

SCF Focus

STIRLINGS TO COAST FARMERS

SPRING 2021 NEWSLETTER

In this issue

- > JOTTINGS FROM THE CHAIR
- > CEO UPDATE
- > MEET OUR NEW STAFF MEMBER
- > CURRENT PROJECTS
- > MEET THE MEMBERS
- > SOIL PH VARIABILITY MAPPING
- > POST SEEDING RIPPING DEMONSTRATION
- > SUB SURFACE DRAINAGE TRIAL
- > FLOCK PROFILE TESTING IN MERINOS

STIRLINGS TO COAST



Mapping soil pH on-the-go using the Veris Machine at Martin & Tammy Wiehl's in Woogenellup (Page 7)



JOTTINGS FROM THE CHAIR

Jon Beasley, SCF Chair

Spring has sprung, and it has been terrific having a glimpse of some of the warmer sunny days hopefully to come after such a long, wet winter.

As always it is terrific to see so many members and growers involved in volunteering their time and running trials. It is of utmost importance to the success of Stirlings to Coast and its members, that we continue to have good participation in trials and committees.

I cannot stress enough how much can be gained by being part of the trial process, communicating with staff, sharing ideas, and gaining insights from other members. I encourage you all to try and be involved in some way and would like to thank all the current committee members and trial hosts for their commitment to the group.

There are many people involved in the success of Stirling's to Coast Farmers, but I would like to thank Nathan and all the staff, in particular, for their continued efforts during the year, and all the board members for their contributions and time. We now have a very diverse group which is putting SCF in a strong position going forward.

With the Spring Field days fast approaching, we would like to encourage all members to bring a non-member along at no extra cost. It is a great way to introduce others to Stirlings to Coast Farmers, its members, and the many great projects that we run. I would also ask that members please take the time to introduce yourselves to our very supportive sponsors.

For many of our members in the Eastern region I know it has been a challenging year so far with the return of a very wet winter, with many experiencing hardships and having to show great resilience and think outside the square, and our thoughts are with you.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Spring Field Day,

Warm regards,

Jon

Meet our new staff member 4

Current Projects 5

Meet the member 6

On-The-Go pH.....7

Ripper Guage8

Subsoil Drainage.....10

Flock profile testing in Merinos 11

SCF Sponsors Articles 12



GOLD SPONSORS





CEO REPORT

Nathan Dovey, SCF CEO

Hello everyone,

Welcome to the spring newsletter for season 2021. It has been a stinker for many of our members; there is no other way to describe it. Someone recently said it has not stopped raining since our drought-breaking rains on August 3rd last year. Despite sounding like an exaggeration, it is pretty close to the mark for some members. The record grain prices should be helping to offset the poor yields but are probably compounding the feeling of missed opportunity. If there is anything you think SCF could help with, please don't hesitate to call a staff member or me to discuss.

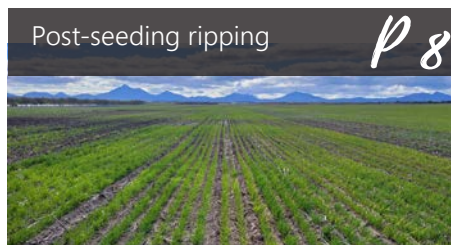
The Manypeaks Store and Peter Graham Co. held a social event on August 26th bringing the south coast community together to chew the fat on the miserable season. Stirlings to Coast Farmers were proud to contribute to the night, and we thank Troy Leo and Warren Stirrat for instigating the evening. When I left at 8:00 pm, the Country Club was still buzzing. I am told some stayed well past midnight.

Some SCF members and a few sponsors recently caught up to talk about RDE&A priorities for the next 3-5 years. Data collected from the strategic planning process indicated that members would like to see more Livestock & Pastures research. The exact ratio of projects was stipulated to be 2/3 cropping and 1/3 livestock. The graziers were well represented on the day, meaning we generated lots of livestock and pasture research ideas. We still have plenty of cropping projects to complete and, in some cases, more work to do on our most challenging problems. The next step is to prioritise these ideas so that SCF staff can target the proper grants over the next few years. There will be a survey at the Spring Field Day, and we will follow up with an online survey for those we don't capture on September 22nd. I know, I know you hate surveys... We have tried to design it to fill it out with minimal time and effort yet still catch your greatest priorities. If you prefer to call a staff member or me to discuss research ideas, we would be happy to take your call.

I hope everyone enjoys catching up with friends and colleagues at the Spring Field Day. We were keen to maintain its presence in the eastern part of the membership since the western side has the Hyper Yielding Crops field day managed by our project partners FAR Australia. Although some of our trials look very waterlogged and miserable, we have some field visits planned that will hopefully show you something new or provoke some thought.

Finally, a quick office update for those interested. The Western Australian Producers Cooperative (WAPC) has vacated its office space within our building on Albany highway. Planfarm Grain Marketing Advisor Chad Jefferis has taken up the spare room, who is well known to many of our members. Planfarm have also agreed to become a bronze sponsor of SCF. Welcome to the building Chad and welcome Planfarm to the SCF group!

Nathan





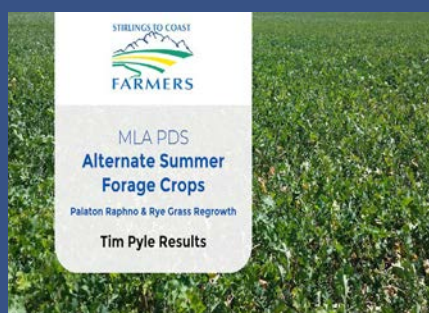
Introducing new staff member - Kelly Gorter

Hello and thanks for welcoming me to your region. I have just started in the new role of Livestock Project Officer, to meet the requests from our members for more livestock related projects. I come to SCF from a sheep and cropping property in Wagin where I have worked for the last few years since completing my Bachelor of Animal Science degree through the University of New England (UNE) in NSW. I grew up on a sheep and cropping farm in Kojonup and although most of my experience is in sheep, I also have some experience with cattle and am keen to learn more about their production in our SCF region.

