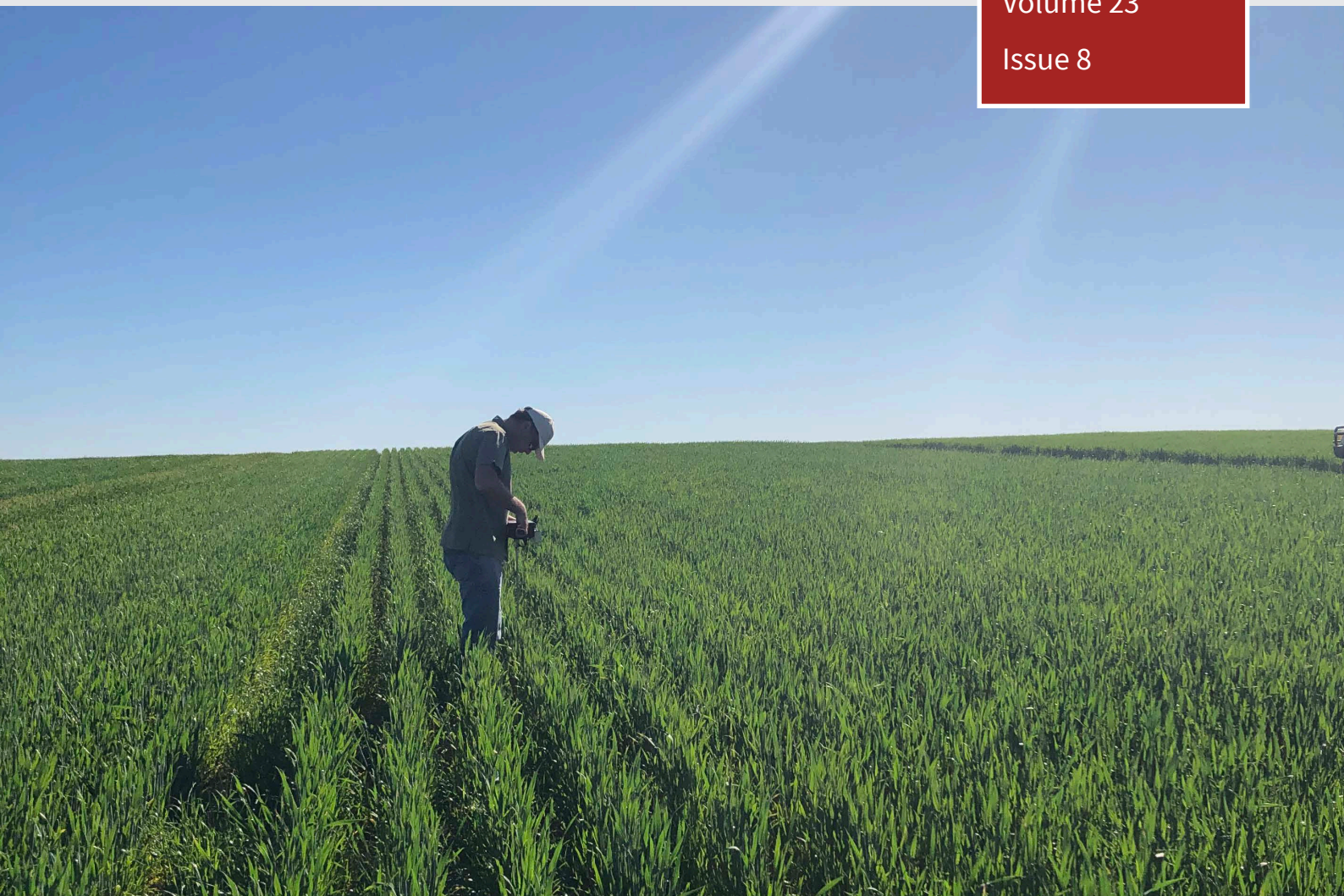


LIEBE GROUP NEWS

October 2020

Volume 23

Issue 8



What's Inside



Liebe Group
Employment
Opportunity



Lupin Germination
Testing: Project
Update



2020 Budget
Review



Cropping Plans for
2021 - Chemical
Residues



The Liebe Group mission is to facilitate grower prioritised research, development and extension to support our members to be profitable and sustainable.

From the Cover

Steve Davies, DPIRD, conducting soil compaction testing during the Gen Y Bus tour in August.

DIAMOND PARTNERS



Rabobank



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FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER

KATRINA VENTICINQUE

WELCOME to the October edition of the Liebe Newsletter!

The local community is abuzz with the sight of a several headers making their way through canola and barley crops over the past couple of days. With the recent heat wave helping to brown off those last few paddocks, harvest is off to an early but gradual start for our region.

Most events have wound up for the year, with the last few Liebe workshops being held in September. Our Annual Dinner is on this Friday, which will be a great night of cocktails and canapes before kicking the harvest season into gear.

Liebe staff are currently very busy behind the scenes preparing all of the trials and demonstrations to be harvested alongside our host growers. The data received from harvest will be collated with the in-season measurements to form the comprehensive results that you will receive in the R&D Book next February/March.

The Liebe Group's GRDC-funded Lupin Establishment project is currently in negotiation for an extension, looking further into the mechanical impacts of harvest activities on lupin seed germination. A quick update on this can be found on page 7. The Liebe team are currently investigating a number of other funding opportunities currently available.

We are currently seeking applications for a new Administration Assistant Position to join the Liebe Group team on a part-time fixed term basis. If you or anyone you know may be interested please make sure to get in touch with me on 0400 941412. Further information on this employment opportunity can be found on page 4.

If you are in town over the next few months with some time to spare whilst waiting for parts or even just feeling like a bit of time away from the flies, our doors are open for a cuppa and a chat anytime.

With no newsletter in November, the Liebe Team wish all of our local growers a safe and happy harvest!



