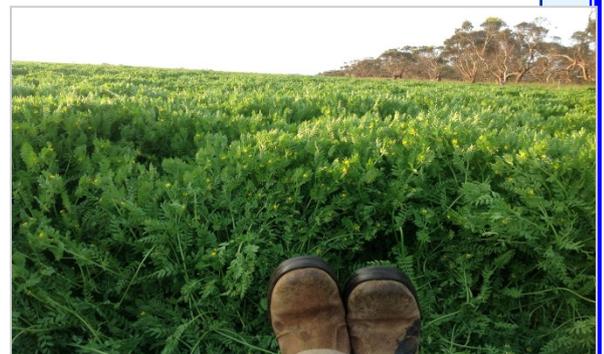
Fig 2: Spring legume growth was highest in the second time of sowing (higher plant numbers)

In Summary

In 2013, April sowing had huge advantage (see above) while in 2014 with an adverse start (< decile 1 in the locality in contrast to most of the agricultural regions) the second time of sowing is higher producing.

NOTE: A trial testing different establishment methods has been initiated with Legume pod application treatments applied in 2014 barley crop for 2015 pasture.

Fig 3: Ashton and John Hood's pasture sown April 2013, photo 9 September 2013.



2014 SCF Canola Disease Survey Summary

Jeremy Lemon DAFWA Albany, Geraldine and Steve Janicke.

This season 14 SCF members participated in the Canola survey sampling 14 varieties in 48 paddocks. Like last season, blackleg levels were relatively low compared to 2012 levels. We need to do some more investigation to determine factors that led to the low levels again. Last season we attributed low blackleg stem canker to the low number of wet days during the seedling stage. Observations on crop disease from any survey need to be treated with caution as the sample size is small and there are many interacting factors. Figure 1 shows a summary of the results by variety, resistance rating of Jockey treated seed and resistance groupings. Few varieties have sufficient sample paddocks to see the full range of infection levels for that variety but when there is high incidence of disease in a variety, there is usually a wide range of infection levels as shown by Jackpot. 44Y24 and GT50 have a reasonable number of samples with a narrow range at the lower end of infection levels adding confidence to their results. GT 50 remains low in 2014 but Hyola 404 paddocks had a number of higher levels recorded this season compared to last. Overall the paddock average blackleg infection in 2014 was 8.3% compared to 10.5% in 2013.



Ten varieties were sampled in both seasons, with highest levels of blackleg stem infection between 25 and 35% - about the same proportion of samples in this range last season. This level of infection is lower than 50% where yield losses become heavy. The higher levels are observed in one sample each of 45Y86, Gem and Jackpot. About 10% of all samples were above 15% stem infection. At this stage stick with varieties rated R (GT50 an exception in this survey) and keep up with current ratings as they change from year to year and don't get too confused with the resistance groupings. Keep up the current management using resistant varieties, seed and/or furrow fungicide, and rotate by large blocks. More results to come from the local Australian blackleg monitoring sites.

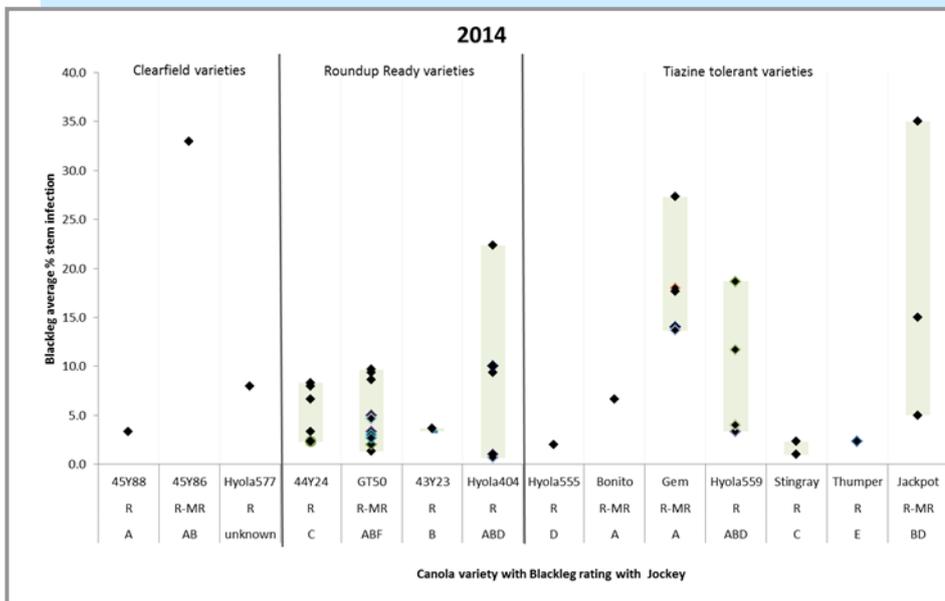


Figure 1: 2014 SCF canola blackleg stem infection levels by variety.