I have started on a part time basis with SCF and fill in the rest of my time running my own business, KG Livestock Services, offering advisory and data collection services for producers who are using electronic ear tags. I also enjoy horse riding - playing polocrosse during Autumn and Spring/Summer and playing hockey.

SCF are keen to start developing and applying for funding for some new livestock projects so if you have any ideas for projects or have any topics/on-farm issues that you'd like us to investigate, please get in touch. Projects could include trialling new animal health products, pasture development, alternative management strategies (increased shearing frequency, feedlotting, early weaning etc), flock profile testing in Merino's (see article later in this newsletter) or remote animal monitoring. Let us know what you want! My contact details are on the back page of the newsletter.

Head to **YouTube** and search **Stirlings to Coast Farmers** to watch our **Trials Review Videos**



CURRENT PROJECTS



	PROJECT TITLE	GROWER HOSTS	INVESTMENT PARTNER	FINISH DATE
Project 16	Ripper Gauge	Clint Williss	GRDC	Mar-23
Project 21	High Rainfall Zone - Yield Constraints	Mal Thomson & Andrew Slade	GRDC	Mar-23
Project 22	Non-Wetting Soils	Michael Webster	Southern Dirt/GRDC	Mar-22
Project 23	Smart Farm- Demonstraion Sites	Adams & Slade Families	NLP/DPIRD	Oct-21
Project 27	Mid Row Banding Nitrogen	Reece Curwen	NLP	Oct-21
Project 30	COGGO Snails	Mackie family	COGGO	Jan-22
Project 31	Subsoil Drainage	Preston family	GRDC	May-24
Project 32	Alternative Forage Crops	Metcalfe, Pyle, Smith	MLA	Apr-23
Project 33	On-The-Go pH testing	Martin & Tammy Wiehl	NLP	Nov-22
Project 34	Soils Extension	Mackie,Tomlinson,Wood	NLP	Nov-22
Project 35	Hyper Yielding Crops	Beasley, Preston, Hood	FAR Australia/GRDC	Jun-22
Project 37	AHRI Herbicide Resistance	Watterson, Smith, Moir, Wood	AHRI/GRDC	Mar-22
Project 38	Soil Pathogens GGA	Hunt family	GGA/GRDC	Jun-23
Project 39	Subsoil Manuring	First Australian Farmland	NLP	Jun-23
Project 40	Pasture Optimisation	TBA	NLP	Jun-23
Project 41	Water Use Efficiency AGRIFUTURES	Multiple	Agrifutures	May-22
Project 42	Future Drought Fund	TBA	DAWE	Jun-22



meet the members

Darren Moir

Region: Amelup District Gnowangerup Shire and Takalarup District
Plantagenet Shire

Farm name: Amelup estate

Size of farm: 5000ha. Red loams, grey clay and sand over clay.

Year joined SCF: A while ago now.

Type of enterprise: Cropping, Wheat/Canola/Barley. Livestock
Dohnes sheep

What are some of your biggest passions and why?

I like the business I am in. The challenge of running a more efficient farm program every year. To make money out of every Ha every year. And the additional challenge of trying not to neglect my family while I am doing that.

What are some of the most significant constraints to achieve higher productivity on your farm? – NOT including rainfall!!

Managing climate variability, but that is rainfall, I guess. Frost.

Is there anything that you do on-farm that is slightly different to the so called 'norm' that is interesting?

We are very vanilla at Amelup, stick to what we know makes money. I guess we don't muck around with pulses except in the pasture phase and then its just cheap balansa/medic as a renovation coming out of crop.

What technologies are you using on-farm? If so what is it and how has it shaped your farm?

Yield Mapping and feeding into variable rate applications. Liming is working very well and is the easy one. Hoping to step it up into Potash, Phosphorus and possibly Nitrogen.

Are you currently trialling anything yourself?

Using Laconic system to do some potash trials. Unfortunately, one of the sites is under a lake now. Will have another crack next year to get a handle on K applications and if we can back it off on those hungry soil types.

Is there anything that you would like to test or trial in the next 2 years?

Intensifying production of the Livestock enterprise. Reduce Ha given to the sheep without losing production and expanding the cropping enterprise to increase the overall productivity.

What do you think the next big thing in agriculture will be in 5 to 10 years?

Autonomous vehicles.

Do you attend any agriculture field days other than SCF?

Yes, Nutrien and Elders days, Machinery Field Days and GRDC.



Soil pH Variability Mapping

Farm Host: Wiehl Family, Woogenellup

Philip Honey, Smart Farms Co-ordinator, SCF

With soil acidity becoming an ever-increasing soil constraint in the Great Southern and many farmers applying consistent liming applications over the years, the question often gets raised; are we applying enough lime, or are there areas within a paddock where I should be applying potentially more or less lime?

The use of more intensive sampling strategies (like gridded sampling) is often the best way to determine what variation exists within a paddock, but this often comes at a higher laboratory analysis cost, along with a more intensive labour requirement. The use of “on-the-go” sampling strategies helps create the opportunity to sample at a higher intensity than gridded sampling and gives you more data with lower laboratory fees. However, this comes with the cost of physically purchasing or hiring a machine.

The SCF On-The-Go pH project is investigating different sampling approaches to build a better understanding of soil acidity across paddocks, and the various tools available to help monitor soil acidity changes over time. A soil acidity demonstration site has been developed at Martin & Tammy Wiehl’s property, in Woogenellup.