GOLD PARTNERS



agrimaster[®]
Agribusiness accounting software



SILVER PARTNERS

Syngenta

Pacer Legal

Adama Australia

GrainGrowers

Nutrien Ag Solutions

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Nufarm

Intergrain

Boekemans Machinery Dalwallinu

Australian Grain Technologies

Scott's Watheroo Dolomite

FMC

Carbon Ag

LIEBE GROUP EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Position: Administration Assistant



The Liebe Group are currently seeking an enthusiastic and personable individual to take on an administration assistant role in our member-based organisation. This is an excellent opportunity for the right candidate to move into a flexible, rewarding role with a well-respected and innovative farmer group.

The Liebe Group is a grower-driven, not for profit organisation that operates within the Western Australian Wheatbelt. The group has built a solid reputation over the last twenty-three years as being a professional, highly respected and innovative grower group with a dynamic and engaged member base.

The group conducts valuable research, development and extension through trials, demonstrations, workshops and events and focuses on extending knowledge to members and the local farming community.

About the role:

This 12 moth fixed term part-time role will assist the Liebe Group team in various administrative duties including general reception, office support, data entry and communications. Agricultural experience and/or qualifications are not essential for this position.

The preferred candidate will possess the following:

- Experience/interest in administration
- Developed organisational skills and ability to meet deadlines
- Strong communication skills
- Ability to work as a team
- Knowledge of the Microsoft Office suite and general IT systems
- A general interest in agriculture
- Current C Class Driver's license
- The ability live and work in Australia

The entry-level role will be 12-15 hours a week with some flexibility regarding days and hours (school hours can suit this position if required), on a fixed-term contract for 12 months. It requires a person with the drive to complete tasks in a timely manner with great attention to detail. Training and support will be provided, with potential for increased responsibility for the right candidate.

If you are looking for an opportunity to build your experience in administration and work as part of a close team, this may be the position for you!

The Liebe Group office is based in the vibrant town of Dalwallinu, 260km north of Perth. The progressive community offers a welcoming atmosphere with the best of rural living and amenities.

COMMENCING: Mid November 2020

SALARY: Salary package to be negotiated depending on experience.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION & APPLICATION FORMS:

Contact Katrina Venticinque, Executive Officer on 0400 941 412 or email eo@liebegroup.org.au

APPLICATIONS CLOSE FRIDAY 6TH NOVEMBER 2020



HAVE YOU DONE THE BOOT TEST?

ONE necessity for farm business operations that has been increasing over the past decade is Human Resources (HR) followed closely by safety considerations as an employer. This became apparent at the recent workshop held by the Liebe Group on the 18th September, which was aimed at understanding the HR-related processes required for small businesses within the farming industry.

Over the course of the morning, Danielle McNamee, the Managing Director from ProcessWorx, highlighted various Fair Work statistics for 2018/19 that show 29,000 workplace disputes, 17.8 million Fair Work visits and 18,000 employees being underpaid costing \$40 million in back payments.

As most farms hire both long-term and casual staff depending on their seasonal needs, one significant factor to understand is the difference between the National and WA State Industrial Relations Systems.

The participants were advised that once this is determined, the award that employees sit under needs to be clarified. These awards regulate the conditions required including minimum pay rate, allowances, penalty rates and hours of work amongst many others.

It was highlighted that even if you are paying above the minimum rate, there are many other considerations that must be made to ensure the employee is being treated fairly. This can be done through the 'Better Off Overall Test'. The results of a BOOT must show that the employee is better off than the minimum conditions of the applicable award.

The workshop gave a good overview of the important aspects that need attention in order to manage staff to the best possible standard. With questions flowing throughout, all attendees were able to get feedback and information around how their business setup fits and where improvements can be made.

Kelly Carter, who farms with her husband's family in Xantippe said that

"Danielle gave a very informative presentation that was relevant to farming HR and safety. She is very knowledgeable in her area of expertise and I would highly recommend any presentation or services by ProcessWorx".



Key messages

- Do you fall under the State or National IR System? This determines which judicial system and awards apply to your business, and impacts the conditions of employment for all employees including pay rates, overtime and penalty rates, leave loading, allowances, ordinary hours, and more!
- Comprehensive written employment contracts are a must-have! This sets out all of the specific conditions such as nature, title, jurisdiction, probation and remuneration.
- Employees must be better off overall in comparison to the relevant Modern Award, which can be calculated using the BOOT test, as one size does not fit all.
- Individual Flexibility Agreements (IFA's) can be used by businesses to vary clauses of the award to meet the genuine needs of the employer and the individual employee, regarding things such as working hours, allowances, and rates.
- Developing performance and behaviour standards for employees through the establishment of Policies, Procedures and Code of Conducts helps to minimise legal and safety risks.

The topic of safety was discussed, delving into inductions, emergency procedures and employee training. The importance of having procedures in place was emphasised by Danielle.

Overall the best thing about the workshop was having an experienced presenter who have targeted HR knowledge for the farming industry. It was a relevant and thought provoking session.



Danielle McNamee, ProcessWorx, presenting to local growers on HR management practices for their farm business

LUPIN GERMINATION TESTING: PROJECT UPDATE

OVER the last 12 months, Liebe growers and staff have been working on understanding the impacts of mechanical handling on Lupin germination percentages.

27 samples were collected pre and post-harvest as well as pre and post seeding from paddocks all around the Liebe region. As each set of samples were subject to the handling practices implemented by the individual growers there is potentially a number of factors affecting each set of results, therefore determining specific causative factors for the variation was difficult. However, overall average germination percentages decreased with each sample time and the range of percentages widened as outlined in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Overall germination % throughout project sampling activities.

Sample time	Description	Average Germination (%)	Range	No. of Samples
Pre-harvest	Hand Sampled just prior to harvest	97.00	96% - 100%	25*
Post-harvest	Taken from storage silo post-harvest	87.00	74% - 99%	27
Pre-seeding	Taken from storage silo pre-seeding	83.36	68% - 97%	19
Post-seeding	Taken from seeder boot	76.8	50% - 96%	15

* Two outliers were removed from analysis

The Liebe Group have requested from GRDC funding to continue work on this topic this coming harvest. The proposed work aims to further identify the mechanical handling processes that contribute the germination declines, these include header rotor speeds, the number of times seed goes through an auger and any differences between the condition of the auger. The proposal also aims track 6 of the growers from the previous survey and study how they have handled their seed and what the outcomes have been.