Sclerotinia was less prevalent this season with an average paddock infection of 6% compared to 8.6% last season. Lower stem infection was found in 15 of the 48 paddocks ranging from 3 to 23 % infection, highest infection last season was 60%. Five paddocks had more than 20% lower stems infected, and 4 between 3 and 10% infection. The locations of higher sclerotinia incidence were Frankland, Kendenup, South Stirlings and Woogenellup. One paddock at Amelup was noted as having a high sclerotinia petal infection but no sclerotinia was found.

Snails were observed at five sites, four of these with the larger Italian snails. Four paddocks were baited for snails or slugs once during this season and further four baited twice. No clubroot disease was observed at any of the sites sampled.



Mapping Soil Variation for Efficient Input Use

By Wes Lefroy, Research Officer Precision SoilTech (0427 549 042)

Soil constraints result in loss of cropping yield or pasture production and lower farm business income. The most effective way to remove a constraint, is to measure the extent and severity of the issue then choose the best product and apply it only where it is required.

Currently there are various methods to identify soil variation and yield responses, however there is a lack of supporting information available to supplement farmers decisions about where to apply inputs.

Precision SoilTech has received funding from South Coast Natural Resource Management to economically and scientifically analyse different soil mapping techniques in the SCF region. The project will have a primary focus on the required amount of direct soil sampling for creating high resolution maps of pH (to 30cm), phosphorus and potassium. Other techniques such as proximal sensing (EM and Gamma Radiometrics), biomass imagery and yield mapping will also be assessed for their ability to supplement the soil mapping process.

Activities Update

Expressions of interest from SCF members were sought in October for project participants. Each participating farmer will host a 50ha test site which will be soil sampled at 1 site/ha for a soil variability analysis. The paddocks selected by farmers are those deemed to be representative of the soil types in the surrounding area, meaning all SCF members can relate the soil types on their farms to one or more of the test sites.

Test sites are currently being identified with farmers and soil sampling is planned to begin in December. An example below outlines some simple relationships the project hopes to identify.

For more information about the project please give me a call on my number above.