PH TESTING STRATEGIES TRIALLED

The NLP3 on-the-go soil pH testing program is testing three broad-based ‘soil sampling strategies’ for measuring soil-pH and mapping the variation between them to develop a potential variable rate lime map. The strategies tested include:

1. Farmer/Industry Practice – a couple of soil sample points taken in each paddock with soil samples sent to the laboratory, to give a blanket variable rate lime approach.
2. Grid Sampling – taking one soil sample in each 100m x 100m grid, sending the sample to the laboratory, to be analysed to create a gridded soil pH map that can be utilised in a variable rate liming application.
3. On-the-Go sampling – utilising a specialised pH sampling machine where soil pH readings are taken in the paddock, on-the-go by the Veris machine. Some soil samples are still physically taken & analysed externally to verify the machine’s readings and to calibrate the pH maps to be comparable to physical soil test results (pH in CaCl₂).

HOW DOES THE VERIS SYSTEM WORK?

The Veris system comprises of a dual pH sampling probe setup, a disc setup to measure the soil electrical conductivity, and depending on the trailer setup, potentially also a sensor to read organic matter content. All these sensors wirelessly connect to a laptop inside the car which records the readings.

The Veris setup trialled by SCF had all three sensors mounted on the trailer and was towed by a 4wd vehicle across the paddock in 35 metre swaths. Soil electrical conductivity and organic matter was consistently recorded as the machine traversed the paddock, whilst pH readings were taken approximately every 90 metres, equating to approximately 3 soil pH test points per hectare. To undertake the soil pH readings, the trailer was stopped, the dual pH sensor probes were automatically sprayed with water to clean the sensor, then the probes were automatically inserted into the ground, with the soil pH reading taken. Soil pH readings are averaged between the two probes, with data discarded if the variation between the two probes is too large. The probes are rinsed once again, before driving down to the next sample spot.

The data is then processed in the cloud once the whole process is complete, with soil laboratory tests taken and analysed at known reference points to create a pH map of the field. This data can then be utilised in variable rate map creation for lime applications or utilised as a scouting tool to help identify priority sampling points.

NEXT STEPS:

SCF will be analysing the pH maps and gridded soil sample results to develop pH maps for each sampling strategy, and comparing the variation recorded between techniques. Stay tuned for the upcoming Trials Review booklet next year and future demonstration events to see the machine in action.

PROJECT ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

This project is supported by Stirlings to Coast Farmers, through funding from the Australian Government’s National Landcare Program.





Post-seeding ripping demonstration - Ripper Gauge Project

Farm Host: Clint Williss, South Stirlings

Dan Fay, Project Officer, SCF

This project explores the viability of post seeding ripping as an effective amelioration strategy to reduce compaction, whilst simultaneously reducing the risk of wind erosion by ripping into established plants and moist soil.

Deep ripping is a proven compaction and water logging management strategy. By deep ripping, plant roots can access a greater depth of the soil profile, increasing the plant available water and water holding capacity. This allows plants to access nutrients that would not otherwise be available.

Deep ripping traditionally takes place during the summer fallow period; however, the optimal time for ripping often falls at the end of this period, after the first autumn break, where the opportunity and farm labour demand is at its highest. Whilst ripping earlier in the fallow period is an option, this strategy involves a high level of risk, due to prolonged exposure to wind erosion and a higher operational cost. Economics and labour availability are the primary driver of on-farm decisions, and they will determine the amelioration strategy on-farm. As a result, there is increasing interest in ripping after seeding to reduce the economic and opportunity cost of deep ripping.

BACKGROUND

Previous studies undertaken by the GRDC and DPIRD found that on sandy, sandy loam and duplex soils, ripping after the first autumn rain resulted in the greatest advantage in terms of reduction of soil compaction and yield advantage. This is largely due to the moisture in the soil profile allowing the ripping tines to penetrate deep enough to reach the compaction layer, whilst not being too wet that smearing rather than shattering of the compaction layer will occur.

However, this preferred ripping window coincides with the greatest period of labour demand within most farming operations, clashing with optimal sowing windows. This creates an opportunity cost, where soil amelioration competes with other aspects of the farming enterprise. Ripping earlier is an option, however, there are significant risks and costs associated with this strategy. Ripping into harder baked soils before the autumn rains both reduces the effectiveness of the ripping and increases the cost associated with the amelioration. Ripping into

harder subsoils requires more horsepower, which in turn raises the cost of ripping. Early ripping also eliminates stubble cover, reducing the fallow efficiency by increasing evaporation rates, which in turn reduces plant available water.

DEEP RIPPING TIMING TRIAL

The trial aims to evaluate the effectiveness of post-seeding deep ripping. Four treatments were applied: a pre-seeding rip, 1 week after seeding, 3 weeks after seeding and 6 weeks after seeding, as well as an untreated control and tramline buffer control. The trial will be monitored throughout the season, to assess the viability of ripping post seeding, and the effect of the timing of the ripping on crop performance, yield, and soil compaction. This trial will extend into 2022, where we will monitor the effectiveness of the ripping and yield performance next season.

The data collected from the trial thus far is producing some interesting results with regards to the effectiveness of the ripping on compaction and crop performance. Penetrometer soil strength tests were conducted after the ripping treatments were applied, to determine the effect the ripping has had on compaction within the paddock. Each of the ripping treatments resulted in a statistically significant reduction in soil strength when compared to the control treatments. Interestingly whilst the addition of inclusion plates may have amplified the burial effect, it did not seemingly impact the effectiveness of the deep ripping in terms of alleviating compaction.

The soil penetrometer graph highlights the immediate impact that the deep ripping can have on soil compaction. The penetrometer graph shows that deep ripping effectively reduced soil strength across all treatments. As a result of the ripping treatments plant roots will be able to access a further 200mm of the soil profile compared to the untreated control, improving nutrient availability/acquisition and water availability. A soil strength of 2500kPa is widely accepted as being limiting to root growth, whilst a soil strength of >3000kPa, is likely to halt root growth all together. As the soil becomes increasingly compacted, water infiltration slows, increasing the likelihood of water logging, which will be particularly evident this season.