The group expects to know whether this request has been successful by the end of October. For more information please contact Judy at the Liebe Group office.



In house germination testing conducted at the Liebe Group office in January 2020



FINGER TO THE PULSE - LIEBE'S LEGUME FIELD WALKS

Dalwallinu Demonstration | 14th September

Liebe Group members gathered at Harry Hyde's property in Dalwallinu to view a number of trials for the demonstrations of legume crops for reliable profitability in the western region project.

Mal Bennett, Premium Grain Handlers, presented on the economics and market conditions of pulses this year, speaking about how national and international events have effected pulse prices. The removal of India's lentil tariff has kept lentil prices high, whilst the east coast's large chickpea crop has led to a lower than average chickpea price. The conversation then moved to cover marketing strategies for legumes, and the complications that arise due to their poor storability.

Dr Harmohinder Dhammu, DPIRD, discussed various herbicides options for chickpeas, with keen interest on the comparison of different treatments and their effectiveness on different weeds. He also pointed out the crop damage caused by some herbicide treatments, an important consideration when selecting herbicides. As there are several new herbicide options becoming available for use in 2021, it was a very interesting presentation and comparison.



DPIRD representatives attending the Dalwallinu legume demonstration site

Following this DPIRD research Agronomist, Martin Harries took attendees through a talk around ascochyta in chickpeas. Due to insufficient ascochyta fungus establishment, there were no significant results to be seen so discussion moved to the generalities of managing ascochyta in the Liebe region. Risk is low here due to the dryer conditions the region experiences, but the need to stay active with fungicide use and always use a seed pickle was emphasised to avoid developing fungicide resistant strains of ascochyta in WA. This talk was later counter pointed when ascochyta fungus had been found to affect Liebe's chickpeas herbicide trial located at Ian Hyde's property.

Finishing off the discussion on chickpeas, Mark Seymour, DPIRD, presented the chickpea National Variety Trial's (NVT's) that were located on Harry's farm. It was interesting to see how the different varieties performed in the region, and to see some of the exciting new varieties coming through. A number of the new varieties were taller and grew more erect, traits the growers have been seeking for some years. These will be interesting to see move into production in coming years.



Mark Seymour then moved onto a discussion of other legumes and their agronomy as he walked us through the lentil and field pea NVT's. This piqued the interest of the growers present, and several said they would like to look into trying lentils on their properties in coming years.

After the DPIRD trials, the group then moved to review the Liebe Groups trials. The first was a grower scale demo of fungicide options in field peas. Results to date from this trial have been insignificant, however some visual differences between treatments were evident. It is hoped that there will be significant differences observed between treatments at harvest.

A short drive down the road, members visited the second site, a grower scale demo of herbicide options in chickpeas on Ian Hyde's property. This trial has had significant results at all stages so far, and clear visual differences are present between the treatments. The growers enjoyed walking through the trial and discussing the effects of the different treatments with the researchers that were present. We were also surprised to see that the ascochyta fungus that had skipped the ascochyta trial had settled here instead, and speculation as to why this had occurred and how it should best be treated was another interesting talking point for the site.



Herbicide options in chickpeas on display at Ian Hyde's property at east Dalwallinu

Beacon Demonstration | 22nd September

At the other end of the Liebe Group region, growers and researchers once again convened to discuss legumes at Chris Kirby's property in Beacon. Once again, there was a turnout of eager growers and knowledgeable researchers, leading to enthusiastic discussions throughout the morning.

First Mark Seymour, DPIRD, and Darren Marquis, Nutrien Ag Solutions, discussed Liebe's grower-scale demonstration of herbicide options in chickpeas. There had not been any significant differences between treatments to date, but it was a great opportunity to discuss chickpea agronomy in general. Mark and trial host Chris Kirby established an interesting dialog with contribution from Darren that gave a unique insight into the potential for chickpeas in the Beacon area.

Christian Valentine, DPIRD, spoke about his pest project, Diamond Back Moths and other pests that have been present in the area. He shared information based on results from his automated pest trap, which was a novel contraption not usually seen.

It was another successful and educational day, and many growers left excited to implement some changes to the legume enterprises on their properties.

Thank you to all the DPIRD researchers, the Hyde and Kirby families, Premium Grain Handlers and Nutrien Ag Solutions for attending and facilitating these events.

MARKET OUTLOOK WEBINAR



Get the latest grain market information from the
CBH Group Trading Team by joining our
Market Outlook Webinar and Q&A session

**Register
here.**

7:30AM | Monday 19 October 2020

www.cbh.com.au

LIEBE GROUP EVENTS 2021

AgChats & AGM

Thursday 4th March

Dalwallinu Recreation Centre

Crop Updates & Trials Review Day

Wednesday 10th March

Dalwallinu Recreation Centre

Women's Field Day

Tuesday 15th June

Dalwallinu Recreation Centre

Post Seeding Field Walk

Wednesday 21st July

Hyde Property, Dalwallinu

Spring Field Day

Thursday 9th September

Hyde Property, Dalwallinu

2020 BUDGET - GAME CHANGER!

Judy Snell
Director
RSM Moora



Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic the 2020-21 Budget was deferred from May to October. Over that 6 months the changing economic landscape has created a recession and arguably the most severe economic crisis since the Great Depression.

The economic downturn has been less severe in Australia although our deficit is expected to balloon to an eye watering \$213.7b or 11% of GDP.

The Government has set this Budget to drive a business led recovery with a focus on new investment by business and a mantra of jobs, jobs and jobs.

Tax measures that will impact your business are many, but the Instant Asset Write-Off is front and centre. This provides an immediate tax write off for expenditure on depreciable assets that would otherwise be subject to annual depreciation claims under the capital allowance rules. These

Instant asset write off

measures apply immediately from 6th October 2020.

The instant asset write off is eligible for new and second hand assets installed and ready for use before 30th June 2022. For primary producers this includes sheds and eligible farm buildings.

For example, Daffy Duck Pty Ltd turns over \$6m in the 2021 financial year and purchases a new header for \$850,000 and has a closing small business depreciation pool balance of \$1.2m.

