

# Ag-Quip 2008



Ag-Quip 2008 was held from the 19th-21st August in Gunnedah and was voted a huge success by all those involved. It was fantastic to see so many growers come in for a steak sandwich and cool ale and break away from the crowds strolling by.

Day one started quietly with few cars on the way in as well as on the field day grounds. However, with the sun shining brightly it didn't take long for the crowd to grow and a few to seek out the shade of the Pursehouse Rural marquee. It was great to have so many people through the tent and enquiring about the great range of services on display. These services included Cropwalker, mapping, meter max, Techspray and agronomy.

Day two was a parents nightmare with school children seeking out the variability of sites on show at Ag-Quip. From flying helicopters for those more adventurous and strolling the displays for helium balloons, kids could be seen everywhere including the Pursehouse Rural tent. With so much on offer it didn't take long for the team and growers alike to work up an appetite. Employees were hot on the BBQ grill, quickly cooking sausages, onion and steaks to perfection.

The crowds on day three continued to impress, leaving stall holders exhausted but pleased with the finale of Ag-Quip 2008. With lunch wrapped up, and belly's full the Pursehouse Rural team can't wait for another year in Gunnedah.

For more information on any of the products or services on display at Ag-Quip please contact your local Pursehouse Rural Branch. See you next year!



**Pursehouse Rural and Agracom**

## Charity Golf Day

**Date:** Friday 19th September, 2008  
**Where:** Quirindi Golf Course  
**Time:** 8.30am Shotgun start  
**Cost:** \$25.00 per person (Including BBQ lunch)

All money raised will go towards local schools in the Liverpool Plains Community  
To register your team contact Sara at Pursehouse Rural Quirindi on (02) 6746 1633



Photos: From the top: The Ag-Quip marquee 2008; Sara Winston-Smith (Quirindi) shows some enthusiasm; John Stent, Quirindi takes a breather; Adam Bensch (Mullaley) and James Cheetham (Quirindi) show us how its done and Mark Brien (Quirindi), James Cheetham (Quirindi) and Callen Thompson (Coonabarabran) get psyched for the mad lunch rush.



# Roundup Ready Canola– Temora, NSW- are we ready for it?

On August 5 2008, four Pursehouse Rural Agronomists and Coonabarabran grower David Rothwell set off to Temora in southern New South Wales (NSW). Led by Northern NSW Nufarm Rep Mark Dawson, they participated in 1 of 5 GM Canola technology demonstration sites held across N.S.W and Victoria. The Temora site gives interested and skeptical parties the opportunity to compare Roundup Ready canola with other canola production systems including CLEARFIELD, Triazine Tolerant (TT) and conventional varieties. The site also demonstrated the difference between a range of knockdown and selective in-crop cereal herbicides which both provide control of volunteer Roundup Ready canola in fallow and in the following cereal cropping phase. For the fallow situation at 4-6 leaf, Nuquat (250g/L paraquat) @ 1.8 L/ha, Revolver (135g/L paraquat & 125g/L diquat) @ 1.8 L/ha and Alliance (250g/L amitrole & 125g/L paraquat) @ 2.0 L/ha all showed good control of the Roundup Ready volunteers and are the preferred alternative knockdowns to glyphosate, (none of these products are registered for use at this stage). In-crop herbicides displayed mixed results with the combination of MCPA LVE @ 500ml/ha + Associate @ 5g/ha showing good control while 2-4D formulations had some control but visually lacking compared to the LVE/Associate mixture.

Having the CLEARFIELD, TT, Conventional and Roundup Ready planted side by side was a good way of comparing the early vigor of each variety. All but the Triazine Tolerant had good early vigor, with the TT visually lacking behind the other three varieties at this stage.

\*Costing- A license fee of \$500 a season is required for the growing rights of Roundup Ready Canola plus a tonnage fee of \$10/tonne produced. With current Roundup Ready prices, a single application of Roundup Ready at label rates is roughly \$20/ha.

\*Cross-pollination/Contamination– Interesting facts to know.

Once Roundup Ready Canola reaches commercial plantings cross-pollination could become one factor reducing its popularity through the potential to contaminate neighboring canola paddocks. Current research however, suggests that a maximum of .5% cross-pollination should occur when grown alongside current commercial varieties. There are currently six receivable sites located in southern NSW and Victoria with the potential for more locations to develop once production increases. For producers growing Non-GM canola a maximum of .9% contamination is allowed before samples are classified Genetically Modified. Representatives from seed companies Pioneer, Pacific Seeds and Nuseed all attended the field day and noted that while they were still producing current commercial canola seed their primary focus is now on developing a commercially viable Roundup Ready seed, moving away from conventional varieties. Current plantings of Roundup Ready canola for the 2008 season stand at around 10,000 hectares with plans to increase ten fold to between 60,000 and 100,000 hectares for the 2009 season. It was also interesting to note that no visual differences were seen between Roundup Ready canola that had been treated with label rates of Roundup Ready herbicide and both double and triple times the recommended application rates.

Anyone interested in finding out more about Roundup Ready canola are encouraged to contact their local Pursehouse Rural Agronomist as further Nufarm field days are planned for September in which interested parties will have the opportunity to visit commercial size trials.

## Timing of Fungicides in Cereals



### Timing of Fungicides in Wheat

It has been discovered that the ideal time for foliar application of fungicides in cereals is from the start of stem elongation to ear emergence. During this period we see the emergence of the 4 most important leaves in the crop. The optimum time for spraying a fungicide is generally at full leaf emergence. This way we can guarantee full protection of the leaf. Cereal foliar fungicides are essentially an insurance policy as to prevent the onset of disease.

### Fungicide Strategies for the control of Strip Rust

The first thing to consider when looking at applying any fungicide is the particular varieties resistance. For more stripe rust susceptible varieties it is important to monitor from GS32 and GS33 and consider an application if rust is being reported in the area. If you have treated the seed with Jockey you may get protection up to GS39. Target the main spray at GS39.

### Single Application Approach in Wheat

A fungicide application when the flag leaf is fully emerged on the main stem is deemed optimum. When dealing with large areas it is best to start application at GS37 when the flag leaf is starting to emerge and finish at GS39. With the one spray approach it is best to target the most susceptible varieties first.

### Two Spray Application Approach in Wheat

Given the right conditions (mild moist conditions) stripe rust is likely to appear early in susceptible varieties. In this situation 2 applications of fungicides will be required (assuming no treatments were applied at planting).

In this traditional two spray situation, the first spray is used to protect leaf 3 (GS32). The overlap between the 2 sprays protects leaf 2. The second application is generally applied at GS39. The risk with this method of stripe rust control is that if the disease pressure is high and the flag leaf spray is delayed, then leaf 2 is left unprotected.

There have been sightings of rust already this season, so be on the look out and speak to your Pursehouse Rural agronomist regarding strategies for control. We are trying to prevent what you see on the left.

### Zadoks decimal growth scale is based on ten cereal growth stages.

These are:

0 germination;	5 ear emergence;
1 seedling growth (leaves on main stem);	6 flowering;
2 tillering;	7 milk development;
3 stem elongation (nodes);	8 dough development;
4 booting;	9 ripening.

Each primary growth stage is then sub-divided into 10 secondary stages extending the scale from 00 to 99. So Z, 15, 22, 31 indicates a plant with 5 leaves on the main stem, two tillers and one node on the main stem.