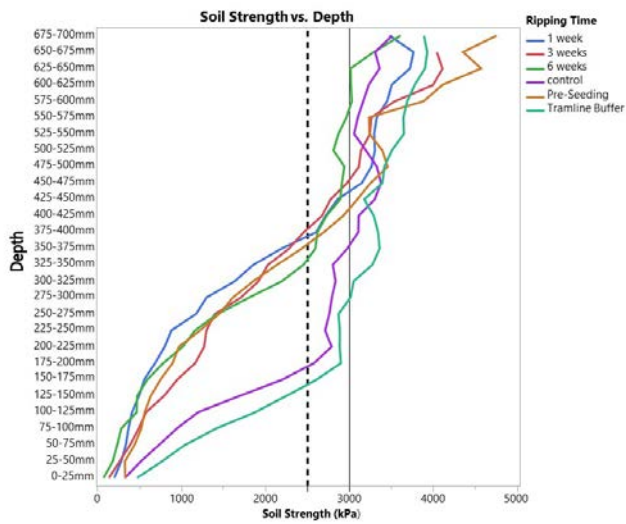


Figure 1: Soil strength (kPa), after the ripping treatments were applied. All three ripping treatments resulted in a statistically significantly lower soil strength than the control treatments.

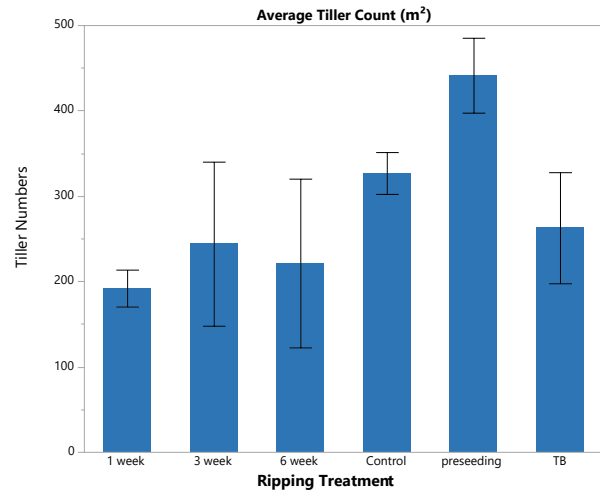


Figure 3: Average tillers (m²), taken from the treatment plots after all the ripping treatments had been applied. All post-seeding ripped treatments resulted in a statistically significantly lower number of tillers per m² (P=0.5) when compared to the pre-seeding rip and the untreated controls.

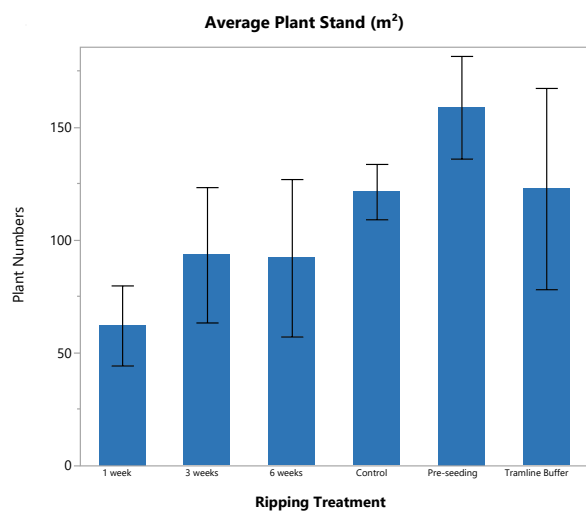


Figure 2: Average plants (m²), taken from the treatment plots after all the ripping treatments had been applied. All post-seeding ripped treatments resulted in a statistically significantly lower number of plants per m² (P=0.5) when compared to the pre-seeding rip and the untreated controls.

Whilst the post seeding ripping treatments were effective in reducing soil compaction equal to a conventional pre-seeding rip, the plant stand count was significantly impacted. Plant stand counts and tillers were recorded after the 6-week rip was completed. There was a significant burial effect as well as mechanical damage, on all the post seeding ripped treatments. As a result, the plant stand in the post-seeding ripped plots was patchy. Some areas within the treatment plots showed minimal damage, whilst other areas had up to an 80% reduction in plant numbers compared to the unripped control. As shown in Figure 2, the one week after seeding rip has resulted in the lowest number of plants per m². This likely due to the mechanical damage and burial effect at emergence, being harder to recover from, than later in the plant development stage when plants were up and out of the ground and the roots have a stronger structure. It should be noted that tillering was largely unaffected by the timing of the ripping treatments, with the tiller count mirroring the plant stand count. (Figure 3)

Plant dry matter per m² was measured after the final ripping treatment was applied. There was a significant difference in dry matter between the pre-seeding ripping treatment and all post-seeding treatments. However, the dry matter per m² was largely influenced by the number of plants at the randomly sampled locations. Given the post-seeding ripped plots had a patchy establishment, it is harder to discern how reflective the average dry matter per m² is of the whole plot.



Figure 4: Deep ripping three weeks after seeding has caused extensive damage and loss of plant numbers (left), compared to deep ripping in the optimal pre-seeding window (right).

This trial so far suggests that ripping post-seeding is effective in reducing soil strength. However, it is detrimental to both plant establishment and dry matter production. Going forward the trial will measure and compare the final yields of the plots. Hopefully this will provide a greater insight into the economic viability of ripping post-seeding.



Sub Surface Drainage Trial Update

Farm Host: Preston Family, West Cranbrook

Philip Honey, Smart Farms Co-ordinator, SCF

WHAT A SEASON TO HOST A DRAINAGE TRIAL!

Following on from the drainage installation day earlier in February this year, the team at SCF have been busy monitoring the drainage site, undertaking soil sampling, and completing plant counts and plant tissue sampling. The monitoring equipment has now all been installed (weather stations, 4x soil moisture probes & trial site piezometers) which helps the SCF team get a better understanding of what is happening across the treatment site (in both the drained & undrained sections), as weather events occur.