The company will qualify for both:

- \$850,000 immediate write off on harvester; and
- \$1.2m immediate write off on closing pool balance
- A total of \$2.05m tax deduction or approx. \$533,000 income tax saving at 26 cents in the dollar

If the company is in a loss position, Daffy Duck Pty Ltd may also be eligible

Loss Carry Back

to offset the loss against the previous years' income tax paid.

This was another announcement for small businesses – called the Loss Carry Back measure. It delivers the opportunity for corporates to carry back losses to earlier years when taxes were paid, in many cases pre-COVID 19 – the 2018 tax year was a huge one of many in our area so this gives an opportunity to offset losses against previous taxable years back to 2018-19 and you can request a refund of income taxes in those earlier years. This measure is in place to 2022.

PARTNER UPDATES

Additional Announcements

The extension of the concessional loans to assist farmers to prepare for, manage through and recover from drought – this is through the Regional Investment Corporation

An extension of the on-farm emergency water infrastructure rebate scheme including additional funding through the Future Drought Fund to establish drought resilience and adoption hubs.

Summary

There is much in this budget which is applicable to many readers.

Many of you would have heard the saying – ‘be careful for what you wish for’ – yes, you will get accelerated tax deductions but It is bringing forward years of depreciation reducing taxable deductions in future years.

To extend my example with Daffy Duck Pty Ltd where they purchased the header in 20/21 year and got the total deduction of the header and the depreciation pool balance- all deductible in 20/21 – The company sell's the header in 2023/24 there is no written down tax value – so, whatever the trade in price is say, \$350,000 that will all be assessable income in that year.

As we don't have a crystal ball and know what other changes may be in the tax system pipeline in future years we need to maximise this opportunity – the redeeming of FMD's could now be possible; the refunding of previous company tax, the opportunity of loss interest loans – all to be considered.

I strongly urge you to talk to your accountant or tax advisor to discuss and plan this year.

A NEW PHASE FOR AUSTRALIAN AG LAND

Lisa Curtis
Assistant Marketing Manager
Rabobank



Rabobank

WHILE prices of Australian agricultural land are at record highs in many regions, the market is entering a new phase, with low – to no – growth in median prices forecast over the next 18 months, according to a new industry report.

In its annual Australian Agricultural Land Price Outlook (supported by Digital Agriculture Services), agribusiness banking specialist Rabobank says the robust growth in agricultural property prices witnessed over the past five years has slowed, with 2020 signalling “the beginning of a new phase in land markets across the country”.

Report author, Rabobank agricultural analyst Wes Lefroy said already there had been lower agricultural land price growth in 2019 than in the previous two years.

“For the time being, the aggressive rise in land prices is behind us, and we are expecting a period of low, if any, growth in 2020. Ultimately though, this will vary by quality, region and production type,” he said.

While there will likely still be a number of “marquee” sales in some locations – especially for high-rainfall properties with scale – median agricultural property prices in some regions may even see a contraction over the coming 18 months, the report says. However, macro-economic factors, such as low interest rates and a forecast weakening in the Australian dollar – along with the overall healthy state of farm balance sheets across the country – will prevent a major downward correction.

“And if agricultural land prices can hold the significant gains they have made over the past five years in the year ahead, through the worst economic crisis we are facing in decades due to the coronavirus pandemic, this will be a great result for landholders,” Mr Lefroy said.

For buyers of agricultural land, he said, “the story is a very complicated one”, with different market segments in different locations moving at varying speeds – driven by factors other than just agricultural productivity – so that prices are often not reflective of the productive potential of the land.

“The median price in some regions can be double, or even triple, that of other regions with similar productivity and seasonal variability,” Mr Lefroy said.

With the support of rural intelligence company Digital Agriculture Services (DAS), the report had undertaken analysis to incorporate this land productivity data in its findings, he said.



Rabobank agricultural analyst Wes Lefroy

PARTNER UPDATES

Factors "putting on the brake"

The report says a number of factors are contributing to the slowing rate of growth in the agricultural land market.

Chief among these is the trailing effect of recent years of drought, with the impact on land prices often delayed – bringing periods of very low, if any, land price growth, even when rainfall returns.

“It may seem paradoxical, but a key factor weighing on land price growth is the return to better seasonal conditions and drought recovery that is occurring particularly on the east coast,” Mr Lefroy said. “In drought-affected regions, there has been a shortage of properties on the market with many potential sellers choosing to hold off until conditions improved, and this reduced supply had been supportive of price growth. However, as seasonal conditions have improved, we will see an increased stream of lower-quality properties come to the market, with sellers trying to take advantage of the high price environment.

“In addition, as part of the recovery from drought, we are likely to see farmers shift their focus to consolidation and direct their business investment towards building resilience in their operations rather than looking to expansion.”

And, outside of drought-affected regions, he said, “grain prices that were swollen by the drought have now softened, which will impact farmers’ profits, particularly in South and Western Australia”.

Overall, the report says, the commodity price outlook for the next 18 months is “unsupportive of land price” growth, with prices of most agricultural commodities expected to decline over that period.

Added to this, Mr Lefroy said, the ongoing economic crisis triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic was also taking its toll on farmer revenues and confidence.

“The pandemic and related economic crisis are like a large, unpredictable storm that could cause damage. It is possible at some point in the next six months, we will see agricultural commodity prices further exposed to the underlying economic crisis we are currently being shielded from by government stimuli,” he said. “At the very least, it will continue to undermine confidence.”

Land price growth rates

Nationally, median agricultural land prices were shown to have risen at 8.8 per cent per year compound annual growth rate (CAGR) over the five years to December 2019, according to the Rabobank Farmland Index.

Most of this growth was concentrated in 2017 and 2018, with growth slowing in 2019.

For the past year (to December 2019) median national ag property prices rose five per cent year on year (YOY).

The highest growth in 2019 occurred in Tasmania (nine per cent YOY) and South Australia (five per cent YOY), while New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland all recorded one per cent growth and Western Australian median prices for agricultural properties remained stagnant.

“For Tasmania, corporate investment – both Australian and foreign – continued to flow into ag land. Reliable rainfall, the availability of irrigation water and a diverse range of production opportunities have all added to the attractiveness of investing in Tasmania,” Mr Lefroy said. And this influx of demand – together with a very limited amount of properties on the market, supported the median land price.

