



PURSEHOUSE RURAL

a g b u s i n e s s s e r v i c e s



Kickin Clods

Winter Cropping Options

With autumn barely upon us the discussion turns to winter cropping. In 2008, well managed chickpeas stood out with excellent returns. Yields from 2.5 – 3.5 tonnes per hectare were achieved where there was careful consideration in their management. These same considerations need to be thought through well before making any planting decisions.

- Is there residual herbicide chemistry on fields I would like to plant?
- Are there difficult to control weeds in the field – what can I control?
- Do I have the capacity to put preventative fungicides over the intended area quickly before rain events?
- Can I plant them with a reasonable buffer between last year's chickpea crops?
- Is phytophthora root rot likely to be an issue – low lying areas, high bulk density soils?

Returns from wheat and barley went from hero to zero when November rain caused havoc with quality and quantity. On top of disease, aphids and mice attacks during the season forced the market to take a nose dive to make it a challenging season. However, growers managed modest to good returns in both short and long fallow situations. Again key considerations before planting will be.

- Can I quickly harvest and dry grain if necessary to maintain quality?
- With disease more prevalent last season how will I manage my varieties if we get a high pressure season again, do we change the variety mix, can they be accessed?
- Lots of new varieties around but are they suited to the Downs?
- How much fertiliser will I actually require?

High on the list of minor winter crops could be canary, particularly on irrigation if the winter stays dry and potential production remains limited. There is renewed interest in crops such as durum and canola. As with all these crops Pursehouse Rural agronomists can help with some practical experience of our own. We will be running a winter crop meeting at the end of March so look out for this. Securing winter planting seed will once again prove interesting, given recent upheavals in breeding and marketing. Generally there will be more home kept seed this season. If you need to secure a variety you would like to try please contact your local Pursehouse Rural store.

Summer review and winter preview

Wow– what a summer I has been. Heatwaves and firestorms down south. In the North from the Tropic of Capricorn to the Gulf of Carpentaria, flooding of biblical proportions! Where is Noah and his Ark? Somewhere in between these two disasters, the farmers of the Darling Downs have produced some highly sustainable crops of sorghum, corn, cotton and legume. If not for the want of a major rainfall event between Christmas and New year, a much more rewarding result may have been possible. As we endeavour to combat climate change, possibly a 100 year seasonal cycle, insects and semi arid growing conditions and anything else that has been put before us, lets just say, "Job well done chaps!"

On the sorghum front-

Pacific and Hylans mainstream varieties performed rather well. Varieties G56 and G99 have both showed the required agronomic traits to give these well established sorghum varieties a true yardstick. For those large acre and high yielding sorghums, where do we put it all? Pursehouse Rural have a range of grain handling and storage products available including grain bag storage systems, Australian built inloader and outloader machines, easy loader grain hoppers, grain spears, moisture metres, aluminium tray sieves, mini batt grain samplers and grain checking weighers. All of these products are designed to fine tune your grain handling and marketing systems.

Sooner or later we will get a wet Autumn. Both your team and ours need to be ready. Similar to that group of cricket players that toured Australia this summer called the Proteas. They came from somewhere in the southern part of the African Continent. Lets hit the ground running! For more information on harvest requirements and the winter season ahead, contact your Pursehouse Rural agronomist or local store.

Leading the way in responsible pesticide application

An ever increasing watch on environmental stewardship and the broad scale media coverage of issues has made pesticide usage and application and off target drift incidences a growing concern. It was pleasing to see a good roll up of twenty five growers and local spraying contractors to a recent spray-wise workshop jointly run by Pursehouse Rural, Nufarm and Croplands at our Clifton premises.

The smell of sizzling bacon, sausages, eggs and hot coffee no doubt wet the appetite of all attending. Once the feast was devoured it was down to business. The priority of the day was to re-visit some of the basics. Correct nozzle selection based on spray pressures, water output and pesticide selection were key areas covered. The components that lend themselves to high drift risks were discussed at length; including climatic conditions and droplet size. Droplet size is influenced greatly by matching nozzles to operating pressures.

Jeremy Rennick from Croplands Australia commented on the fact that the risk of drift into environmentally sensitive areas may well be of more importance to the survival of certain chemistry being utilized in agriculture, than the indirect loss of crops through potential drift. The presence of a demonstration spray unit was well utilized with the effects of incorrect nozzle selection and spray pressures being made quite obvious to those attending. Correct selection of adjuvants and wetters was also discussed and how some of these may also have a negative or positive impact on spray droplets and droplet deposition.



Pursehouse Rural has taken a pro-active approach to environmental stewardship across all spectrums of agriculture and staff are regularly being updated with various levels of stewardship accreditation as required. For any who may not have been able to attend this day but would like some information please feel free to contact your local PHR agronomist.

PHR on show

At this years Pittsworth Show, Pursehouse Rural will be displaying its various array of products and services, giving you the opportunity to gain information, view our range and mingle with our suppliers and staff. Our new agronomist John Hegarty will be on site, along with animal health and produce salesperson Tanya Warrenner to answer all your important questions. Representatives from Nufarm, Syngenta and Better Blend will also be joining us, so if you're visiting the Pittsworth Show on March 6th and 7th be sure to drop into the Pursehouse Rural tent and say G'day.



Contact Details

Pittsworth	Ph: (07) 4693 2477	Fax: (07) 4693 2345
Ben McIntyre		0429 932 477
Jeff Stone		0429 931 376
John Hegarty		0438 658 899
Email: phrpth@prural.com.au		
Melrose	Ph: (07) 4693 0188	Fax (07) 4693 0187
Ian Farrell		0428 930 188
Michael Fing		0448 633 744
Email: phrmelrose@prural.com.au		
Allora	Ph: (07) 4666 3290	Fax: (07) 4666 3530
John Chandler		0428 663 290
Andrew Jakins		0429 042 942
Russell Hughes		0427 717 774
Wayne Frizzell		0427 093 881
Email: phrallora@prural.com.au		
Clifton	Ph: (07) 4612 3555	Fax: (07) 4612 3599
Leon Gillespie		0458 255 881
Ben Thrift		0458 242 386
Email: phrclifton@prural.com.au		