Rainfall data is being collected on-site from the weather station and is being plotted against the BOM long-term (20-year) gridded data for the region (Figure 1). So far for 2021, total rainfall of 538mm has fallen until 31st August (green line), which represents approximately a 230mm increase in rainfall to this time, last year (blue). As you can see, when comparing the minimum & maximum rainfall amounts for the past 20 years, it has been continually tracking near the highest rainfall amounts since early July.

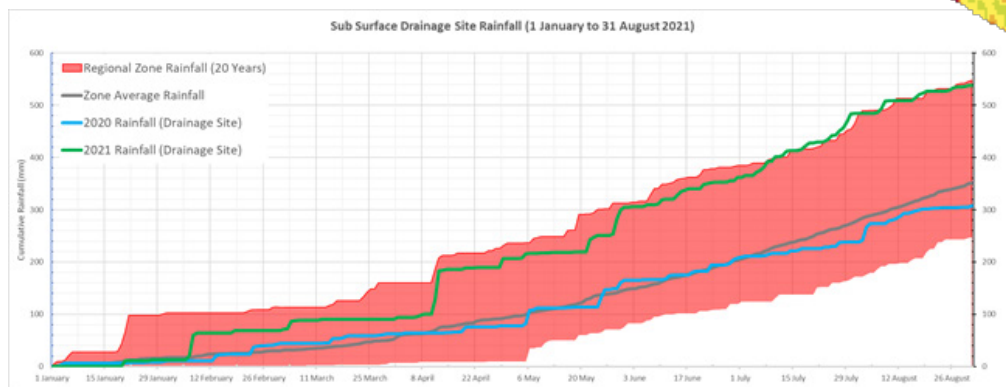


Figure 1: Recorded rainfall at the SCF sub surface drainage site

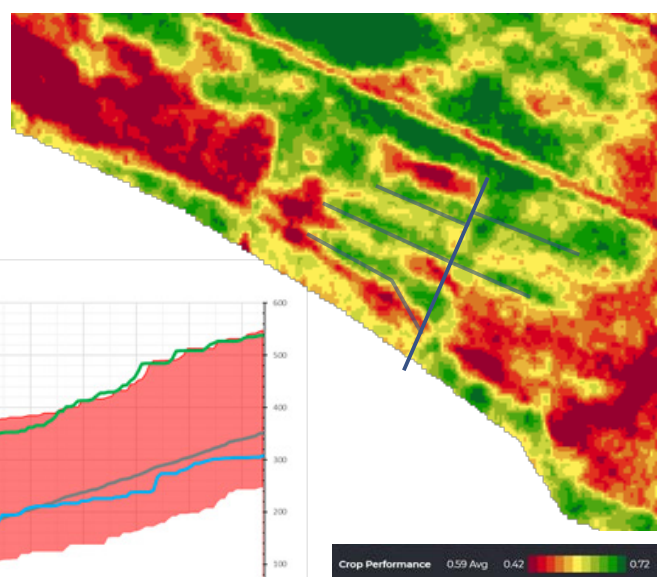
Throughout the course of the trial, the team will continue to monitor crop status and NDVI variation through satellite imagery, before completing yield analysis from harvester data later in the year. High-resolution satellite imagery is being sourced through the Taranis Platform, which is tracking NDVI levels across the trial paddock nearly daily, pending weather conditions.

This 3-metre high-resolution imagery is providing approximately 9x the data (and clarity) compared to the 10m Sentinel satellite imagery, which is freely available to growers through platforms

such as Decipher & Data-Farming for example. This will allow the SCF team to have a better understanding of how much area the drains are effectively managing through variation in crop biomass each season. For the 2021 season, it is evident through satellite imagery the differences the drainage has made to the crop, and this has also been reflected in seasonal plant counts (Figure 2).

Growers interested in managing sub-surface water are encouraged to inspect the drainage site. Stay tuned for upcoming field walks and do feel free to call the Preston Family or SCF to arrange a booking to personally inspect the drainage site.

Figure 2: Sub surface drainage NDVI 13 August 2021



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This project is supported by Stirlings to Coast Farmers & Preston Farms, through funding support from the Grains Research & Development Corporation.



Flock Profile Testing in Merinos

Kelly Gorter, Livestock Officer, SCF

Available to stud and commercial merino producers across Australia, a Flock Profile Test is a simple tool to benchmark the genetic merit of your animals against the national database of sheep genetics. The test simply involves taking a small tissue sample (generally an ear notch) from a random selection of 20 animals from your youngest year drop and sending it off for analysis. You then get a report back that illustrates the average breeding value of your flock for 14 different traits, expressed as ASBV level figures. The report will also compare where your flock sits compared to other merino flocks in the system and the minimum and maximum industry range. See below for an example.

The reported traits and indexes include:

- Yearling Fibre Diameter
- Yearling fibre diameter coefficient of variation
- Yearling Staple Length
- Yearling Clean Fleece Weight
- Post Weaning Weight
- Yearling Weight
- Yearling Eye Muscle Depth
- Yearling Fat Depth
- Early Breech Wrinkle
- Worm Egg Count
- Yearling Fibre Curvature
- Fibre Production Index
- Merino Production Index
- Dual-Purpose Index

Essentially, you can find out how your animals measure and compare on all of the above traits, without ever directly measuring it yourself. The strength of the results is greater if you have been purchasing and using stud rams that are performance recorded or genomic tested with Sheep Genetics (i.e. have ASBV's) but this is not essential. The results from your Flock Profile Test can then be used to aid in ram buying decisions- ensuring that you purchase rams who improve or maintain your traits from current levels. For example, the farmer with the below results may want to buy rams who have a slightly finer yearling fibre diameter (micron) but that still maintains the excellent staple length and good clean fleece weight. They can also see that their YEMD (eye muscle depth) and fat depth are excellent and that, although their worm egg count (WEC) % isn't far different to the average, their breech wrinkle score is much lower than average, so it may not be as important to chase.