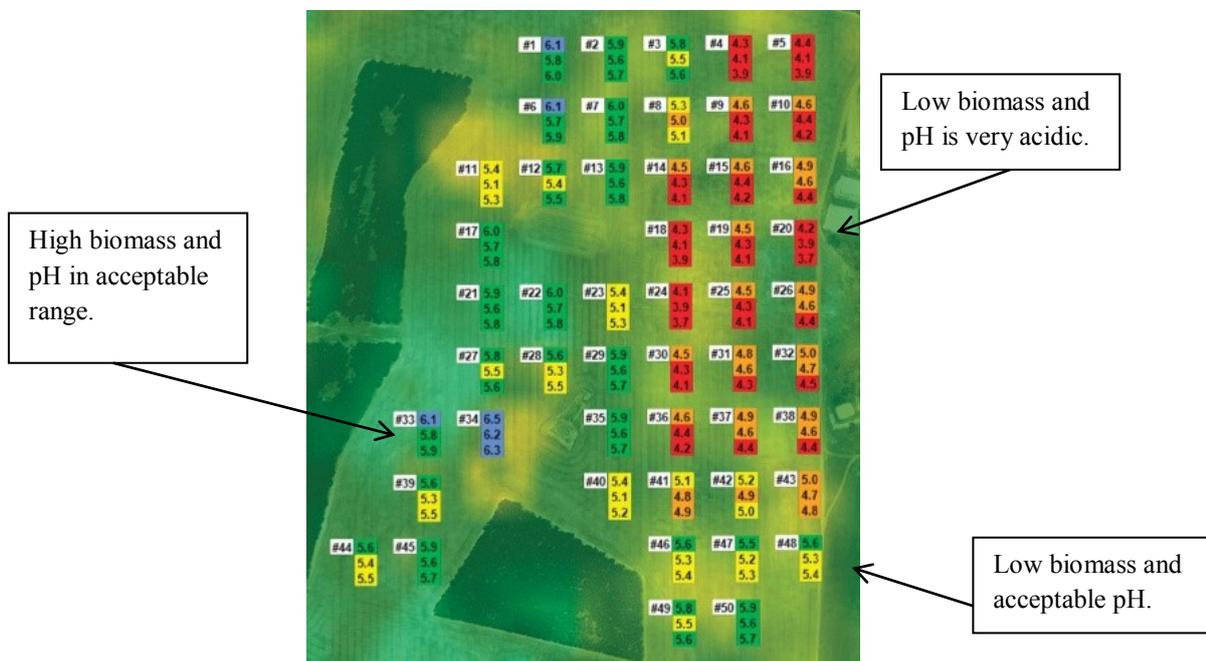


Figure 1: An example pH map with an overlaid biomass image. This map shows areas where pH and biomass are related and but other areas where biomass was affected by another constraint (bottom right).



Amid sluggish early season demand, global grains and oilseeds ending stocks are expected to increase for the third consecutive year.

This increase in global stocks has been driven by a record corn and soybean production in the Americas and a steady increase in wheat production among the world's major exporting nations.

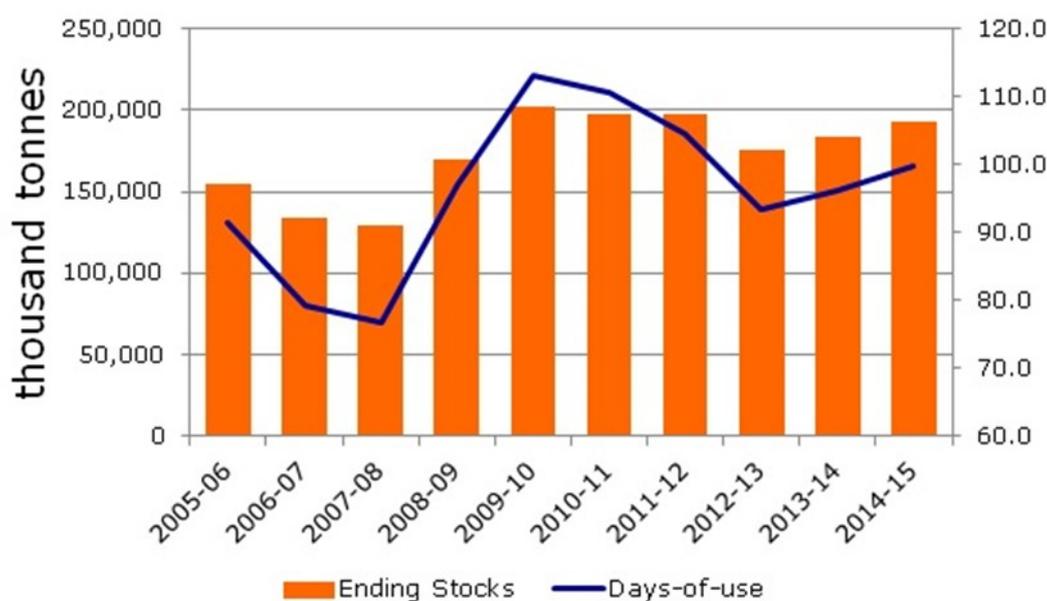
As a result, prices have declined up to 53 per cent since the highs of 2013 and expectations of plentiful grain availability through the 2014/15 season have sent buyers to ground. The majority of US domestic end users have been buying hand-to-mouth over the past six months and a slow start to the US sales program has seen stock availability swell, putting added logistical pressure on US farmers and supply chain operators.

However, a slower start to the US sales program does not necessarily mean lower demand over the 2014/15 marketing year. The prospect of high levels of grain availability, along with pressure for processors to lock in excellent production margins at around current prices, is expected to cause processors and exporters to begin strong buying programs in the next 20 to 30 days. Historically, when the crop begins to change hands rapidly, Chicago Board of Trade (CBOT) prices are likely near a bottom.