In South Australia, while agricultural property price growth cooled from the previous year, very limited supply and stable demand ensured prices have remained hot by historical standards.

Ag land versus other asset classes

The report found agricultural land had appreciated at a faster rate than most other asset classes over the past 10 years. “So far, ag land has largely avoided the economic fallout of COVID-19,” Mr Lefroy said.

“This has highlighted the fact that the primary drivers of agricultural land value are different from any other asset classes and, in fact, aspects of a weak macro-economic environment will actually support investor demand for agricultural property.

“These include a relatively weak Australian dollar, which increases the purchasing power of offshore buyers. In addition, low returns on risk-free assets (such as government bonds), along with extreme price volatility and significant downside risk in other asset classes, have also incentivised investment in agricultural land.”

In terms of foreign investment, the report found the value of Australian agricultural land under foreign ownership had marginally increased in 2019, compared with the previous year, despite the total area of land under foreign ownership falling.

Purchasing decisions

For those looking to buy agricultural land, purchasing the right property at the right price will remain challenging, the Rabobank report says, warning that prices are often not reflective of productive value.

“Factors such as lifestyle influences, the concentration of local farmer demand and access to infrastructure can all cause the price of land on a hectare basis to deviate from its productive value,” Mr Lefroy said. “And sometimes that deviation is large. The median price in some regions is double, or even triple, that of other regions with similar productivity and variability.

“We believe using productivity as a basis for identifying opportunities will help prospective buyers discover potential purchases.”

DAS co-founder and CEO Anthony Willmott said science and technology was helping to take land analysis to the next level.

“We now have better indicators than just median price to find the best value, and we predict that productivity will play an increasingly-important role in finding the right farm property at the right price,” he said.

“We have always believed that buying any farm should be determined by its ability to produce now and into the future, and now we have the science and data to prove not just the productivity of any property, but how it compares to any best in class property.”

CBH TO BROADCAST HARVEST MARKET OUTLOOK WEBINAR

Stephanie Sinclair
Corporate Affairs Advisor
CBH



LIKE most markets, grain commodities have faced an array of unprecedented circumstances this year, which combined with regular seasonal factors, will influence grain values as we approach the end of 2020.

As the Western Australian harvest begins and 2020-21 season grain comes online, CBH Group is hosting its first Market Outlook Webinar to give growers the latest grain market updates from our team of traders.

On Monday, 19 October from 7:30am, growers and interested industry associates can join us online to hear what's influencing the wheat, barley, protein and oilseeds markets. An update on foreign exchange markets will also be presented, and growers will have the opportunity to send in questions to our senior traders.

With east coast growers enjoying far improved seasonal conditions compared to recent years, the webinar will explore how increased exports out of New South Wales and Victoria will impact WA grain prices.

CBH Group Accumulations Manager Trevor Lucas, who'll host the online event, said healthy yields across east coast cropping areas will change the state of play for WA growers this year.

"The national winter crop is tipped to increase by more than 60 per cent compared to last year to about 48 million tonnes, with a large portion of that growth coming out of New South Wales," Mr Lucas said.

"The east coast's imminent return to export mode is seeing very competitive values already into traditional markets for Australian wheat and we anticipate that will continue as harvest unfolds.

"Dry conditions in Russia are also driving wheat prices, with uncertainty surrounding the upcoming winter wheat crop leading to grower reluctance to liquidate warehoused wheat.

"These dry conditions are also present in Argentina, where growers are set to begin harvest in the next month or so. This can have a significant impact on Australian wheat values.

"We'll take a deep-dive into this and the major market drivers in across our other commodities in the upcoming Market Outlook Webinar."

Mr Lucas said the team of traders would also cover how COVID-19 has impact values across commodities, as well as the influence of the US election and ongoing trade tensions.

"We know growers always keep a close eye on the Aussie Dollar, so we'll also explore how accommodated central bank policy, iron ore prices and interest rates are impacting the AUD."

WHAT IS YOUR CROPPING PLAN FOR NEXT YEAR?

Clare Johnston
Agronomist
Elders Scholz Rural



CHEMICAL residues are the sort of things that can keep you tossing and turning in the night when it comes to seeding time next year. So why not make sure they are all thought through before then!

What herbicides do I need to be aware of?

Table 1 shows the key herbicides used in our region that can impact next years crop choice. Rainfall following the application is important to consider as many need moisture to breakdown. This is where summer rain can be increasingly valuable following low rainfall years or post emergent applications.

Table 1: Herbicide plantback periods (days).

Herbicide	Wheat	Barley	Oats	Lupins	Canola	Field/ Chickpeas
Chlorsulfuron						
pH <6.5	0	270	180	360	360	360
pH 6.5-7.5	0	270	270	660	660	660
Intervix*	300	300	300	300	1020	300
Logran (pre-emergent)						
pH < 6.5 (300mm rain)	0	270	270	360	360	360
pH 6.5-7.5 (500mm rainfall)	0	270	270	660	660	660
Lontrel						
Up to 120g	7	7	7	270	7	270
120-200g	7	7	7	360	7	360
Monza						
pH < 6.5 min 300mm rain	0	360	300	300	300	300
pH 6.5-8.5 600mm rain	0	660	660	300	660	660
Sakura >250mm since application	0	270	630	270	270	270
Sentry*						
20g (min 150mm rain) & 40g (min 250mm rain)	240	240	240	240	1020	240
50&55g (min 350mm rain)	240	240	660	660	1020	240

**Imidazoline tolerant wheat, barley and canola plantback = 0.*

Be aware of Lontrel (clopyralid) plantback if you have used post emergent, particularly at higher rates. We have observed some lupin crops being held up this season that is believed to be due to this.

PARTNER UPDATES

What are my options for residue?

Better options are becoming increasingly available for imidazoline (imi) residues with the development of improved tolerant varieties in wheat, barley and canola. In wheat there is Chief CL or the new Hammer CL. For barley Spartacus CL is widely grown in the region with the new Maximum CL barley entering in time for 2021. With increased yield and an improved disease package it is expected to be a popular choice moving forward. It is currently only accepted as a feed variety however, is in the process of getting malt accreditation.