Costs of a Flock Profile Test are around the \$800 mark but we have shopped around to find who has the best value for money on that one, taking into account any hidden costs. Contact us to discuss if you like.

If you are interested in conducting a Flock Profile Test or have any further questions about the test, our new Livestock Officer, Kelly, is available to help. The cost of the test and sampling units is not covered by SCF but we do have a tissue sampling unit (TSU) device available to borrow. If there is interest in developing a project where we could cover the costs, please let us know and we will endeavour to develop and find funding for one.



Figure 1: A generic example of Flock Profile Test results displayed in graph format. The yellow shaded area shows the industry range, green bar is that farmers' flock average and red bar is the industry average. The scale is the ASBV level figures.

Ongoing dry and hot weather in the US has driven a further rise in grain prices as the “market digests what the disappearing spring wheat crop could mean for global wheat supply”, says Rabobank senior commodities analyst Cheryl Kalisch Gordon.

CBOT wheat increased by five per cent in July to close out the month at just over USc 700/bushel, she says, as worsening conditions for spring wheat and canola in north America prompted “a steady flow of reports of sizzled crops being made for hay”.

“This saw the high-protein MGEX spring wheat price reach above USc 900/bushel, its highest level since 2012,” she said.

“And with 99 per cent of the US spring crop now drought-affected, further downgrades beyond the USDA’s July cut are on the cards, which supports MGEX wheat staying at least where it is.”

Protein looks to be squeezed in Europe too, she says, with heavy rain and flooding limiting harvest prospects and increasing the possibility of a lower-protein winter wheat crop in western Europe, while drought is a cause for concern for the Russian and Kazak spring wheat crops.

“These northern hemisphere weather concerns have seen us lift our wheat price forecast,” she says, “with CBOT wheat expected to trade above USc 700/bushel out to mid-2022 before easing slightly to USc 680/bushel.”

Dr Kalisch Gordon says a tightness in the global corn balance sheet, which caused the corn price to double over the past 12 months, has also been supportive of wheat prices trading higher this year.

“Global corn stocks are at their lowest level since 2015/16 following the fourth consecutive year of consumption exceeding production,” she says. “This year’s deficit is due to some marked changes in imports and export availability from some of the world’s largest corn-market participants.

“China increased its import of corn by 240 per cent in the 2020/21 season diminishing stocks in the US, the world’s largest corn-producing nation.

“On top of this, drought severely affected the corn harvest in Brazil, the world’s second-largest corn exporter, and there is reduced export availability from Europe and the Black Sea region.”

With stocks so low, Dr Kalisch Gordon says “wheat prices have come along for the ride” because corn, which accounts for 70 per cent of the grain used in feeding livestock globally, has become so expensive that alternative feed grains are being sought.

“And this has also translated into increased demand and higher prices for wheat.”

Domestically, “APW prices have been keeping in step with CBOT wheat this past month” despite firming 2021/22 crop prospects and offloading of stored grain ahead of harvest, she says.

“Our CBOT wheat price outlook, expectations of further AUD weakness, and a strong competitive position into Asia mean we continue to see APW prices hold above AUD 300/tonne for the rest of the year and into the first quarter of 2022,” she says.

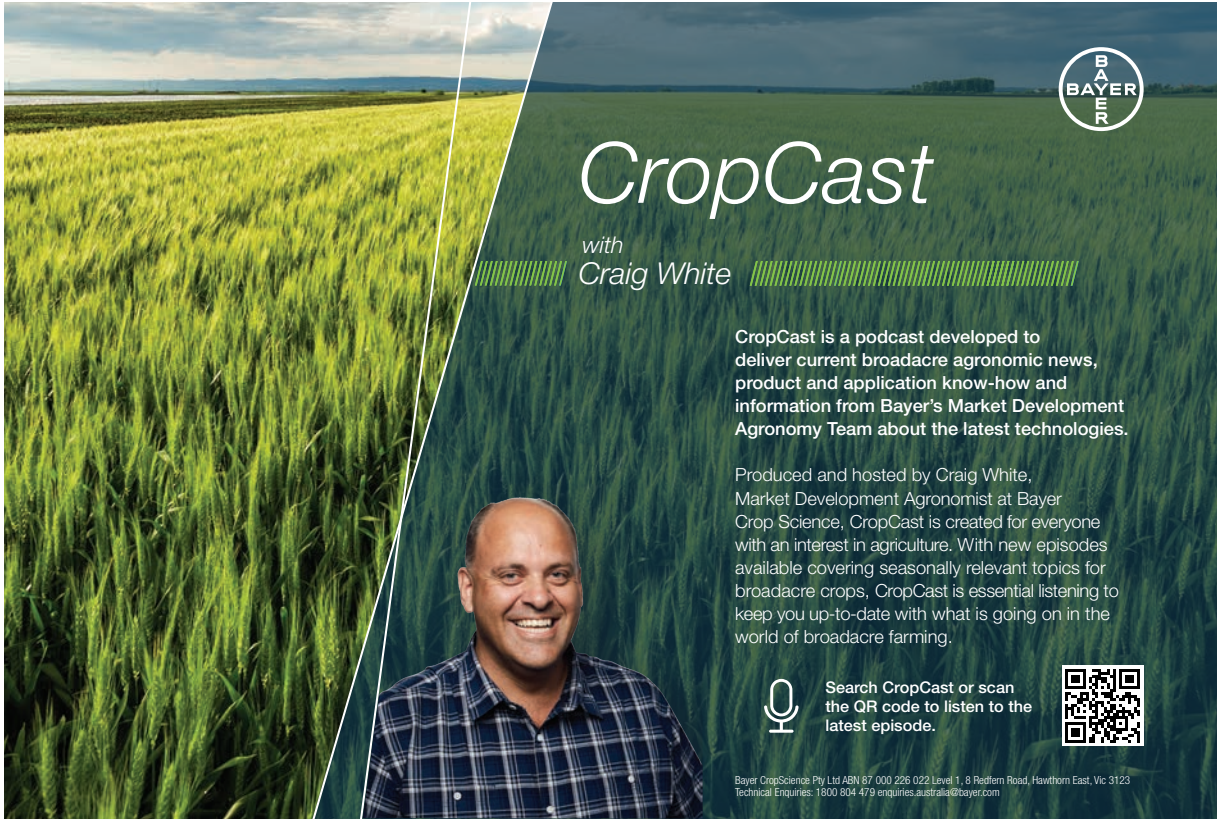
“The disappearing Canadian canola crop supports our expectations that AU non-GM canola will trade between AUD 680 and AUD 720/tonne, even with the positive outlook for Australian tonnes this year.”