A sluggish start for US grain sales, combined with logistical challenges because of a strained US supply chain system, will likely incentivise farmers to store crops for longer, driving a winter premium for new crop cash sales. While demand is expected to ramp up in the coming weeks, the continuing US railroad bottlenecks and logistical backlogs are expected to see a sharp divergence between farm gate prices and end user prices, particularly for prices of US Hard Red Winter (HRW) wheat.

Some relief in this situation should occur with a larger 2015/16 HRW crop. HRW planting is currently progressing rapidly, boosted by favourable Great Plains soil moisture, low prices for alternative crops and higher overall planted acreage.

Overall, grain and oilseed demand for 2014/15 will be hard pressed to absorb all of the expected growth in production. And signs are already quite positive for an increased 2015/16 crop. However, logistics are set to play a major role in global price volatility and, while there are abundant stocks at the farm gate, getting this grain to customers amid a complex logistical network will remain a challenge.



Source: Rabobank 2014, USDA

*This is an excerpt from a recent report released by Rabobank's Food & Agribusiness Research Division
Please call your local Rabobank Branch on 1300 30 30 33 for more information.*

Submit Paddock Information At A Click Of A Button

The new CSBP Sampling Pro App

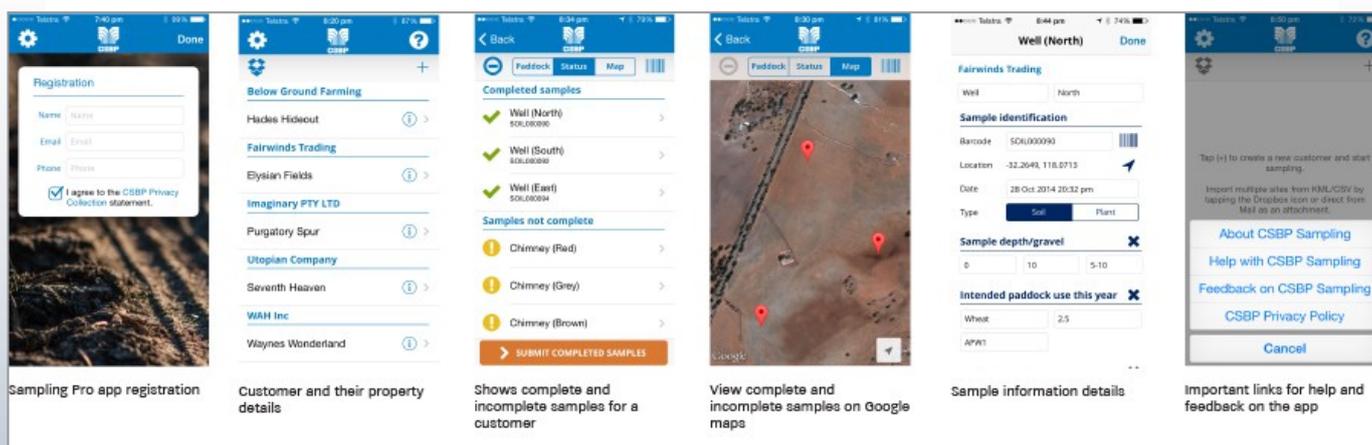
- Send your soil & plant sample information electronically while you are on paddock directly to the CSBP Lab.
- Record your GPS sample sites and view on a Google map.
- Match each sample bag with your Paddock Information Form using the built in barcode scanner.

As farmers are increasingly measuring and managing variation within paddocks with site specific data, CSBP has recognised the opportunity to innovate with a streamlined way to enter paddock information and capture GPS coordinates.

The new CSBP Sampling Pro application provides the option of electronic submission of soil and plant sampling information to the CSBP Soil and Plant Analysis Laboratory. Using the built-in GPS feature of the latest iPhone, allows a farmer or sampling contractor to use the app to load existing samples sites and navigate to them, or create a new sample site, enter paddock information and geo-locate the site at the same time.

The app is free from the Apple App Store. Farmers just need to register their trading name, property name(s) and CSBP customer number once, and these will be stored for future use.

The current paper-based paddock information forms will remain available for farmers who prefer this process or those who do not have an iPhone.



For more information, contact Keith Gundill (0429 048455), or you can find videos explaining the App along with frequently asked questions at www.csbp-fertilisers.com.au/sampling-pro



Stirlings to Coast Farmers Study on The Future Application of Aerial Drones For Crop Scouting – Collaborative project with Patrick Weedon.

