

Winter Cropping Update

Canola –

Clearfield & TT varieties planted. Crops are starting to flower. Have been sprayed for grass and broadleaf weeds. No Aphids present as yet.

Fababeans –

Doza a new variety from ABB Seeds has been commercially released in 2009. Applications of Mancozeb prior to rain have been applied for control of Chocolate Spot, Ascochyta and Rust and grasses have been sprayed in conjunction with fungicide sprays.

Barley –

Very low area planted to barley mainly due to low prices. Aphids have been present in some earlier crops. Samples have been sent away for testing for Barley Yellow Dwarf Virus but tests have confirmed that there is no virus detected. Some Physiological spotting on lower leaves but no disease detected as yet. Leaf Rust and Spot Form Net Blotch are the main diseases to keep monitoring for in barley particularly in Grout and Hindmarsh.

Chickpeas -

Chickpeas have been planted again this year. Extra plantings into double crop situations due to good moisture. Yorker and Flipper are the two main varieties planted.

There are some seed crops of CICA 512 planted around the area.

The incidence of Ascochyta blight will be high this year if the showers and

rain continue. Be sure to have programmed fungicide sprays applied prior to rain. Either Chlorothalonil or Mancozeb.

Durum –

Large area of Durum planted this year. Generally higher prices over the past few years than Bread wheat. With good resistance to rust Durum has become popular this season. Jandaroi and Bellaroi are the main varieties been planted. There is a new variety called Caparoi which will be commercially released in 2010. Slower maturity than Jandaroi but quicker than Bellaroi. Some Wollaroi has been planted.

Bread Wheat –

The area of Bread wheat has dropped compared to last season, mainly due to the lower price than Durum. Varieties such as Gregory were planted early. Some Lang is still been planted because of it's good resistance to Crown Rot.

Preparation for Summer Crop 2009/2010 –

Soil testing will be carried out soon for Analysis of paddocks going into summer crop.

Main summer crops will be Grain sorghum feed corn despite lower prices this year. Mungbeans and cotton will also be planted. Discuss your options with your local Pursehouse Rural Agronomist.



Opti-Crop Intensive Crop Management program is a personalised proactive crop production service. The central focus is to help growers intensively manage all agronomic and equip-

ment related aspects of their crop enterprises. The Opti-Crop approach results in optimal use of inputs, increased yields, reduced risk and maximum profit for the grower.

Services provided to Opti-crop members include:

- Field Planning
- Variety Selection and Recommendation
- Equipment Calibration
- Fallow management
- Crop Monitoring
- Variable rate recommendations
- Yield map processing
- Diagnostics - Soil sampling
- Tissue testing
- Intensive record keeping and Gross Margin Reports
- Access to field days, trial results and upcoming season meetings.

For further information please contact our Opti-Crop agronomists, Nick Park 0428 618 570 or James Cheetham 0428 216 137.



Wish to invite our valued customers to join us at

**AG-Quip
18-20th August
Site ST-13**

Free BBQ lunch and cool drinks to thank you for your continued support.

See you there!

Why Feed Cattle Grain?

There are a number of reasons why you may choose to feed grain to beef cattle. These may include:

1. **Fattening – Finishing** cattle for a particular market is the predominant reason for grain feeding cattle and is usually achieved by an intensive feedlot system.
2. **Backgrounding** – Preparing cattle before entering a feedlot allows them to adjust to high protein feeds quickly therefore more weight gain during the feeding period.
3. **Weaning** – Feeding grain during the weaning period and for the following 2-3 weeks may minimize weight loss or even lead to slight weight gains. Weaning is the ideal time to familiarize stock with grain, hay and a yard feeding environment.

Pasture Management – In most situations throughout the winter months animals may be close to marketable weight and condition, but pasture growth is unlikely to support weight gain for several months. Depending on grain pricing an option is to feed the cattle grain for a short period until market weights are reached.

Management of Cattle on Grain Rations

- **Water** – A clean supply of fresh water should always be available. Feed consumption will decrease if good quality water is not available.

When introducing grain to the animals diet, cattle should make a staged transition from grass-based diet which is high in sugars, to a grain based diet which is high in starch. Adaptation is important as the rumen microbes that digest grass are vastly different from those needed to metabolise grain. Safe adaption periods are usually in the 14 – 21 day time frame.

Mix the Feed or Buy It?

The answer to this question will depend entirely upon individual circumstances. It is not uncommon for one neighbour to purchase prepared feed and the other neighbour to mix their own feed – both may be making the right decision.

Consider:

- What is the availability and costs of raw grain material compared to purchased feeds?
- What labour and time is available for mixing, feeding and feed management

Fully Prepared Feed

- **Guaranteed analysis**
- **Time saving** – not having to source materials for the mix. No capital expenditure on purchasing or maintaining mixing equipment

Home Mixing Feeds

Many people decide to mix their own feed because they may grow grain, live in a grain-growing region and have mixing facilities. If mixing your own feed, it is imperative that rations fed to cattle be formulated correctly. All nutrients are to be evenly distributed. Uneven mixing due to mechanical or procedural issues can result in uneven growth rates, deficiency or even toxicity (Urea). Although grain is high in energy and contains moderate protein levels it has a number of shortfalls when fed as the only feed source. It contains a high level of phosphorus relative to calcium. Levels of macro and micro minerals are variable and many are not present in adequate levels to meet ruminant needs. The protein level may need adjustment, depending upon the weight and class of cattle being fed. Using a concentrate is a convenient, cost effective method of nutritionally balancing grain rations. Consider Pursehouse Rural, for all your animal health and feed requirements.



Delivering to your door

Pursehouse Rural are pleased to announce a **new delivery truck** available from its Quirindi store. We can now offer delivery on farm for minimal cost for up to 5 tonne. Also available is the Gunnedah truck with the capacity of 11 tonne and the added bonus of a Hiab to hoist your minibuks, one tonne bags, cement troughs and pallets with ease. Reduce the risk of overloaded utes and protect your personal safety by utilizing this valued service.

Pursehouse Rural continues to strive for excellent service to our valued clients. If you wish to take advantage of this additional service, please contact the Quirindi branch on 02 6746 1633.



Call to Arms Rugby

The Quirindi Rugby Club held its "Call to Arms" in July when Quirindi played Gunnedah, to raise funds and more importantly awareness for men's cancers. Pursehouse Rural came on board for another great year by donating bright yellow and white socks which were sold to players and supporters throughout the day. Gold coin donations were also received at the front gate and players wore yellow armbands. Overall, the club raised approximately \$6000 for men's cancer, made more significant by a generous donation from Pursehouse Rural of

\$4000. Malcolm Pursehouse made the donation to Lindsay Maybury the club president (as pictured) on the day prior to the first grade game starting. Lindsay and Malcolm were joined by Shaen Fraser from the Cancer Council who thanked Pursehouse Rural and Agracom for their generous support and the crowd for digging deep.