Dr Kalisch Gordon said that with local wheat protein spreads starting to open in response to the developing global wheat protein squeeze a wet spring and run into harvest in Australia could trigger a further significant opening of the APW-AH-APH spreads.

To find out more about other Rabobank research, contact Rabobank Albany on 08 9844 5600 or subscribe to RaboResearch Food & Agribusiness Australia & New Zealand on your podcast app.



Bayer CropCast episode 17 is coming!

CropCast

with
Craig White

CropCast is a podcast developed to deliver current broadacre agronomic news, product and application know-how and information from Bayer's Market Development Agronomy Team about the latest technologies.

Produced and hosted by Craig White, Market Development Agronomist at Bayer Crop Science, CropCast is created for everyone with an interest in agriculture. With new episodes available covering seasonally relevant topics for broadacre crops, CropCast is essential listening to keep you up-to-date with what is going on in the world of broadacre farming.

Search CropCast or scan the QR code to listen to the latest episode.

Bayer CropScience Pty Ltd ABN 87 000 226 022 Level 1, 8 Redfern Road, Hawthorn East, Vic 3123
Technical Enquiries: 1800 804 479 enquiries.australia@bayer.com



Ruth McDermott

Agronomy on the south coast can go from one extreme to another, being a very dry 2020 to very wet this year. With these extremes we need to adapt, learn and try new things. On the back of this year there will be significantly more summer forage crops grown on the south coast than normal, with a small amount being sown each year.

In September 2019, Nutrien Ag Solutions ran a 16-month trial to answer which 12 month rotation gave the best return over the whole period. Our trial included 15 different summer/winter crop & grazing rotations. As it happened, we picked a dry summer to test out a summer forage trial with only 12.8mm of rain falling between December and April! While a lot of the species died from lack of moisture, it certainly showed which species had the ability to survive the dry summer. The species that survived were Shirohie Millet, Pearler Hybrid Millet, Hyola 970CL canola, and Pallaton Raphno. In this trial once both grazing value and final grain yield were calculated, the treatment that had the highest 12-month gross margin (by a significant amount) was the grazed winter canola (Hyola 970CL). The next two highest gross margins were the Pallaton Raphno and then a normal season canola sown on Fallow, both with significant steps down in gross margin.



While there are positives to sowing brassicas in spring for summer forage or crop, there are certainly issues that need to be managed. The main issue with these crops is the insect pressure from Diamond Back Moth (DBM). The DBM grubs can be quite damaging to these crops in the early growth stages or if the crop is under stress, which needs to be carefully managed through the summer period.

If you would like more information about this trial in particular, or anything relating to summer forage crops, please feel free to get in touch with one of our agronomists.

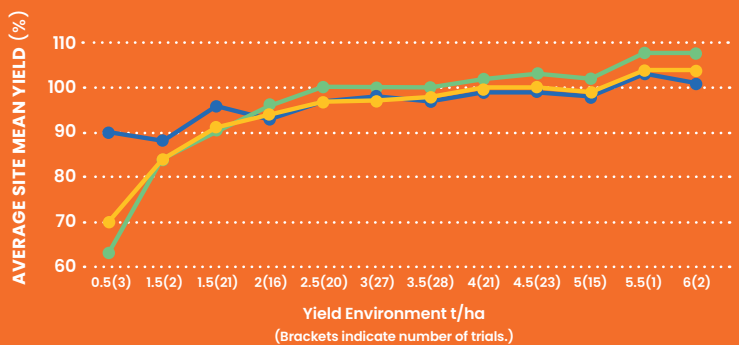
Kirsty Smith: 0428637242 Andrew Smith: 0438263910 Kieran Zilm: 0428249034

Clearfield Plus
Production System for Wheat

NEW
VALIANT[®] CL PLUS
AH*



**A SLOW MATURING, AH,*
CLEARFIELD[®] PLUS VEHICLE
FOR THE EARLY STARTER!**



2016-20 Western Australian main season NVT predicted MET yield performance, represented by yield environment as a % of site mean yield
(Data accessed from the NVT Online website on 03/02/2021.)

● VALIANT[®] CL PLUS ● DENISON[®] ● CUTLASS[®]

- HIGH YIELD
- CLEARFIELD PLUS[®] (INTERVIX[®] TOLERANT)
- SLOW MATURITY
- GOOD YELLOW LEAF SPOT RESISTANCE (MRMSp)
- GOOD STRIPE RUST RESISTANCE (RMRp)
- GOOD STEM RUST RESISTANCE (MRp)
- COLEOPTILE LENGTH: LONGER

intergrain.com

Disclaimer: Refer to intergrain.com/disclaimer.aspx for more information.
*VALIANT[®] CL PLUS is classified as an AH (Australix Hard) in the Southern and Western classification zones.

Georgia Trainor
Territory Manager - WA

M: 0439 093 166 E: gtrainor@intergrain.com





Proudly a part of



CSBP 2021/2022 FORECAST

Start planning your next season

Your local area manager will work with you on your forecast and nutritional management plan for next season.