John Blake SCF R&D Coordinator

High resolution imagery (down to less than 3 cm per pixel) delivered within 48 hours (and soon to be delivered directly) may assist in crop diagnostics and decision making in a whole range of soil, crop and pasture issues. Eight growers received High resolution imagery in an initial assessment of the technology in collaborative projects between Scout Aerial P/L, Forest Research services and Stirlings to Coast Farmers Inc.

As an example of applications, a new GRDC project is studying the movement of soil borne diseases (Rhizoctonia etc.) across seasons. If distribution and movement can be accurately predicted from season to season can expensive control applications be targeted with variable rate or on/off application technology? Another project on broadleaf weeds is studying weed ID within crops down to individual plants as the precursor to targeted spraying when some areas can have weed infestations varying across a paddock right down to < 1 BL weed plant per square meter.

Fig1: One of the seven SCF 2014 case studies- Mark and Pam Wood paddock with a barley disease trial (Kith Jayasena)



NOTE overview above: Higher resolution images were produced at the same time, showing soil borne plant diseases etc. (in this case Rhizoctonia). These could guide future control applications targeted with VRT or on/off application technology.

Controlling Annual Ryegrass (and other weeds) In Fencelines To Reduce Glyphosate Resistance Development

- Sally Peltzer, DAFWA

Take Home Messages

- A two spray or double knock strategy (including cultivation or another non-herbicide treatment) is often required for complete control in fencelines with the first application early in the season followed by another one later in the season (after the seeding and post-harvest operations are over).
- Tank mixes of residual herbicides plus a knockdown give the best control for the first application.
- A single application of a mixture of Uragan® (bromacil) and paraquat early in the season gives excellent weed control in fence lines
- Addition of Alliance® (mixture of amitrole and paraquat) as knockdown gives good broadleaf control
- Glyphosate can still be used BUT intensive monitoring and complete seed set is required to prevent resistance from developing

Background/Aim

Fence lines can be a 'breeding' ground for glyphosate resistance evolution due to the lack of crop competition, its repeated usage and the often late applications when weeds are large and harder to control. It is critical to prevent their move into cropping fields taking their resistance status with them.

Woogenellup Trial Details

Location	Craig Pieper's property off Woogenellup Road
Weed Species	annual ryegrass, capeweed, flat weed, wireweed, lovegrass, clover

There are 4 treatment times; T1 = May 13, T2 = July 31, T3 = August 18, T4 = August 28

Treat No	First application	Timing	Second application	Time
1	simazine granules @ 4 kg/ha + Alliance @ 4L/ha	T1	atrazine granules @ 2.2 kg/ha + paraquat 250@ 3.6 L/ha	T4
2	simazine granules@ 4 kg/ha + Alliance® @ 4L/ha	T1	cultivate	T4
3	simazine granules@ 4 kg/ha+ 2,4-D @ 700 mL/ha + paraquat 250 @ 3.6 L/ha	T1	atrazine granules @ 2.2 kg/ha + paraquat 250@ 3.6 L/ha	T4
4	simazine granules@ 4 kg/ha+ 2,4-D @ 700 mL/ha + paraquat 250 @ 3.6 L/ha	T1	cultivate	T4
5	Uragan® @ 3.5 kg/ha + paraquat 250 @ 3.6 L/ha	T1	atrazine granules @ 2.2 kg/ha + paraquat 250@ 3.6 L/ha	T4
6	Uragan® @ 5 kg/ha + paraquat 250@ 3.6 L/ha	T1	none	e
7	Cavalier® (oxyflurofen) @ 4 L/ha + paraquat 250@ 3.6 L/ha	T1	atrazine granules @ 2.2 kg/ha + paraquat 250@ 3.6 L/ha	T4
8	Slash	T3	atrazine granules @ 2.2 kg/ha + paraquat 250@ 3.6 L/ha	T4
9	simazine granules@ 4 kg/ha+ 2,4-D @ 700 mL/ha + paraquat 250@ 3.6 L/ha (July)	T2	none	
10	Cultivate	T2	none	
11	Control		none	

Results for Woogenellup and other sites:

Controlling Annual Ryegrass (and other weeds) In Fencelines To Reduce Glyphosate Resistance Development ...continued