For canola there are the straight Clearfield varieties however, if looking to get it out of the imi system then Hyola 540XC from Pacific Seeds has the Truflex and Clearfield tolerant genetics to enable strong weed control with glyphosate while being able to handle the residues. Alternatively, Cutubury is a triazine and imi tolerant option that is open pollinated.

There is still a lot to learn about how closely we can push these residues. A great starting point for local data will be the Liebe Group trial that has already been implemented at the 2021 Main Trial Site at Hyde's property, Dalwallinu. The trial has a number of residual herbicides applied this year and will be sown across next year with different crops to display crop susceptibility or tolerance on that soil type.

For further information feel free to contact Clare or Dave on (08) 9661 2000.

DIAMONDBACK MOTH 2020

Peter Borstel
Agronomist
Farmanco



KEY POINTS

- Diamondback Moth flights have occurred in canola growing areas;
- Monitor for early build up before flowering;
- Check thresholds for increasing numbers and grub sizes;
- Use a control method suited to your situation;
- Be aware of synthetic pyrethroid insecticide resistance.

Diamondback Moth (DBM) has been found in the 'green bridge' of WA ranging from Geraldton down to Albany and Esperance. A GRDC funded DBM project undertaken by DPIRD, Mingenew Irwin Group, West Midlands Group and Liebe Group have identified DBM larvae on plants during March this year. Major hotspots were found in Geraldton and Esperance. What this means is that there is a potential for the pest to build up populations early and cause problems on canola.

DBM feed on brassica plants including canola, mustards, wild radish and wild turnip. In canola they will feed on foliage, stems, heads and pods, causing potential yield losses of up to 80%.

DBM have four stages of their life cycle; eggs, caterpillar, pupae and adult moth. The life cycle can take as little as 14 days to cycle in temperatures around 28oC, or as long as 100 days in temperatures at 15oC.

The moth is about 10mm long, dart shaped with a distinctive grey-brown body and diamond shaped stripes along the center of its back. It has a pronounced snout and antennae (See figure 1).



Figure 1: Diamondback Moth adult (Cesar)



Figure 2: Diamondback Moth larvae (PIRSA)

Females lay eggs along the vein of the leaf and can lay up to 160 eggs over a 10-day period. Eggs are pale yellow and oval up to 0.5mm in length. They hatch into caterpillars and feed over the next 10–20 days. They begin feeding inside the leaf cuticle and leave translucent trails in the leaf. After a few days they move out of the leaf and feed more prominently on the leaf causing 'shot hole' effects in the leaves.

DBM caterpillars are pale green to green and grow up to approximately 12mm long (See Figure 2). They react by twisting violently when disturbed and often end up hanging by a thread of silk from the leaf.

The grubs pupate in a silky cocoon under the leaf and the moth emerges after about seven days.

Damage from DBM

The main problems occur when DBM invades crops early, prior to flowering. Under warmer conditions, the population can build up quickly and cause major potential yield losses. Although canola can tolerate considerable leaf grazing, when numbers build up, plant defoliation can occur.

PARTNER UPDATES

Grub feeding is generally on the underside of the leaf. If numbers build up prior to flowering, the grubs can cause major damage to the floral buds. When the canola has podded up and has started ripening, the plant is generally not as susceptible to attack from the smaller grubs. The smaller the grub the less likely it has the mouth parts to penetrate the pods. There is anecdotal evidence that even though the grubs cannot penetrate the pod, they can increase the risk of pod shattering as they weaken the pod seams.

Threshold limits

Sweeping with a net is currently the best practice to evaluate thresholds and determine the need to spray or not. Sweep in four locations in the crop and take 2 x 10 sweeps in each location. This will give an average estimate of the grub numbers. This year, check crops throughout July to mid spring and into early summer. Because DBM can build up quickly under warm conditions, sample 12 days apart to monitor populations. Count grubs and sizes to monitor changes. When thresholds reach critical numbers, control is advised. In the pre-flowering and flowering stages, monitor the numbers to determine whether they are stable or increasing. Small grubs will grow quickly and be able to penetrate green developing pods.

DBM Threshold Guidelines for Canola

Canola Growth Stage	DBM Grub Threshold Numbers
Pre-flowering Moisture Stressed	30 per 10 sweeps
Pre-flowering No Stress	50 per 10 sweeps
Early to mid-flowering	50 per 10 sweeps
Mid to late-flowering	100 per 10 sweeps
Note: A stressed crop is more susceptible to insect damage	

Table 1: DBM Threshold guideline for canola.

Control

Chemical control will only be effective against bigger grubs and moths. Eggs, pupae and small leaf mining grubs will be generally protected against chemical contact. There is also a level of resistance to the synthetic pyrethroids and organophosphates. This is especially prevalent with alpha-cypermethrin. When numbers are rising a two-spray strategy may need to be applied to ensure eggs and protected small grubs are controlled.

DBM numbers can decline from fungal attack under warm wet conditions. The fungus *Zoophthora radicans* can reduce numbers by 90% under humid conditions. The infected DBM become sluggish and dry up with fungal mycelium covering their body. In Issue 7, August 2019 of Farmanco Facts, we spoke about beneficial insects. A number of parasitic wasps lay their eggs in DBM grubs or eggs and biologically control the population buildup. The infectious bacteria *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) can be applied to reduce the buildup of grubs. As with all biological controls, monitor build up to correctly identify thresholds.

Chemical control

Product	Rate and cost per ha	Impact on Beneficial's
Spinetoram - Success® NEO	150mL plus wetter or Uptake®, \$19.80	Highly toxic to bees, low impact on most predators
Emamectin - (Affirm®)	150-300mL, \$13.05 - \$26.10	Highly toxic to bees, low impact on most predators
Lambda-cyhalothrin - (Karate® Zeon 250)	24mL, \$3.25 (resistance may exist)	Toxic to most predators, highly toxic to bees

References:

Pesticide impacts on beneficial species. Dr Linda Thompson, The University of Melbourne, 2012, Herbiguide.com.au, GRDC, and DPIRD.