To find out more and for terms and conditions visit csbp-fertilisers.com.au/forecast

Secure your Fertilizer with our 2021-2022 Fertilizer Supply Offer



Fertilizer supply for the 2022 season may be constricted, driven by strong international grain prices, high demand and a lack of supply.

It's important that farmers start the process early this year to ensure the security of supply for next season.

Customers that commit to a Summit Fertilizer Supply Offer (FSO) on a variable supply contract have the benefit of receiving regular international pricing information regarding price trends of nitrogen, potassium and phosphorus that also includes some of the driving factors around that particular trend.

Farmers can therefore use this information to assist in the decision making process when to fix fertilizer and therefore securing supply.

In addition any FSO received by the end of October will receive a rebate of \$2/t that can be used for soil and tissue testing.

Your results will be returned with a comprehensive summary on soil or plant nutrient status and requirements given a predicted yield potential.

Growing in popularity your results are also available through our customer service portal, SummitConnect in which farmers can easily recognise soil nutrient status through our trend mapping and NDVI services which are free of charge.

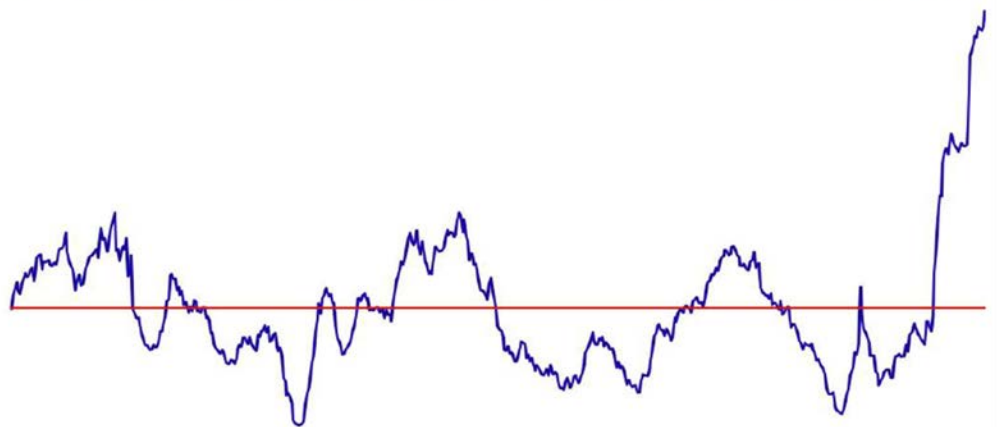
Contact Andrew Wallace or Mark Lady today to take advantage of Summit's FSO

Andrew Wallace, Albany (East), 0427 083 820.

Mark Ladny, Albany (West), 0498 223 421.

PHOSPHATE: Outlook - DAP firm East, MAP soft West

- Indian and Pakistani DAP CFR prices increased. First Russian product sold into India since late 2020.
- MAP prices in the Americas continued softening in the absence of demand.
- Pakistan needs a further 300,000t to meet typical rabi seasonal demand. High prices cause concerns about farmer demand



SCF BEHIND THE SCENES

BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2021

Stirlings to Coast Farmers could not thrive without the amazing work of our various board and committee members. From SCF members to expert advisors, each one plays a key part in the development and growth of the SCF community.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Rebecca Williss
Ken Drummond
John Beasley
Mark Preston
Nathan Dovey (SCF CEO)
Taryn Graham (SCF)

COMMODITIES COMMITTEE

Darren Moir (Chair)
Mark Adams
Reece Curwen
Ken Drummond
Tony Slattery
Ryan Smith
Jeff Stoney
Simon Bigwood (Rabobank)
Michael O'Dea (CSBP)
Rodney Scott (CBH)
Nathan Dovey (SCF CEO)
Philip Honey (SCF)

SCF WESTERN F2F GROUP

Lindsay Watterson (co-chair)
Mark Preston (co-chair)
Mark Bunker
Anthony Hall
Simon Hilder
Neil Preston
Andrew Slade
Clare Webster
Michael Webster
Philip Honey (SCF)

SCF EASTERN F2F GROUP

Mal Thomson (Chair)
Victoria Bennett
Josh Goad
Shane Greenslade
Alaina Smith
Nathan Dovey (SCF CEO)

R&D COMMITTEE

Ashton Hood (Chair)
Iain Mackie
Andrew Slade
Alaina Smith
Lindsay Watterson
Clare Webster
Keith Gundill (CSBP)
Brent Pritchard (Farmanco)
Nathan Dovey (SCF CEO)
John Blake (GRDC)
Philip Honey (SCF)
Dan Fay (SCF)

LIVESTOCK & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Clare Webster (co-chair)
Andrew Slade (co-chair)
Kim Adams
Nathan Crosby
Sandy Forbes
Christine Howard
Iain Mackie
Mal Thomson
Jeremy Walker
Rob Wright
Brent Pritchard (Farmanco)
Philip Honey (SCF)
Kelly Gorter (SCF)

BOARD MEMBERS

John Beasley (Chair)	0427 552 206
Alaina Smith (V. Chair)	0438 986 404
Ken Drummond	0427 541 033
David Brown	0428 447 036
Sandy Forbes	0427 354 036
Mark Preston	0427 834 200
Rebecca Williss	9842 5155
Shannon Notter	0477 197 970

OFFICE STAFF

Nathan Dovey, CEO	0429 468 030
Philip Honey, Smart Farms Coordinator	0428 768 589
Dan Fay, Project Officer	0498 278 177
Kelly Gorter, Livestock Officer	0409 060 065
Dr Kathi McDonald, Communications Manager	0408 418 531
Samantha Cullen, Memberships Officer	0417 605 784
Samantha Jeffries, Marketing Officer	0422 332 212

The SCF team is based at the SCF office located at 75 Albany Highway (opposite Dome) in Albany.
Staff can be contacted on 9842 6653 or admin@scfarmers.org.au

SILVER SPONSORS