- Sally Peltzer, DAFWA

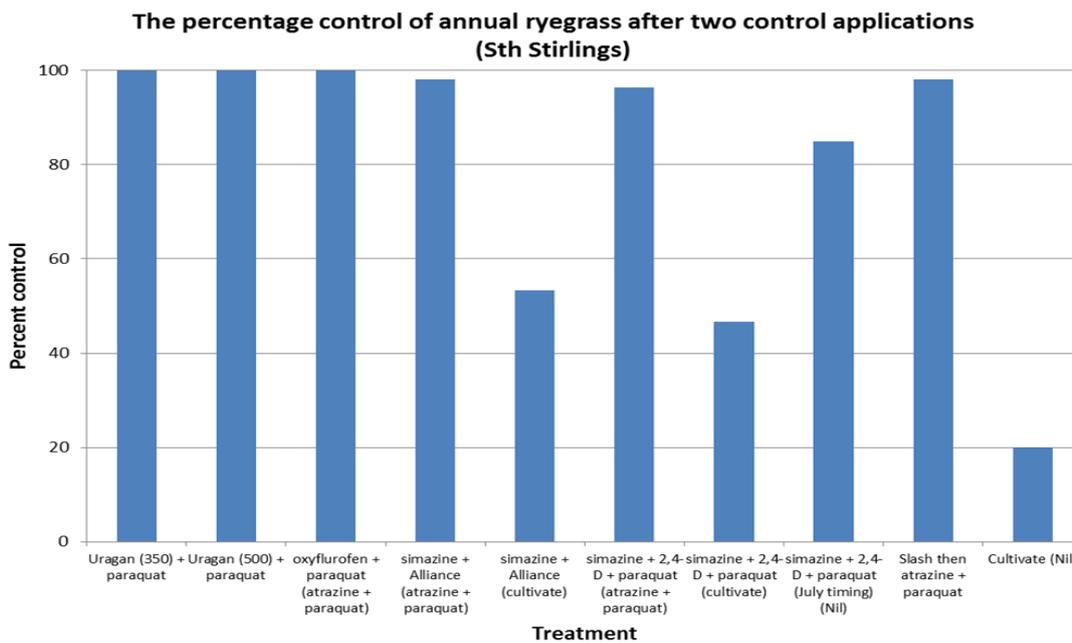


Figure 1: Percentage control (compared to untreated) of annual ryegrass after application of 10 herbicide treatments at Woogenellup

(Stirlings to Coast Grower Group trial site 2014).

(Note: second application in brackets)

Lsd ($p < 0.05$): annual ryegrass (16.8%)

At the Woogenellup trial site, the early single tank mix application of both rates of Uragan plus paraquat gave 100% control. The other tank mix applications of residual herbicides and paraquat followed by a second application in August gave greater than 96% control. The later application of simazine, 2,4-D and paraquat reduced the control level to 85%. At Woogenellup, a late slash or mow followed by atrazine and paraquat (10 days later) gave 98% control of annual ryegrass although there were some flat weed still uncontrolled.

- A single application of Uragan® (bromacil) plus paraquat in May (or June in Esperance) gave complete control of all weeds (annual ryegrass, wild radish, mallow, capeweed, turnip, clover, volunteer cereals) at all sites over both rates (350 and 500 kg/ha).
- Uragan is expensive (see Table 1) but only one application is needed to control all weeds (including summer weeds) for at least one year. As bromacil is highly residual, there is a risk of soil erosion where there is no vegetation to hold onto it and a risk to the crop if soil is

blown onto it. It is toxic to trees so can only be used where there is no remnant vegetation. Adama™ are continuing trials in 2015 to investigate weed control at lower rates which will reduce the cost and the potential hazards.

- At most locations (Buntine, Doodlakine, Woogenellup and Gibson), an application of either simazine + Alliance® or simazine, 2,4-D and paraquat in May followed by a second application of atrazine and paraquat in August gave better than 95% control. The addition of Alliance gave slightly better control especially where there were broadleaf weeds (three years results).
 - Delaying the application of the first spray reduced the control by 30% (10 to 30% across all sites).
 - Slashing later in the season then spraying with atrazine and paraquat showed promise in the southern areas (80-98% control) where the season was later and there had been more rain.
- The use of cultivation as a control option did not generally work well.