HARVESTING PATCHY CROPS

Glen Riethmuller
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Department of
**Primary Industries and
Regional Development**

THIS year there has been a lot of uneven crop germination for a range of reasons and this can make harvesting more difficult. For example, if canola is thin and patchy the plants out on their own can grow very big with thick stems and this can cause uneven ripening as well as knife blockages.

Patchy canola



Canola can be desiccated with diquat to even up ripening and, in my experience, this is best done when 70-80% of randomly selected pods have seeds that have started to change colour. A dark spot on an otherwise green seed is considered colour changed.

Alternatively, if weeds are also a major problem, then a pre-harvest spray of a registered glyphosate product may be better, which can be done from 20% colour change. I have found no yield or oil reduction at the 20% colour stage. Glyphosate doesn't kill the canola as fast as diquat but being earlier may stop weed seed set.



Left 20% colour change, right 100% colour changed.

Swathing is an option to even up ripening but if the crop is patchy it may be more difficult to pick up the swath. In general swathing is more economic when potential yield is over 1.5t/ha and there is potential weather problems, like closer to the coast.

Knife blockages is a potential problem for thick stemmed canola. A double density 76mm (3") knife guard may have problems but if the 3" guards have a stub in between rather than a complete guard, then it should be ok. Double density 102mm (4") guards should not be a problem.

Some conventional header fronts allow the knife to be pushed further forward on-the-go, which allows for big plants to fall back in, then can be pulled back for smaller plants. Retractable fingers all the way along the table auger also helps feeding in big crops.

If shorter crops is also a problem, more information can be found on www.dpir.wa.gov.au and select "Agriculture and Food", then type "Harvesting patchy crops" in the search box.



Claas Vario front with on-the-go knife extension

PULSE MARKETING STRATEGIES AND OPTIONS

Matthew Tasker
Assistant Manager
Premium Grains



PULSE marketing can at times be seen as a volatile and unpredictable rollercoaster. As an example, over the past 5 years chickpeas have fetched anywhere between \$900 and \$500 per tonne. Although large, these price swings can be attributed to supply and demand (S&D). It is the underlying worldwide S&D of each pulse that will affect the price paid at the sample stand and so an understanding of the S&D factors can help when marketing pulses. In this article we will quickly recap the major destinations for West Australian pulses and then we'll discuss two key considerations when thinking about pulse marketing.

Key Destinations

The major destinations for WA pulses are the subcontinent (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh) with smaller amounts moving into the Middle East, Philippines, Europe, and Egypt.

The destinations for WA pulses are an important factor to consider because local production will set the supply story and determine the level of imports required. This is a particularly important consideration in the subcontinent because governments will intervene to ensure there is sufficient food security for consumers and profitable price levels for local farmers.

It is this intervention – driven by supply – that will most affect demand and price as a result. Chickpeas, lentils and to an extent field peas are most prone to price disruption due to their major markets being the subcontinent. Field peas have the benefit of additional markets in South East Asia and Europe to help flatten the rollercoaster.

Timing

Prices will tend to peak when supply is at its lowest. This means that often the best time to market pulses is a few months before other global producers harvest their crops. January/February can be a good time to investigate pricing because the East Coast crop is well known by that stage and it is before the Indian and Pakistan harvests. June/July is after the Ramadan holiday and before the Canadian and European harvests and is therefore also an opportunity when supply is historically low, and prices can be favorable.

While there are always buyers out there, the sometimes fickle nature of the pulse market can mean it takes some time to put together parcels that are attractive in size and quality to buyers. Historically we have been able to achieve the best results for growers when we know the tonnage and quality in the silo. We can then market it as a specific parcel or combine with other growers to generate an attractive offering for buyers. This makes on farm storage an important consideration to ensure you can take advantage of pricing periods throughout the year.

WA's pulse markets are visual markets. As a result, quality claims can quickly appear when the pulses are visually damaged or discolored. Buyers are primarily concerned about pulses that are chipped, split, or broken and stained or discolored. Peas that have had a bite taken out of them are also a concern and insect damage is often the primary reason for downgrades. Unfortunately, a bite is a bite no matter how small. Which is often frustrating because they seem to have a nibble of plenty but never finish one entirely! Insect damaged pulses are also very difficult to clean out which makes insect control in the paddock especially important.

Chipped, split or broken pulses can occur at any point from the pulse leaving the field to entering the box. Ensuring headers are correctly setup and pulses are put through as few augers as possible will help to reduce the chance of downgrades at the sample stand. Belts tend to do less damage than augers when handling pulses and could be a consideration if they're a fit elsewhere on the farm. Storing for extended periods also darkens faba beans, chickpeas and field peas as well as making peas brittle and fragile. Wrapping up sales by August can be a helpful marker so you hit markets at the right times and pulses can still be easily moved without damage

Destinations, timing and quality are all important factors to consider when marketing your pulses. The team at Premium Grains is more than happy to have a chat about any of your pulse marketing requirements and we have markets that are willing buyers throughout the year. For further information call us on 9430 6656.



MANAGING AND RETAINING STAFF

Republished from GRDC
Paddock Practices dated 18
September 2020



KEY POINTS

- Staffing issues are a constraint for many growers, particularly in areas where it is difficult to attract people to live remotely
- Human resources management is an essential component of any business but is often undervalued
- Employers have evolving responsibilities to staff and regulations to follow as a result of COVID-19 control measures
- Planning for labour hire and managing employees fairly and appropriately can set an employer up for success

Attracting and retaining the right staff is an ongoing issue for many grain growers.

Agriculture labour requirements fluctuate throughout the year and often peak at harvest, adding the extra challenge of staffing when grain growers are already under time constraints.



Labour requirements peak at harvest but the planning for extra staffing needs should be done well in advance to ensure a positive working environment for employees. Photo: GRDC

The [GRDC Filling the Farm Labour Gap fact sheet](#) recommends employers plan ahead to understand their specific labour needs to source labour resources best suited to their business.

This allows time to ensure the correct processes are in place to find the right employee and retain staff either long-term or on a seasonal basis.