First treatment	Active ingredient	Cost (\$/km)
simazine @ 4 kg/ha	simazine	8
paraquat 250@ 3.6 L/ha	paraquat	5
Alliance® @ 4 L/ha	amitrole and paraquat	20
Atrazine granules@ 2.2 kg/ha	atrazine	8
2,4-D @ 700 mL/ha	2,4-D	1.20
Uragan @ 3.5 kg/ha+ paraquat (3.6 L/ha)	bromacil and paraquat	73
Uragan @ 5 kg/ha+ paraquat (3.6 L/ha)	bromacil and paraquat	103
simazine @ 4 kg/ha + 2,4-D @ 700 mL/ha paraquat (3.6 L/ha)	simazine and paraquat	14
simazine @ 4 kg/ha + Alliance® @ 4 L/ha	simazine, amitrole and paraquat	28
Second treatment		
atrazine granules@ 2.2 kg/ha + paraquat 250@ 3.6 L/ha	atrazine and paraquat	13

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Craig Pieper for providing the trial site. Also to Paul Matson and Gary Dean from DAFWA for their technical support, the Esperance Advisor Group and the Northern Advisor Group (for all their input into this trial. Also to GRDC for their funding.

Seat Belts Save Lives on Farms and on Roads

Vehicles are a common cause of death and injury on farms. Many of these incidents occur when drivers and passengers are thrown from vehicles during a crash because they are not wearing seat belts.

Deaths and serious injury also happens to people who fall off the back of utilities and truck trays and this can happen just with a jolt or a crash. All these deaths and injuries are preventable.

Wearing a seatbelt is one of the easiest ways of protecting drivers and passengers when travelling in a vehicle.



Seatbelts prevent vehicle occupants from being ejected from a vehicle, they reduce the time taken to come to a stop in a crash (hence reducing impact forces), spread the impact force over a greater area of the body and minimise contact of occupants with a vehicle's interior.

Drivers and passengers travelling unrestrained in a vehicle are eighteen times more likely to be killed in a road crash than those wearing a seatbelt.

Don't wait until you're at the front gate to put your seatbelt on.

No one wants to see a serious vehicle injury on their farm. Here are some rules to help prevent injury or death for people in farm vehicles.

RESTRAINTS

Using seat belts will help save lives on farms. Here are some rules:

- Ensure seat belts and restraints are fitted to all vehicles

- Ensure that seat belts and restraints are worn at all times in farm vehicles.
- Children up to 7 years need to be restrained in an approved child restraint or booster seat (contact Kidsafe WA for further details on current child restraints laws)
- Start good habits with kids when they are young and 'buckle up front and back' should be the rule
- Always wear a seat belt yourself. Make it a habit to put your seat belt on as soon as you get into the vehicle.

NO RIDING ON THE BACK

- Never allow people to ride on the back of utes or trucks
- If you need to carry more people, take a second vehicle, it could be useful in an emergency



PLAN AHEAD

- When you're buying your next ute, think about your passenger needs. Perhaps an extended cab to carry those extra passengers would keep them safe
- Keep your seat belts and vehicles well maintained.



Field Day Activities



Peter Diprose with his Precision seeder



Eastern Field Day



Pasture Trials in the Western Area



Western Field Day



Here's to another great year!

The Management Committee

The following are members of the Stirlings to Coast Farmers Management Committee. This group meet regularly and guide the events and research priorities for the group. They appreciate input from the wider membership and can be contacted on the numbers listed below :



- John Hood 98477034 or 0427 960950 (Chairperson)
- Mal Thomson 98543038 or 0428 543038
- Mark Adams 98541051 or 0428 910853
- Derek Curwen 98543012 or 0428 543012
- Ken Drummond 98541033 or 0427 541033
- Shane Greenslade 98542018 or 0428 542048
- Steve Hall 98472001 or 0428 472001
- Greg Mengler 98517212 or 0428 910914
- Scott Smith 98477043 or 0429 466037
- Jeff Stoney 98471011 or 0427 471011
- Mark Slattery 98477054 or 0458 477053
- Martin Wiehl 98541056 or 0447 197520
- John Howard 98543004 or 0428 543004
- Jeremy Lemon - Senior Development Officer DAFWA 98928413
- Brent Pritchard - Agronomist Farmanco 0488 428333
- John Blake - R&D Coordinator 0438 761950
- Heather Adams - Executive Officer 0428 541051

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