The [People in Agriculture](#) website, which was developed by key members across the agricultural sector, recommends “creating a better workplace” by looking beyond pay rates. It outlines factors that can help create a positive working environment with a good work-life balance. This includes offering career development options, a safe working environment and reasonable and fair working hours and conditions.

The need to plan is even more critical in 2020 as coronavirus (COVID-19) has changed the way people live, work and travel and the agricultural sector is reporting labour shortages as a result. This is particularly the case when it comes to international travel restrictions limiting the traditional labour source of overseas workers, or backpackers, to take up short-term roles.

Planning labour and recruitment

The need to hire staff is often new territory for many farming operations as the trend to expand has forced staff growth beyond the traditional family-run farm.

The GRDC’s [A Guide to Farm Labour](#) publication breaks down workforce planning into six stages (figure 1) and encourages growers to use the same professional approach to hiring employees as used in other areas of the farm business.

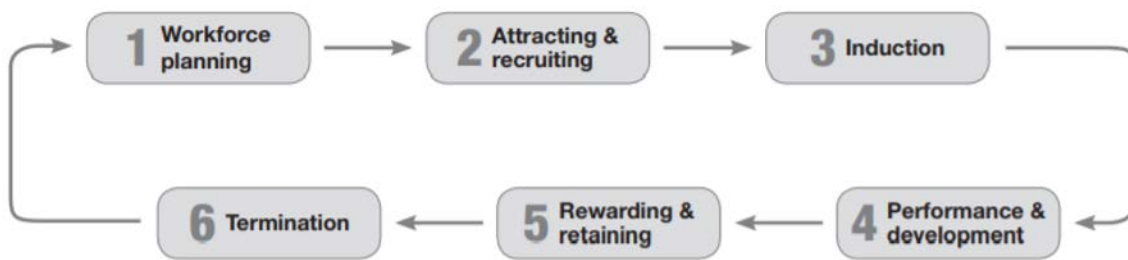


Figure 1. Finding and retaining employees form part of the overall employment lifecycle.

Source: *A Guide to Farm Labour*

These human resourcing processes can be managed in-house, but require time and resources for managing contracts, training, salaries, rosters and recruitment. External agencies can also be hired to manage this part of the business, which can be useful in peak periods and to provide insight from experts when dealing with compliance and legislative requirements.

Growers looking to advertise for roles have a range of traditional options including newspapers. Job advertisements can also be posted via social media. The Australian Government's Harvest Trail portal provides employers with a portal to reach thousands of people looking for work in the sector.

Induction and employee management

The People in Agriculture website has a range of resources for employers which covers the stages of employing new staff, from payroll and managing staff to employee entitlements and workplace training and development.

The process of interviewing, hiring and inducting a staff member builds a solid foundation of trust and respect between the employer and employee. The GRDC Farm Labour Fact Sheet recommends a labour health check to ensure a smooth process:

1. Do you know what your legal obligations are when employing staff?
2. Do you know your taxation and superannuation obligations?
3. Have you got a compliant, written and signed employment agreement for all staff?
4. Do you use a checklist to induct new employees into your farm business?
5. Do you know what your workplace health and safety obligations are?
6. Is your record keeping up-to-date and accurate?

[Australia's Fair Work Ombudsman](#) provides education, assistance, advice and guidance to employers and provides information on employee pay and leave entitlements. There are also resources to assist with employment contracts and minimum conditions for employees.

COVID-19 considerations

There are specific workplace entitlements and obligations that apply as a result of COVID-19 control measures in Australia. The Fair Work Ombudsman has a specific [Coronavirus and Australian workplace laws website](#) to detail workplace entitlements such as quarantine and self-isolation pay and leave options for employees.

The [Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment](#) has a range of services and links to state-specific information relevant to COVID-19 in order to maintain a strong agricultural industry. The department recommends seeking the latest information from state and territory governments as regulations can differ.



Seasonal staff are required to be trained in COVID-19 control and safety measures to ensure your operation meets legislative requirements. Photo: GRDC

Local advice

In addition to providing the correct leave and entitlements to employees during this time, there are a number of [control measures specific to the agricultural industry](#) that employers are required to practice to minimise the spread of COVID-19, even if it disrupts production. These are outlined by Safe Work Australia and include cleaning, the use of masks and physical distancing. These duties come under work health and safety laws and are also important in supporting the health and wellbeing of employees.

Western Australian growers and jobseekers can access a WA-specific agricultural jobs directory thanks to WAFarmers via the [Grain Farm Jobs in WA](#) website. This resource links to several online job recruitment sources including social media, Gumtree and Rural Enterprises. Growers are also encouraged to seek the latest information on regulations and management from the [WAFarmers](#) website and the [WA Government](#).

Free harvest training is being offered at the Muresk Institute as a part of the WA Government's \$25 million skills recovery program. The [Broadacre Harvest Operations course](#) will provide students with the skills and knowledge to safely undertake employment for harvest operations in the broadacre sector.

Participants will gain the knowledge to operate a range of machinery used for harvest, including a tractor, header, auger and chaser-bin. This training program will be delivered at Muresk Institute by South Regional TAFE and expressions of interest are also being sought for an Esperance-based course. The course will be provided for free for youth, concession students and displaced workers. For more information email esperance@srtafe.wa.edu.au or call 08 6371 3500.

Useful resources

- [GRDC Filling the Farm Labour Gap fact sheet](#)
- [Grain Farm Jobs in WA](#)
- [WA Government COVID-19 Information](#)
- [Safe Work Australia – Agriculture](#)
- [Department Agriculture, Water and the Environment Coronavirus advice](#)
- [GRDC Farm Labour Fact Sheet](#)
- [People in Agriculture](#)
- [GRDC A guide to farm labour](#)

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Event	Date	Location
Annual Dinner	Friday 16th October	Liebe Group Office

LIEBE GROUP EVENTS 2021

AgChats & AGM	Thursday 4th March	Dalwallinu Recreation Centre
Crop Updates	Wednesday 10th March	Dalwallinu Recreation Centre
Women's Field Day	Tuesday 15th June	Dalwallinu Recreation Centre
Post Seeding Field Walk	Wednesday 21st July	Hyde Property, Dalwallinu
Spring Field Day	Thursday 9th September	Hyde Property, Dalwallinu

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